

BLAST FROM THE PAST

John A. Walker Community Center For Everyone In Wilkes County

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By: Jamie McNeil and Eugene Rash

By now, everyone knows about the John A. Walker Community Center to be built on our campus. Even though it will be located here, it is not just for the benefit of the college. The site by the Technical Arts Building was chosen because of its availability and convenience. The land itself was available and located in an ideal place near the center of the county and both highways 268 and 421. Also nearby are conveniences such as eating establishments, lodgings and the airport. The John A. Walker Community Center will be just what its name says: a center for the entire community's use and enjoyment.

The Community Center was appropriately named in honor of John A. Walker when, in the early stages of planning, he donated \$250,000.00 to the project. His donation was followed by a contribution of \$500,000.00 from the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners. These and other corporate donations have gotten the total amount closer to the expected cost and goal of approximately \$2.2 million. The amount to date is \$1,506,669.17 (as of December 1). Drives for raising the additional money needed have included radio-thons, telephone pledges, and a booth at the Apple Festival in October. A total of 1,110 seats are being sold for donation's of \$250.00. A plaque will be engraved with the donor's name and will be placed on a seat in the main auditorium. Larger donations will entitle the donor to certain privileges. Donors of \$1,000.00 or more will be entitled to a membership in the John A. Walker Century Club; \$2,500.00 or more - a membership in the John A. Walker Cougar Club; \$5,000.00 or more - a membership in the John A. Walker President's Club; and a \$15,000.00 or more donation will gain membership in the John A. Walker Tory Oak Club.

The architect for the Community Center is from J. Hyatt Hammond and Associates, the same firm that designed the buildings here at Wilkes Community College. According to Jerel T. Boone, project Architect, there is no other center in the Southeast that has as many functions as the John A. Walker Community Center will. There is a space which can be divided into three separate meeting rooms or used as is to serve up to 300 people. The separate large auditorium will seat 1,110 people. Partitions can also be used there to create a smaller auditorium and three additional seminar rooms.

Other facilities inside the Community Center will include a catering kitchen to serve the three meeting rooms. It is also equipped with a "full working stage" complete with orchestra pit. Adjoining the stage will be dressing rooms, rehearsal rooms, storage spaces and other rooms necessary near a stage.

The John A. Walker Community Center will be flexible enough to house many different activities such as banquets, club meetings, exhibits, fashion shows, beauty pageants, concerts, plays, recitals, and even graduations. The John A. Walker Community Center will be a great asset for the college and entire county.



*Merry
Christmas*
FROM SGA!!!

