

HIGHLIGHTS

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Plans for apartments hinge on annexation

By Connie Bryan

Plans for an apartment complex to be located in Vanceboro are proceeding, according to town officials. Annexation of the property, 3 acres on Dawson Lane and Highway 17 Business, has been applied for by Grant Trivette representing M and M Properties out of Johnson City, TN., which is the first step toward the actual construction of the complex.

Annexation of the property was made a stipulation at the December meeting of the Vanceboro Board of Aldermen. However, according to Becky Laughinghouse, town clerk, before the annexation process can be completed the town must have a public hearing on the issue.

David Priddy, a Hud representative from the Greensboro office, revealed that annexation was also a factor in the decision of whether or not HUD will insure the construction

loan. He explained that under HUD's Rural Initiative Program, they can insure the loan only after the proposed site had been inspected and approved. He added that this site approval could come as early as the end of December.

Once the property is annexed, water and sewage facilities can be provided to the renters. Town officials report that each renter will be responsible for their own utilities.

At present plans call for the construction of 34 dwelling units, 5 with one bedroom, 21 with two bedrooms, and 8 with three bedrooms. The two and three bedroom units will be two-story structures with the living area and kitchen downstairs and the bedrooms upstairs. The 5 one bedroom apartments will be one-story. In addition, there will be a play area and a management and maintenance building.

Wright wins Grand Prize!

Ellis wins final football contest

Carmen Ellis of Vanceboro won the final week of the sixteen week Football Contest being sponsored by the Highlights and area businesses. Ellis survived a three-way tie by winning the tie-breaker over Neal Russell who finished second and Larry Hayes who placed third. All three had 8-5 records going into Monday night's game. Ellis also won the Beat the Editor Drawing worth five dollars.

Earl Wright, after winning first place for three weeks in a row then failing to place in the last two weeks, hung on to win the Football Contest Grand Prize. Wright earned forty bonus points outdistancing

Larry Hayes who finished second with 32. Jay Huff was third with 24 points. As Grand Prize winner, Wright will be awarded a two-day trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida for two. In addition to the trip, he will receive a fifty dollar cash prize. This brings Wright's total cash winning for the contest to eighty-seven dollars.

The winning teams in this week's contest were Green Bay, N. Y. Jets, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Tampa Bay, New England, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Chicago, Atlanta, Seattle, Dallas, (tie-breaker) San Diego won and scored 17 points.



SCHOOL DECORATED— The Vanceboro Elementary School is all decorated for Christmas thanks to some very industrious students and teachers. This bulletin board greets visitors as they enter the school and almost every door is covered with beautiful

reminders that Christmas will soon be here. One whole wall in the cafeteria is covered with art work from the different classes. The decorations certainly add to the excitement that has been building all week. See more photos on Page 6. (photo by Connie Bryan)

New Bern gets new Telephone system

Connie Bryan, News Editor for the West Craven Highlights was the luncheon guest of Carolina Telephone at the Ramada Inn in New Bern on Thursday, December 13. The meeting was planned to brief area media representatives on the new electronic switching equipment, which was put into use by Carolina Telephone on December 15. This equipment will provide even better telephone service for customers in the New Bern area. After lunch the press was taken on a tour of the New Bern facility.

According to W. J. Dorman, district plant manager for the company at New Bern, the project cost more than \$4.4 million.

"This will affect the majority of our customers in New Bern," said Dorman. "Service for all subscribers in the 637 and 638 exchange will be handled by the new equipment."

With the new equipment the company can now offer customers with one-party lines some new services such as Automatic Number Identification (ANI), U-Touch and Call Forwarding. In direct distance dialing, ANI eliminates the need for the operator to request the calling party's number. With U-Touch, the rotary

dial is replaced by the more convenient pushbuttons. Call-Forwarding allows customers to program their telephones to relay incoming calls to any other number within the local calling area.

Telephone subscribers in New Bern's 633 exchange already have these services available.

James Stocks, Carolina Telephone's district commercial and marketing manager, explained that minor changes in customer's dialing procedures will be required because of the advanced switching equipment.

"Customers will need to dial all seven digits in order to place a local call," said Stocks. "Also customers should complete dialing their calls without pausing. A delay of 15 seconds after receiving dial tone or after dialing a digit will result in a busy signal."

When dialing long distance calls direct, said Stocks, either 0 plus the long distance number (operator assisted calls such as collect, credit card, etc.) or 1 plus the long distance number (regular DDD call), there will be a delay of up to 14 seconds before the distant telephone will ring or the operator answers. "This time interval is required to enable the automatic equipment to record the

call information and the calling number," said Stocks.

Stocks added that a customer who has a party line will no longer have to dial two extra digits when trying to reach another person on the same party line. "Only the desired seven digits must be dialed," he said. "Complete instructions are included in the new telephone directories."

Stocks said the past 10 years have meant rapid telephone growth in New Bern.

"With this new equipment, the telephone company has increased the number of lines from 10,000 to 11,500," he said.

McCabe named

The Executive Committee of the Craven County Democratic Party named the Rev. Roy McCabe of the Harlowe community to fill the late Rev. Roney Kelsey's seat on the Craven County Board of Education. McCabe, 58, works with the Trader Construction Co. and is pastor of the Christian Star Church of Morehead City. He is also serving on the Rural Electric Association Board.

"Also, we are better prepared to handle more growth and to offer the best and modern telephone service possible to our customers."

Morris Chosen

Jimmie L. Morris, Mayor of Vanceboro, was chosen to be the chairman of the selection committee for the 3rd District N.C. House of Representatives. The appointment came last Thursday from N.C. Democratic party Chairman Russell Walker.

Morris commented that the committee will meet sometime this week to begin to find someone to fill the seat formerly held by the late Joseph Bright.

Medical Center to be closed for Christmas

The Vanceboro Medical Center will be closed for the holidays on Monday, December 24, and Tuesday, December 25. In case of emergency, patients are instructed to call 633-2788 or if there is no answer at that number, 633-8111. You will be able to reach a doctor at one of these two numbers.