

Baseball League

The Albemarle semi-pro baseball league was birthed recently at a meeting in the Knobbs Creek Recreation Center in Elizabeth City. Various interested adults from around the Albemarle got their heads together, elected a commissioner and made a few rules that would be in effect for the first season of the league.

At the moment, four teams have indicated that they plan to be ready for the inaugural date of May 22. They are Dare County, Perquimans County, Currituck County and Pasquotank County. A couple more teams would make the league more interesting in its first year of existence and officials hope that Gates, Chowan, Camden or some of the other counties may field a team.

Residents of any respective county are eligible to play on that county's team provided they are nineteen (19) years of age prior to August 1st, 1983. Players who want to sign up to play can contact Donnie Twyne in Manteo for the Dare County team, Bobbi Veon in Hertford for the Perquimans County team, Rodney Knight in Maple for the Currituck County team and Jerry Allen in Elizabeth City for the Pasquotank County team. Citizens in other counties that may want to organize a team can contact Commissioner Roy Perkins (426-5157) in Hertford for information.

During the first year teams will play Sunday afternoon double-headers on a home and home basis. The first game will begin at 2 P.M. with the second getting underway twenty minutes after the first one has concluded. Two seven inning games will make up the double-header.

A number of excellent college players are expected to participate in the league as well as many former high school players. Since the league does not have an age limitation in regards to how old you can actually be, probably a few that made it to some level of professional baseball may even put on the spikes again.

Pasquotank County is looking for a coach and a sponsor for its team at the present time. Anyone interested in either could contact the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Evans Report

By
Rep. Charles D. Evans
Representative First District



On March 21, marks the 49th working day of the 1983 Legislative Session. As of March 18, 478 bills have been introduced in the House and 210 bills have been introduced in the Senate. Based on the number of bills introduced in previous Sessions, I expect these amounts to more than double before the Session ends in May or June.

There are several matters pending before the General Assembly which I will discuss in this report. They include a new sales tax proposal, Senate Bill 13, which deals with declaring certain roads to be public roads, House Bill 463, which is Mecklenburg occupancy tax measure, and several local bills.

A few days ago, Rep. Vernon James, colleague from the First District, Representative Jeffd Enloe of Macon County and I introduced House Bill 426 which is a new sales tax proposal which is designed to raise revenue for the local governments in our state as well as the State itself. Under this bill, 50 per cent of the revenue collected from an additional one cent levy would go to be distributed to the local governments including counties and towns and cities as the present one per cent local option is now distributed, and the remaining 50 per cent would go to the State to be used for matters as determined by the General Assembly. There has been a great deal of discussion, during this Session as well as during the last Session, of finding a new revenue source for local governments. At the same time, pressure has been building for the State to increase its revenue sources in order to fund measures and programs that are being demanded by the people of North Carolina. Unlike the other two proposals that are

now pending before the Legislature, our proposal would allocate the amounts unrestricted which means that they could be used by the State and the local governments as they see fit and as they may determine the need to be on a local basis. One of the major revenue needs of the State at the present time is finding an additional \$55-million to \$60-million for each year of the biennium, 1984 and 1985, to provide matching funds for the federal highway funds that our state can receive. The amount of funds we would received would be in the neighborhood of \$275 million which would be used for the construction of or the replacement of highways and bridges in or state. If our state is to continue to have a progressive construction schedule and to provide the roads and bridges necessary to promote commerce and economic development in the State, it is very important that these funds be found. The local governments continue to say that the property tax has about reached its maximum and that they cannot continue to increase taxes on their property in order to provide additional funds that are needed. This measure is strongly supported by the Association of County Commissioners of North Carolina as well as the N.C. League of Municipalities.

Last week, Senate Bill 113, introduced by Senator Melvin Daniels, was sent to the House after its passage in the Senate. This bill deals with establishing public access on roads which provide the only land access between two United States post offices located in separate communities. Although it may apply to other areas in our state, the only one that I know it applies to is the private road leading to the village of Corolla from Dare County. There has been, already, a great deal of discussion about this bill. The bill was sent to the Judiciary III Committee in the House of which I am a member. At this time, I do not know when the chairman of the J3 Committee will schedule consideration and discussion for this bill, but because of a backlog of other bills since we have been dealing with the Governor's Safe Roads Act, it may be a couple of weeks before we reach it. I intend to request the chairman of that committee to provide ample time for interested parties on both sides of the issue to appear before the committee.

On March 18, House Bill 463 was introduced by Rep. Parks Helms which would establish a Mecklenburg occupancy tax. I have not had the opportunity at this time to

familiarize myself with this bill, but as I understand it, it is a local bill that would apply only to Mecklenburg County. It would allow a three per cent tax to be charged against the receipts from accommodations in Mecklenburg which would be used by the local governments there for the

promotion and development of tourism and convention facilities. As soon as I am able to learn more about this bill and have had the opportunity to have it explained, I will report further on the measure. At the present time, I am having drafted several bills at the request of local

governments in the First House District. We have been requested to introduce a measure dealing with the prohibition of hunting within certain areas of Perquimans County. I have also been requested by the Board of Commissioners of Dare County to introduce a measure dealing

with establishing authority for the Board of Commissioners to eliminate certain fire protection districts and create new districts. This, apparently, is necessary because of the fact that municipalities have been formed and incorporated in the old fire protection district.

There will be some more local legislation which I may discuss in future reports.

As always, I desire to hear from any interested persons or organizations concerning any measures with which we are dealing in the 1983 Session. I look forward to hearing from you.

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Chowan Committee Of Conservation

The Chowan Committee of the Albemarle Conservation District, are: Lloyd C. Bunch, Chairman. Bunch is a retired farmer and has been a supervisor for over 35 years. He is also past president of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Watson Earl White, Secretary and Treasurer, is a farm manager for Hayes Farm in Chowan County and has been a supervisor for the past five years; Shelby White, District Secretary; Roberts S. Harrell, Chaplain, is the only appointed supervisor in the District and has served as District Chaplain for the last year and a half. Robert is pastor of Bandon Chapel in

Chowan County; and H. Fahey Byrum, Vice-Chairman, has been a supervisor for 24 years. He is the senior partner of Byrum Farms, Inc. and also manages the gin for the Albemarle Cotton Growers Cooperative Association.

The Committee attended the Area Five Spring Meeting of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts held on February 17 in Williamston. Along with the District Supervisors from the fifteen northeastern North Carolina counties that make up Area Five, they met to discuss the resource problems for this area and their role in helping to solve these problems.

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