

Commissioners Chairman Announces Retirement after Current Term Expires

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

Wayne Willard, chairman of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, said he will retire after his current term expires next year.

"It's been a great seven years," he said. "I made the decision early February or March that I would not seek re-election."

Willard said he would use his free time to spend time with his wife and to "pursue other interests."

"The other interests do not involve politics," he said. "I think I

have reached that stage in life where I need to regroup and decide what I want to do for the future."

Willard said he also wants to spend more time with his wife of six years. He said that during his years of marriage, he has only taken one trip with his wife that was not related to county business.

Willard, a retired radio news director, served three one-year terms as board chairman and two terms as vice chairman.

"I feel a debt of gratitude to the people of Forsyth County who have supported me over the years," he

said. "We've made good progress; we've made a lot of gains; we've got a lot to do still, but that's being worked on."

Willard, a democrat, said he is proud that the board was able to operate smoothly without much bickering and nitpicking.

"We have had a smoothly operated board — not to say we've agreed on everything, because we have not."

Willard lists many accomplishments since being on the board, including getting a detention facility

built. "I'm not pleased that we have to have one..." he said.

He also said he was happy that planning for a new park that straddles Forsyth and Guilford counties is under way.

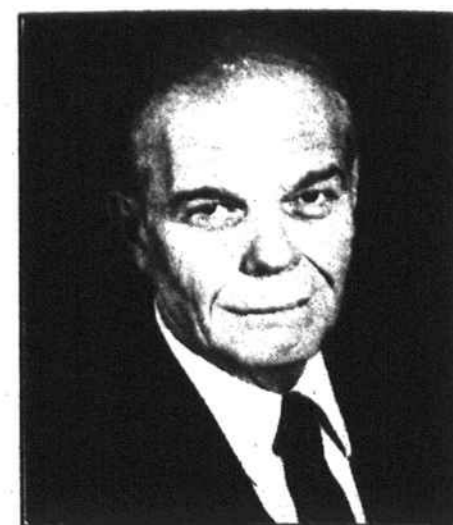
Willard also said there were problems in the county's Department of Social Services that need to be worked out "as rapidly as possible." Willard was referring to the county not having the resources to hire the necessary personnel to handle an abundant case load.

Other board members said

Willard has made a major impact on Forsyth County.

"I think that Chairman Willard has served the constituents of Forsyth County well," Earline Parmon said. "His years of public service have made a difference in Forsyth County. As a board member, he's been one that has worked to get the board to work together on issues that will benefit the community and he has been a balance on the board."

"We've worked well together," she added.



Wayne Willard

Shooting Victim Not Giving Up on Dream

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that anyone would want to harm him.

"It (the shooting) was a shock to me," said Bernard T. Faulk, varsity football coach at Parkland. "By far, he is one of the better football players I've worked with since being in Winston-Salem. He has that kind of attitude that you're not going to beat him, he's going to win. I believe he's going to bounce back."

After the shooting, Gandy was strong enough to enter the house, where his 71-year-old grandmother, Easter Mae Gandy, called for an ambulance.

"I said 'Pook' and he said, 'Mama call the ambulance, I've been shot.' He was bleeding over everything," she said.

She has raised him from the time he was 6 weeks old. She points out a picture of

her smiling 3-year-old grandson and a portrait of Jesus Christ that he gave her as a present.

"If you can't stand in your own yard without being shot at, I don't know where you can," she said. "The doctor said that if the shot had been a half inch higher he would have died."

Gandy is currently taking painkillers to

alleviate the discomfort of his swollen jaw. Next week he will have the bullet extracted from his cheek.

Because of the emotional ordeal, his grandmother has not yet bought any presents for what is sure to be a more somber Christmas.

"He's real upset about not being able to go to college to play ball but he will keep

trying," she said. "People need to pray more and quit hating one another. They don't know what they're doing."

For Gandy, he said, this holiday season will be a special one of appreciation for life as he continues to ponder why he was shot.

"I'm just shocked it happened," he said. "I just wonder why they did it."

Black Assistant

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"I felt like he was frustrated with the little things he had to deal with that he shouldn't have had to deal with," she said. "We had to deal with little things that got in the way before we could get on with the education."

Walter Marshall, the other black board member, said that Coble has been fair and honest, especially with the black community.

"He's been quite accessible and open when dealing with the black community," Marshall said. "He held regular meetings in East Winston and has been more objective than previous superintendents."

On Feb. 1, Coble will become a senior program associate with the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro and director of the Collegium for the Advancement of Schools, Schooling and Education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's School of Education.

Meanwhile, board members, who recently renewed Coble's contract, feel there are qualified admin-



Joseph Johnson

istrators in place who can lead the school system while a replacement is being chosen.

"I'm in favor of promoting someone we already have there in the system," said Marshall. "The board is in a political situation, so I think we serve the community best by promoting one of the assistant superintendents for the interim period."

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