

# Duplin Times

## PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXV NO. 25

USPS 162-860

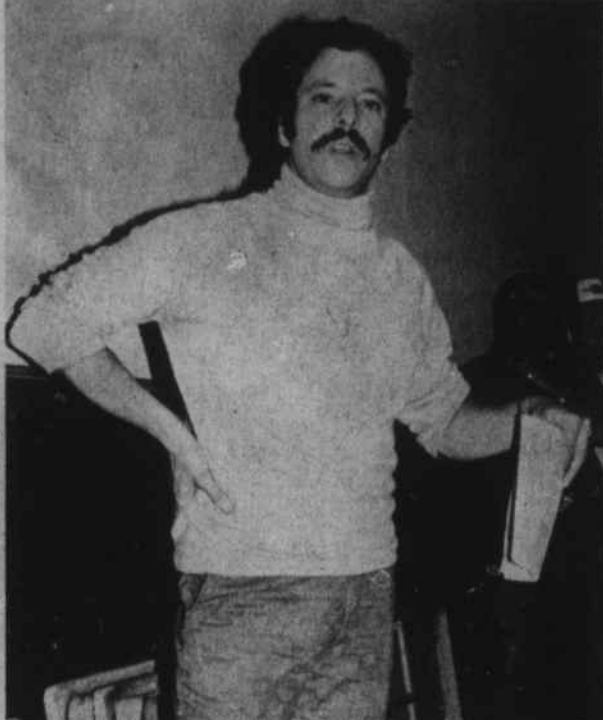
KENANSVILLE, NC 28349

JUNE 19, 1980

12 PAGES THIS WEEK

10 CENTS PLUS TAX

### Faison Citizens Oppose Recreation Budget Cut



**By Emily Killete**  
Opposition to the \$10,500 cut in recreation funds was expressed during a public hearing on the Faison town budget held last Thursday. Faison town commissioners met with over 100 town citizens at the local fire station to discuss the 1980-81 town budget. However, no questions or interest was

**OPPOSE RECREATION FUND CUT** - George Wallace, director of the Goshen Medical Center of Faison, pictured on the left, was one of 111 Faison citizens to appear before the town Board of Commissioners to oppose the \$10,500 cut of recreation funds.

expressed by the citizens in budget matters outside of the recreation department funds. During a budget session at the regular town board meeting June 4, commissioners voted three to two to cut the recreation funds from \$21,500 to \$10,000.

Presenting a petition signed by 330 Faison citizens supporting a continued full-time recreation program, Director of the Recreation Commission Ken Avent said only 15 persons contacted were against a recreation program in Faison. The population of Faison is 598-650, and Avent said a clear majority of the townspeople had signed the petition supporting full-time recreation. He added that 231 of the 348

registered voters had signed requesting the recreation funds not be cut. Not all the citizens contacted to sign the petition were those who participated in the recreation programs, Avent said. Faison recreation programs involve about 2,000 participants each month, he added.

Avent said that a recreation program in Faison would not be as successful without the citizens outside of town in the North Duplin school district. And, because the county citizens participate, the townspeople benefit from an increased variety of programs the recreation department can offer. The education system benefits from the children having participated in organized activities, and the town merchants receive an economic benefit from the department, Avent added.

"The recreation department realizes the burden of the town board, and in the future we plan to seek other sources of funds. But, until then, we are asking the Board to bear with us," Avent said.

The sidewalks and streets of Faison need repairs, Ella McKeel said. McKeel stated, as a senior citizen she preferred the tax money be spent on sidewalks. Because many citizens have no transportation and walk everywhere in town, sidewalks are needed for safety. She added, because the recreation program offers no programs in which senior citizens can participate, \$10,000 would be a sufficient amount of money for the department.

"Ceramics, oil painting, and the library program planned for this summer are programs that the elderly can participate in," Avent said. "The recreation program is trying to branch out and reach every person in Faison."

"I am probably the oldest person here," said Rachel Stroud. "I appreciate the consideration Faison gives its elderly and I would rather have a recreation program for the children, than more sidewalks."

Tom Adams commented

\$10,000 is enough money to play ball at the recreation department, and the recreation program should be where the people live. Calypso donated \$1,000 to the Faison recreation department; if our \$10,000 is not enough, then let Calypso have the program, Adams said. The \$1,000 donation from the town of Calypso to the Faison recreation department was made as a result of the use of the recreation facility by Calypso citizens.

"I am one of the outsiders referred to," said Bill Lewis. "And, I appreciate the fact that we can come and bring our children to the Faison recreation department."

"A cut in the funds would be a cut in the fun," said Michael Miller, a former Faison Little League, who is now coaching a Little League team.

Mayor Bill Carter read a letter supporting the continued funding of a full-time recreation program from the Charles F. Cates Pickle Company. Carter added that 55 percent of the

taxes collected in Faison each year is paid by Cates Pickle Company.

The logical budget allocation for the recreation department would be \$16,000, said George Wallace. A recreation budget of \$10,000 would only pay the director's salary, not paying for any utilities or supplies during the coming year, he added.

"We heard at the last meeting of the town board that money for sidewalks cannot even be used. The \$5,000 (revenue sharing money) could be used for vehicle replacement instead of sidewalks, and then the \$16,000 could remain for recreation," Wallace said.

Representatives from the Faison Women's Club and the Sesame Club were present and spoke to support a full-time recreation program.

A Board meeting on June 16, at the town hall, was announced at the close of the public hearing. According to Mayor Carter, the Board will discuss and adopt the 1980-81 budget at the Monday meeting.



### 23 Duplin Graduates Fail

## Spring Competency Test Results

**By Emily Killete**

Duplin County public schools awarded 23 certificates of attendance to seniors who completed all the requirements for graduation but failed the competency test, Assistant Superintendent of Duplin County Schools Gary Sanderson said.

Included in the 23 are 15 educable mentally retarded students, five extended day students, and three students from the county high schools. According to Sanderson, the seniors were given the opportunity to take the competency test a third time this year and only one additional person passed, lowering the number of high school students from four to three. The 1980 graduating class is the first group of seniors to be required by law to pass the test in order to receive a high school diploma.

Sanderson said students begin taking the competency test in the 11th grade. Any student who should be in the 11th grade but was held back, or a student who graduate within the next two years, is allowed by law to take the competency test, he added. Each student should have two years remaining in high school in which to pass the test.

According to the results of the fall competency test, 592 students took the math portion of the competency test and 65 failed. Taking the test for the third time were 16 seniors not classified as EMR, and six failed. And, 593 students took the reading portion of the test with 53 failing; nine of the students were seniors taking the reading portion for the third time, and five failed. There were 19 EMR students who did not take the competency test in the fall but had failed the reading portion of the competency test during the 1978-79 school year. And, twenty EMR students had failed the math portion and

did not take the test in the fall. However, twelve EMR students did take the test for the first time in the fall, and one passed in each portion of the competency test. Any student who fulfills

the requirements for graduation but does not pass the competency and graduates with a certificate instead of a diploma can continue to take the competency test until the age of 21. Remedial help for

students not passing the competency test is available in the public schools.

More detailed results of the April competency test will be released during the next meeting of the Board of Education, Sanderson said.

## First Financial Savings And Loan To Open Kenansville Office

First Financial Savings and Loan Association, Inc. of Kinston and Goldsboro has filed with the N.C. Savings and Loan Commission an application to establish an office in Kenansville.

First Financial, which began operations in February of 1978, is the largest investor-owned, state chartered savings and loan association in the state. It

has assets of over \$26.5 million and has made mortgage loans of nearly \$19 million in Lenoir and Wayne counties. Owned by Lenoir and Wayne County investors, First Financial is the first association of its type to file an application for a third office.

C. Felix Harvey, chairman of the board, said that the opening of a Duplin County

office in Kenansville is an expression of confidence in future agricultural and industrial growth of the area.

T.J. Turner of Pink Hill, a director, expressed the opinion that First Financial's realistic mortgage policies and its innovative services, such as 6% passbook accounts and high interest certificates of deposits, will fill a need in the community.

## Rose Hill Cuts Tax Rate

The Rose Hill town board cut the town property tax rate 5 cents per \$100 valuation at its June meeting. The new rate will be 70 cents per \$100.

Commissioner Keith Hinson, who made the motion, said the 5-cent tax cut would reduce town revenues by \$7,500. "The \$7,500 is not very much, but the gesture is very important," he said. "People out there need a tax break."

Because the proposed \$206,200 town budget was based on a tax rate of 75 cents per \$100, it will have to be refigured. A special budget meeting was set by the board for Tuesday, June 17 at the town hall.

The 70-cent levy will raise \$105,000. The remainder of the budget funds come from state and federal sources.

Rose Hill became the first

town in Duplin County this spring to announce a tax reduction.

The second public hearing on a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant request of \$813,000 was held with no revisions offered to in proposals. HUD has approved the town's preapplication, a step officials say means final approval is virtually assured.

Money from the grant will be used to finance water, sewer, street and housing improvements in the northern section of the town. Town Planner Woody Brinson said it now appears the funds will become available in October.

The board directed Mayor Ben Harrell to ask state Rep. Doug Clark to submit a bill authorizing Rose Hill to increase its automotive license tag fee from \$1 to a maxi-

mum of \$5.

Harrell reported he had received complaints about businesses being open on Sundays. He said Town Attorney Richard Burrows will attempt to revise the town ordinance regarding Sunday openings, which, he said, is unenforceable as presently written.

The present ordinance states nothing can be sold in the town from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays.

The board approved an ordinance allowing emergency vehicles traveling within the city limits to exceed the posted speed limits by 10 miles per hour.

Recie Eure asked the board to save a large oak tree standing in the center of a proposed roadway in a new subdivision which has not been accepted by the town.

## Recreation Department Request Aid Of Warsaw Commissioners

A delegation of people from the Warsaw Recreation Department met with the Warsaw Town Board June 9 to ask for action on the building of the municipal park at the recreation center.

According to Recreation Director Neale Turlington, the town is in danger of losing the \$50,000 grant from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. The project which began three years ago has come to almost a complete standstill, Turlington said. Funds raised for the project total \$30,000, but \$50,000 is needed to match the grant. Town Clerk Alfred Herring said that the entire grant would have to be used in order to get any of the funds. The deadline for the completion of the \$100,000 project is December of 1980. Included in the project is a softball and midget football field combination with lights and bleachers, a concession stand, picnic area, jogging trails, children's play area and parking lots. Grading the softball field was scheduled to begin the first of May, but had not begun at the time of the Board meeting.

"The Board was not aware of a fund-raising problem until last week when Neale (Turlington) appeared at the budget meeting with requests for more funds," Commissioner Frank Steed

said. "The recreation commission may need help raising the additional money, but it appears they have not made an all-out effort."

Graham Hood, president of the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce, acted as spokesman for the recreation delegation. A public meeting with the recreation commission was scheduled for June 16 at the town hall.

According to Commissioner John Weatherly, the Board lived up to their end of the recreation project. A recreation commission was appointed and the town donated \$17,000 to the project, he said. Serving on the recreation commission are Colon Quinn, Bobby Batts, Wiley Killete, J.G. Henry and Carolyn McIver. The town clerk stated he had been instructed by the Board to send a letter to each member of the recreation commission. The letter asked each member of the recreation commission to contact the Board on their willingness to continue to serve on the commission. Members wishing to be replaced will be dropped from the commission and a seven-member commission will be appointed. Presently only five members are serving on the commission. Commissioner Steed added that additional funds from the town

may be available for the project when the 1980-81 budget is completed.

Contracts for the town water system improvement project were tentatively approved by the commissioners. A distribution improvement contract totaling \$929,049.50 was awarded Cumberland Paving of Fayetteville. The well drilling contract for \$185,530 was awarded E.L. Register of Rose Hill. The 300,000 gallon storage tank contract was awarded Universal of Atlanta, Ga. The total water system improvement project will cost approximately \$1.5 million.

The Board unanimously approved the rezoning of the block next to the Warsaw Baptist Church. The block was rezoned to a commercial area. The block had been residential. The town planning board had recommended the rezoning because of plans to use the old Warsaw Baptist Church educational building as the future Warsaw Medical Center. Wade Carlton opposed the rezoning of the area because it would allow the Medical Center to locate across from his home.

Ralph Vernon appeared before the Board to request \$1,638 for the Warsaw Rescue Department. The money will be used to buy six

portable fire and rescue alarms for the members of the rescue department. According to Vernon, each unit will cost \$273 and will be ordered on contract through the Duplin County Emergency Services Department.

The town commissioners approved the request by the American Legion that the old police department be used by their organization for Friday night bingo. And, the old Branch Bank building is to be sold through public bids.

Parking at the Warsaw Recreation Department was changed by the Board; parking will be allowed from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. only.

"With the park project underway and the complaints from the residents in that area, we (commissioners) have two good points to stop the parking at the Recreation Department," Commissioner John Weatherly said. A 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. no parking ordinance was passed by the Board.

**Magnolia To Add Full-Time Clerk**  
See Page 2



**DUPLIN YOUNG FARMERS' TOUR** - The Duplin County Young Farmers' organization met last Thursday for a county tour involving nine stops. The group, led by the Duplin County Agricultural Extension Department, stopped at demonstrations for weed control, tobacco nitrogen and fertilizer, sandy land corn varieties,

irrigation, swine farm, and the use of swine waste as fertilizer. Pictured above are two members of the tour on the left, and Agricultural Agents Greg Burg and Snodie Wilson at the Andrew Keatney farm during the irrigation demonstration.