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Kenansville And Rose Hill

Vote To Decide Phone Rate

Carolina Telephone customers in the Kenansville and Rose Hill-Magnolia exchanges will vote by mail on whether they are willing to spend an extra 50 cents a month to talk with each other.

The phone company is mailing postcard ballots to its 1,143 Kenansville customers and 1,950 Rose Hill - Magnolia customers, asking them to indicate whether they want the wider service.

A call between Kenansville and Rose Hill is currently long-distance.

If most of the subscribers who respond favor to the change, the basic monthly cost of phone service would be raised from \$8.85 to \$9.35 in Kenansville, and from \$8.60 to \$9.10 in Rose Hill.

Telephone rates in North Carolina are set according to the size of the local calling area. The more telephones a customer can reach without calling long distance, the higher the monthly rate.

The new system and new rates, if approved, would not

take effect for about a year. Installing equipment needed to link the two exchanges will require about that time, according to Carolina Telephone officials.

The "wide area dialing" issue was raised the Chambers of Commerce in Kenansville and Rose Hill. Kenansville telephone customers can make local calls to Warsaw and Beulaville. Rose Hill and Magnolia customers can dial Wallace without tolls.

According to Carolina

Telephone records, during a 30-day test period last fall, Kenansville's 1,143 customers made 575 calls to the Rose Hill exchange. From Rose Hill's 1,950 phones, customers made 988 calls to Kenansville.

Postcard ballots must be returned before midnight Nov. 2. W.S. Richardson of Carolina Telephone's Clinton office said the state Utilities Commission will count the ballots and inform the phone company of the customers' decision.



MAGNOLIA COMMISSIONERS HEAR RANDY DREW request to save the old depot. Seated, left to right,

Commissioners Herbert Tucker and Ruth Quinn. In the back, Randy Drew.

Cable TV Firm Asks

Warsaw Board For More Time

Hal Beasley of Beasley Cable Television Service told the Warsaw Town Board last week that his company is running behind on the installation of cable television service in Warsaw.

Beasley's company had promised to install cable in August and then got a 45-day extension, until Sept. 23. Beasley asked for another extension Monday night.

Mayor Sam Godwin told Beasley the town would consider an extension, but no action would be taken immediately.

Beasley said his company is late because equipment has not been delivered on time, an easement was not obtained as quickly as he

thought it would be, and CP&L has not given Beasley permission to use poles in some areas.

The cable company says it has two-thirds of the city ready to energize and hopes to have the city hooked up by Oct. 31.

In other business, the town hired the law firm of Thompson and Ludlum of Warsaw to administer a South Front Street HUD rehabilitation project funded at \$488,000. Thompson and Ludlum are attorneys for the town.

Also, Kenneth Cox of the Kenneth Cox Insurance Agency presented a health plan for town employees. Presently the cost for the employee is \$39.23 plus

\$64.82 for dependents. Cox' plan would cost \$36.09 for an employee and \$60.54 for dependents. The policy carries a \$100 deductible clause, then pays 80 percent of health costs up to \$5,000. The policy pays 100 percent of health costs over \$5,000. The town now pays \$2,833 per month on 38 employees; Cox's plan would cost \$2,444 per month.

The town is insured under Travelers Insurance with the N.C. League of Municipalities. The underwriter with Cox's plan is George Washington Insurance Co.

Asa Lee wants to install a double-wide mobile home on South Bell Street. The board agreed to allow him to install a double-wide

modular home, requiring underpinning, a solid foundation and no wheels. That would be a variance to the ordinance in the residential area. Adjoining property owners agreed to the variance.

The tax-listing location for January will be the Driver's License Room and Lounge at the Warsaw Town Hall. The driver's License Examiner Room will be moved to the Police Department during January.

The board accepted a bid of \$8,150 from Anderson Roofing and Sheet Metal Company of Mount Olive to reroof the Neighborhood Facility Building.

Magnolia Train Depot Gets A Brief Reprieve

Magnolia's old railroad town's historic brick depot got a reprieve from its death sentence last week as the town board granted a volunteer committee more time to search for ways to save the empty building.

The board of the financially strapped town had decided last May to demolish the trackside building, the only brick railroad depot between Wilmington and Goldsboro, for lack of money to renovate and maintain it. The town has been leasing the building from Seaboard Coast Line Railroad, which replaced its depot-based offices with mobile freight agencies in the mid-'70s.

A group of Magnolia residents appealed to the town board Thursday to rescind its demolition resolution.

Randy Drew, a professional musician who acted as spokesman for the group, proposed forming a volunteer committee to calculate the costs of renovation and to seek donations and volunteer labor to carry out the work.

He said the effort would

not cost the town any money but the effort to save the building requires the town board's "moral support."

Magnolia bought the building from the railroad for \$600. Unlike other abandoned CSL depots in southeastern North Carolina, the brick structure mounted on a stone foundation cannot be readily moved, as the railroad preferred. Several wooden depots have been moved and reused, such as the Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum and the Columbus County Library at Riegelwood.

In Magnolia, the railroad refused the town's request to buy the land on which the depot sits. The railroad did agree to lease the building for \$136 per year, on condition that the track side of the building be fenced to keep the public away from the tracks.

The town was also required to buy a \$1 million liability insurance policy, costing \$100 per year. The lease also gives the railroad the right to take possession

any time with 90 days' notice.

Mayor Melvin Pope noted that Magnolia's two main business streets are also on land leased from the railroad, and subject to that same 90-day clause.

The depot lease expires in February 1983.

Pope said he foresees little chance the railroad will exercise its 90-day option to cancel the lease. "The only way that the railroad would want the building moved would be if they expanded their service, and it looks like railroads are going in the other direction," the Mayor commented.

Several town commissioners were skeptical about the renovation effort. Herbert Tucker asked Drew, "How long will it take you to get your crowd together? I don't want this town to have any more money in this depot."

Referring to the \$236 a year the town is spending on the building, Commissioner Ruth Quinn said, "It doesn't sound like much, but we're

overspent now. We don't have any money. We're growing smaller rather than larger."

Magnolia's annual budget is \$175,170, of which about \$100,000 comes from state and federal grants.

Responding to a board member who questioned the involvement of "outsiders" in the depot issue, Drew said, "History doesn't belong to the town; it belongs to everybody."

The Magnolia depot is the only one its architectural type in the southeastern United States, Pope said.

Although its age is uncertain, the mayor noted that the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, predecessor to the Atlantic Coast Line (now Seaboard Coast Line) bought the depot site on Aug. 3, 1877, from M.J. Hunter of Magnolia. An earlier wooden depot burned in 1873. At that time, the town (known as Strickland's Depot) was booming, with 21 general stores, three hotels and three doctors.

1982 Agribusiness Fair

By Ruth Wells

This is Duplin

Congratulations!!! Duplin County has done it again. Our first annual Agribusiness Fair was a howling success.

A few days before the Fair opened, a well-known news reporter asked, "What is the

theme of the Fair?"

Without hesitation, Kay Williamson, a member of the fair management team, replied, "This is Duplin County! This is us! This is the way we are! We are the Number 1 Agricultural County in the state, so naturally we have the best in agriculture, poultry and live-

stock. We also have the best in talented, cooperative people. So what you see is what we are — THIS IS DUPLIN!"

Many months ago a few people dreamed of this Fair. They contacted others, who contacted others, and set off a chain reaction. People from all areas came and worked

together and made this dream a reality. There is virtually no community in the county that did not in some very meaningful way contribute to the success of the fair.

The entertainment was unbelievable. With the exception of the Green Grass Cloggers, all talent was local. The Drama Club, the Gospel Singers, the dance groups, the skills from yesteryear — all were local talent and all were the best in their chosen field. The contest depicted the interest and humor of our area.

So, fellow citizens of Duplin, let's all take time out and pat ourselves on the back, because the success of the Fair belongs to everyone who contributed. And whatever your contribution may have been, you played a vital role. You worked hand-in-hand with 15,000 other persons who volunteered their resources to make our Fair a success.

Truly, THIS IS DUPLIN! Meet me at the Fair — 1983.

Kenansville Area Chamber Of Commerce Plans Big Auction

The Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce has planned an auction on Oct. 23rd beginning at 6 p.m. on the grounds in front of the Farrior House, between the two banks in Kenansville. Along with the auction there will be a flea market all day prior to the auction. The space will be roped off and spaces will be rented for \$5 each. Davey Thomas has accepted the chairmanship of the auction and serving with him will be Doc Brinson, Richard Harrell, Carey Williams Jr., Brenda Thorpe and Alice Rich. Davey and Alice will serve as the auctioneers.

The collecting places for

the auction items will be the Kenansville Town Hall and Kenansville Drug Store. If possible, do not bring the items until Friday, Oct. 22. However, you may bring them at any time during the hours the collecting places are open.

Ann Craft and Doc Brinson have accepted again the chairmanship of "Twelve Days of Christmas, 1982."

Approximately 20,000 Kenansville brochures have been distributed throughout the state. The Welcome Centers have called or written for more several times during the vacation period.

Three new members have

joined the Chamber this year. They are: Eula's Famous Hot Dogs, The Ingram House and The General Store. They are welcomed as Kenansville's new businesses, and the Chamber wishes them success.

The Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce volunteered to handle the parking at the 1982 Duplin County Agribusiness Fair. George Garner, crime prevention and control instructor at JSTC, handled this for the Chamber. He did an outstanding job and he and the young people who assisted him are to be thanked and praised for a job well done.

Wallace Board Awards Insurance Contracts

The Wallace town board meeting last Thursday night, awarded insurance contracts to Associated Insurance Co. and Hewitt-Coleman Insur-

ance Co. A contract for \$13,035 for automobile, general liability and property and real estate coverage was awarded to

Associated Insurance Co. of Wallace. A contract for \$9,160 for workmen's compensation coverage was awarded to Hewitt-Coleman Insurance of Spartanburg, S.C.

Carlton Insurance Co. of Wallace, the low bidder on the town's insurance needs, did not receive a share of the town's insurance business. Carlton would bid only on a total package and the town board preferred to split the coverage between companies.

The town board also agreed to buy five large trash containers from Waste Industries of Wilmington for \$2,626. Container Products Co. of Wilmington bid 12,704.

The town board also: — Leased space on its water tower to Univision Cable Television Co. for \$500 per year so the company can install antennas on the tower.

— Signed a lease with the Wallace rescue squad for \$10 per year on the land where the squad is building an \$80,000 facility to house its equipment. Three walls have been erected and the roof is expected to go on this

week. — Agreed to purchase a 100x306-foot parcel of land from David Henderson that is adjacent to the Wallace Airport to extend the flight glide path at the end of the runway. The property cost the town \$5,100.

— Endorsed a tax increment financing amendment which will be on the Nov. 2 general election ballot. It is intended to help cities finance downtown improvements.

— Accepted the annual audit of the town's finances from Kenneth Farrior, town accountant. The audit showed revenues increased \$103,658 over last year; showed a \$20,853 surplus as of June 30; current assets of \$700,850.95; non-current assets of \$2,903,235.51 and funds for retirement of long-term debts of \$294,000; total assets \$3,898,086.46, an increase over last year of \$61,752.98.

— Heard a report on the town's tax collection status. The town's tax billings as of Aug. 1 were \$335,118.12. The town has collected \$77,288.99, leaving a balance due of \$277,829.13.



EIGHT POUNDS OF MARIJUANA CONFISCATED - Officers of the Duplin County drug unit, acting on information received, arrested two and removed from the market \$2,400 worth of marijuana this past weekend. The Marijuana was scheduled to be sold in Duplin County according to the drug unit officers. Arrested were Jerry Dean Crouse, 28, of 212 South Drum Street, Lincolnton, N.C. and Clyde Ray Crouse, III, 33, of 714 South Government Street, Lincolnton. Jerry Dean Crouse was charged with possession of marijuana with the intent to sell and deliver, felonious possession of

LSD, speeding 80 miles an hour in a 45 zone, no operator's license, failing to stop for a blue light and sirens, as well as speeding 15 miles an hour above the speed limit to elude arrest. He was in the Duplin County Jail under a \$30,000 bond on Monday. Clyde Ray Crouse, III, was charged with possession of marijuana with the intent to sell and deliver and carrying a concealed weapon. He is under a \$20,000 bond. Officers assisting in the arrest were Glenn Jernigan (pictured above), Kenneth Savage, Joe Reynolds and John Connerly.