



YOUTH LEADERSHIP participants at Waccamaw Elementary School, shown with faculty member Jean Gearhart (left) are (from the left) Ashli Smith, Joe Piver, Shanna King, Neal Hughes, Crystal Bailes, Jason Simmons and Jamie Hewett. Not pictured are Brian Little and Curtis Stephens.

Nine Complete Youth Leadership Program

Nine eighth grade students at Waccamaw Elementary School concluded a 10-session course in public speaking and group leadership skills March 11.

The Youth Leadership program was sponsored by the Coast Toasters Toastmasters Club of Shallotte and District 37 of Toastmasters International. Youth Leadership introduces students to the fundamentals of public speaking, meeting management and leadership through a combination of learning-by-doing exercises, guest speakers, readings and lectures.

Participants were Curtis Stephens, Shanna King, Crystal Bailes, Brian Little, Neal Hughes, Jamie Hewett, Jason Simmons, Joe Piver and Ashli Smith. Jean Gearhart was the host teacher.

Members of the Coast Toasters Club discussed the role of communications skills in their various careers and helped students with such basics as speech organization, use of visual aids, voice and vocabulary, lectern protocol and choosing speech topics, as well as practice in impromptu speaking, listening, conducting group discussions, business meetings, and evaluations.

Club members Frances Warner, Don Eggert, Laney Blanton, Sherry Henricksen, Jimmy Marshall, Susan Eggert and Janet Flowers participated.

The program concluded with a Parents Night program held March 11 in the school media center. Individual speakers were Crystal Bailes, "Dangers on the Highway," Joe Piver, "Censorship in Our Nation," and Jamie Hewett, "The Meaning of Friendship." Also taking leadership roles on the program were Neal Hughes, Ashli Smith and Jason Simmons.

Varnamtown Still Thinking About Boat Ramp

BY DOUG RUTTER

Varnamtown Aldermen agreed Monday they should check into the town's liability before moving ahead with plans to rebuild the public boat ramp on the Lockwood Folly River.

Although no formal decision has been made to improve the crumbling ramp, the town planning board is working out the project's details. Planners are tentatively scheduled to meet April 5 at 7:30 p.m. in town hall.

At Monday night's board of aldermen meeting, resident Alex Kuigre suggested that the board find out before it approves the project if the town can be sued if somebody is injured at the facility.

Kuigre said he heard from an unnamed source that the town could be held responsible if an injury occurred at the ramp. "I think that needs to be looked into."

Town officials said they would check into the liability issue before they decide to improve the ramp. "I don't think it's gone that far yet," Mayor Judy Galloway noted.

Despite some opposition, most Varnamtown residents seem to be in favor of rebuilding the ramp. In February, the town board received a petition signed by 87 people who support the project.

Earlier, a dozen residents who live near the waterfront had complained that a new ramp would add to existing parking problems. They said people using the ramp park beside the road and block their driveways and mail delivery.

Kuigre, who was among those voicing concern over the ramp in January, said Monday he isn't opposed to the project if there's enough parking area for vehicles

"You don't ever know. Your own neighbor might sue you. There's people riding around looking for any way to make a quick buck."

—Alex Kuigre, resident

and boat trailers.

Town officials said last month that problem has been solved. A landowner has agreed to lease to the town property near the ramp that would provide space for 19 vehicles with trailers and another three or four cars.

Kuigre said Monday he doesn't want to see the town get sued and lose a lot of money. "I know who the town is. It's me and everybody else. If a person gets hurt he can take a hunk of money."

"You don't ever know. Your own neighbor might sue you," he continued. "There's people riding around looking for any way to make a quick buck."

Earlier this year, town officials accepted a planning board design for a ramp 77 feet long and 41 feet wide. Junior Thompson, Blondell Robinson and Nicky Varnam own the ramp property and have agreed to lease it to the town.

The ramp design accepted by the town board carries an estimated cost of \$21,780. But town officials have said they think they can have the ramp built for less money.

Town Clerk Luellen Norris reported Monday that Varnamtown has \$70,996 in the bank. However, the town still owes \$7,650 to MAC

Construction for paving the town hall parking lot.

Last month, the town board voted to pay the Shallotte contractor pending a final review by the building and grounds committee.

Train Wreck Simulation Set Saturday

Emergency crews from Military Ocean Terminal, Sunny Point, Carolina Power & Light and Brunswick County Emergency Services will simulate a train accident at the Funston Rail Crossing on Saturday, March 20, between 10 a.m. and noon.

Alderman John David Dawson, a committee member, said Monday night he still isn't satisfied because the parking lot doesn't drain properly. He said he will talk with the company.

In other business Monday, aldermen voted to contribute \$100 to the West Brunswick High School "After Prom" party on April 30.

"I think it's a good thing if we've got something we can give them," Mayor Galloway said. The money will be taken from the \$1,600 contingency fund.

The Varnamtown finance committee will meet Monday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. in town hall to work on the 1993-94 budget.



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