

Evans On The Right Track

We think Rep. Charles Evans is on the right track with his bill to give local units of government some leverage in controlling the development and operation of private sewage treatment plants. We think it should be amended to cover private water systems as well.

As things now stand, developers can go out into the rural areas, open up a small subdivision of 15-to-20 houses and then sell them to the public by telling purchasers adequate water and sewer facilities have been established.

And maybe, for the time being, they have. But then a lot of things can happen. The developer can sell everything and move to Florida. Or he can lease the utilities to some jackleg who can never be found and then refer all complaints to him. Or the developer, who had the best of intentions to start with, can go bankrupt, and leave everybody holding the bag.

When we were in the General Assembly we got more complaints from our constituents about inoperable water systems than sewage treatment plants. The usual procedure was to put in individual septic tanks for each unit and then drill a well with a 30-gallon storage tank to serve the community. Then, when the pump breaks down, the man in charge can never be found.

It is true the State Utilities Commission has jurisdiction over these small utilities and makes a valiant effort to protect the public interest. But there is just not much it can do to get at the developer who really wants to shirk his responsibility. It can order him to make repairs and he can go through the motions. In the final analysis, it can take him to court, where a whole new round of delays and dodges begins.

Rep. Evans' idea of giving local authorities a voice at the planning stage may go a long way toward improving conditions. Another approach would be to require the developers to give a performance bond guaranteeing the workability of the systems over a reasonable number of years.

Only within the past year, the board of commissioners in a western county has had to extend water lines to a subdivision where the water system had been giving trouble for years. Finally, when the system was got into working order, the water soon became contaminated from the septic tanks. The cost to the taxpayers was somewhere around \$20,000.

These people were within reach of a municipal water supply. What would have happened to their investment if they had been so far away as to make a line extension economically inadvisable?

Standard Measure

If your paper looks different this week, that's because it is. We have gone to the standard measure for six column formats. And we hope you like it.

To help keep down the cost of newsprint and postage, we have gone from 30-inch paper to 28-inch. We have been able to do that by cutting down on the outside margins of the pages and on

Continued On Page 4



FOCUS ON THE FAMILY — C.A. Phillips, chairman, Board of Chowan County Commissioners, signs a document proclaiming March 24-30 as Focus on the Family Week. Pictured with Mr. Phillips is Hilda Goodwin, chairman, 1985 Family Fair.

Fair Primary Attraction For Family Focus Week

by Frances M. Ward
Home Economics Extension Agent

The Chowan County Agricultural Extension Service and other local agencies and organizations will sponsor a Family Fair on Thursday, March 28, at the American Legion Building in Edenton. This fair is the primary activity during Family Focus Week.

C.A. Phillips, Chairman of the Chowan County Commissioners has proclaimed the week of March 24-30 as Focus on the Family Week in Chowan County.

The text of the proclamation is: WHEREAS, the family is the most fundamental and important social institution in this society,

forging values underlying na-

tional stability and continuity; and, WHEREAS, its well-being and stability in this technological, rapidly changing age is of increasing concern to many educators, persons working with families, policymakers and families themselves; and, WHEREAS, the Agricultural Extension Service serves to strengthen individuals and families through programs in agriculture, 4-H, home economics, community resources development; and, WHEREAS, Extension's general goal is to help families improve competence in

Continued On Page 4

Local Reps In Raleigh

Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland and other county representatives are traveling to Raleigh today (Thursday) to attend meetings with state legislators.

At 3 p.m. they will attend a meeting to discuss proposals by the U.S. Navy to increase restricted air space over the Albemarle Sound. Critics say those proposals may damage recreational boating, fishing, and aviation activities. Will Plentl, Director of Aviation in the N.C. Department of Transportation will speak at the meeting.

At 4 p.m. a meeting will be held to discuss declining appropriations for mental health programs in this region of the state. Allocations for the eastern region are \$2.25 less than the average statewide per capita allocation. Secretary of Human Resources Phil Kirk is sending a representative to discuss the matter.

Attending the meetings will be Senators Marc Basnight and Tom Taft and Representatives Howard Chapin, Charles Evans, and Vernon James.



Stan Woodlief

Winn Dixie Post Filled

Stan Woodlief recently was named manager of Edenton's Winn Dixie store. Before being promoted to his present position, he was serving as assistant manager of the Louisburg store.

An eleven year Winn Dixie employee, Woodlief began working as a bag boy with the grocery chain while still in high school. He continued to work at Winn Dixie while attending Vance-Granville Community College, where he earned an associate degree in criminal justice.

Woodlief and his wife, Pam, reside in Westover Heights with their five year old son, Jason.

Rings Stolen From Davis

Five trays of rings valued at close to \$6,000 were stolen from Davis Jewelers, S. Broad Street, on Thursday, March 14, according to an Edenton Police Department report.

A passerby noticed that someone had broken the glass in the front door window of the store and called the police department at 1:46 a.m.

Police Sergeant Bonner and Officer Louis Brothers went to the store and noticed two holes in the front of a showcase. Missing from the case were the trays containing

Continued On Page 4

Scores Increasing

The percentage of local students passing the North Carolina Competency test continues to increase each year.

Results of the test administered to 146 juniors at John A. Holmes High School in October 1984 show that 95.9 per cent of the students passed the reading competency test and 94.5 per cent passed the math test. The figures represent gains of 1.9 per cent (reading) and 1.1 per cent (math) over 1983. Local students are also doing well when compared to their peers in Region I and across the state. Test results show that passing rates in reading are the same here as the state and higher than rates reported for Region I. In math, local juniors are doing even better with passing rates higher than rates reported for Region I and the state.

Competency tests in reading and mathematics have been given to eleventh-grade students in public as well as private schools in North Carolina since 1978. In order to receive a high school diploma, a student must pass the test. Those who don't pass the first time may take the test over.

But each year fewer students have to be tested.

Mary Horton, coordinator of the testing program for Edenton-Chowan Schools, said the reason more students are passing the test each year is because "they're receiving remedial instruction where needed and they're attitudes are changing."

She said students are becoming more aware of the difficulty of finding jobs after graduation and are placing more value on high school diplomas.

"They're seeing the need to buckle down," she said.

Horton believes that the three themes the Edenton-Chowan School system has stressed over the last three years - courtesy, academic excellence and this year's emphasis on school facilities and the environment - have greatly affected students' attitudes.

"The emphasis on these themes have made children aware of what school is all about," she said.

Convention Agenda Set

The Chowan County Democratic Convention will be held on Saturday, April 13, at 1 p.m., according to Lueta Sellers, County Chairman. The convention will be held at the Chowan County Courthouse on Broad St.

Heading the convention's agenda will be the election of county officers for a term of two years. The officers include Chair, three Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. According to the rules of the Party, the Chair and the First Vice Chair shall not be of the same gender. In addition, if the Chair and First Vice Chair are of the same race, then the Second Vice Chair must be of a different race than the Chair and First Chair. The Third Vice Chair must be 35 years or under, if none of the other officers are 35 years of age or

Continued On Page 4



HONORED—Carrie Earnhardt (left) was honored with a luncheon on Monday by the local board of the American Cancer Society. Earnhardt is retiring after serving 28 years as memorial chairman for the local chapter. She is pictured with Marjorie Hollowell, the new memorial chairman.

District Court Session

Chowan County District Court was in session March 19, the Honorable Grafton G. Beaman presiding over the criminal term.

Elton Jesse Askew was found guilty on charges of DWI and improper passing. The two cases were consolidated for judgement and Askew was sentenced to 30 days suspended for 2 years on the condition he pay a fine of \$80 and cost of court. He is perform 24 hours of community service, attend ADET school and must surrender his drivers license.

Arthur James Conrad Jr. was found guilty of two counts of making harassing telephone calls. He was sentenced to 90 days suspended for 3 years on the condition he pay a fine of \$100 and pay court costs for each count; he was ordered to attend Albemarle Mental Health.

William Lloyd Berry was found guilty of exceeding the posted 55mph speed limit. He was ordered to pay court costs; he appealed.

Barbara Ann Dail was called but failed to show on an inspection violation charge.

Jackie Eugene Daughtridge was called but failed to show on an inspection violation charge.

Joseph Keith Byrum was found guilty of reckless driving. He was fined \$80 and cost of court.

Clyde Rogers Jordan was called but failed to show on an inspection violation.

Teresa Bateman Ray was found guilty of driving 45 in a 35mph zone. She was fined \$5.00 and cost of court.

Richard Lee Rome was found guilty of shoplifting. He was sentenced to 90 days suspended for 3 years on the condition he pay a fine of \$100 and cost of court.

Cheryl Ann White was found guilty of shoplifting. She was sentenced to 90 days suspended for 2 years on the condition she pay a fine of \$50 and cost of court. She is to remain off the premises of Winn Dixie for 2 years.

Michael Eugene Bates was found guilty of secretly peeping into a ladies room. He was

sentenced to 90 days suspended for 2 years on the condition he pay a fine of \$150 and cost of court. He is not to harass or intimidate Lynette B. Taylor for 2 years; he appealed.



Wendell Garrett

Arts Topic For Lecture

Internationally renowned lecturer Wendell Garrett, Editor and Publisher of The Magazine ANTIQUES will speak in Edenton on Monday, March 25 at 5 p.m. at the new Chowan County Courthouse.

Garrett's topic will be "The Decorative Arts in a Changing America". Using beautiful color slides and double projection, Garrett will show antique furniture, textiles, silver, paintings, and ceramics to provide insight into America's social, economic, and political history from 1600 to 1850.

According to Virginia Wood, Chowan County Chairman for the North Carolina Museum of History Associates, "Garrett's visit is sponsored by the Museum Associates in conjunction with the 1985 membership drive". Others serving on the Chowan County Committee are Arch Edwards, Peter Rascoe, and Beth Taylor.

Continued On Page 4



AUCTION—(from left to right) Faye Noneman, Carolyn White, Pat Storie and Edith Nixon are busy preparing for the Chowan County Heart Association Auction to be held at the American Legion Building on March 29.



NEW BUSINESS—The grand opening of Leary Brothers' "The Warehouse" was celebrated on Saturday, March 16. The new lawn and garden center located at the corner of Business 17 and Highway 32 in Edenton is owned by Clarence Leary Jr. The front of the building (above) is designed to look like a 1900 storefront and was renovated by Edenton Construction Company in a month's time. (Insert) Clarence Leary Jr. is shown weighing seed by the pound inside his new store.