

# THE Northampton County TIMES-NEWS

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## Gaston Approves Use Of Old Town Hall For Clinic

GASTON — Town commissioners here voted Tuesday night to allow the county Health Department to utilize the old Town Hall as a clinic facility.

John Ahearn, county health administrator, appeared before the board with the request that his department be allowed to make minor alterations to the frame structure which is to the rear of an old four-room house the department has been using to conduct the monthly clinics.

Ahearn said a partition would be constructed dividing the one-room building into a waiting room for patients and an examination area. The county plans to conduct its pediatric and immunization clinics at the renovated facility.

The present clinic meets in a deteriorated dwelling which has no plumbing. County commissioners have refused to appropriate funds to improve the present clinic building. The county board has authorized funds for construction of a partition in the old Town Hall.

The town will vacate the Town Hall sometime in the near future and move to a \$25,000 building which was recently completed. Commissioners had discussed using the vacated building for a street and sanitation office; however, Mayor Firman Myrick stated, "The building will serve more an asset to the town as a health clinic."

Ahearn stated, "The Health Department would like to upgrade the building and expand the program here. It is an extremely good program and is advantageous to residents of this community."

Some discussion resulted regarding servability of the building. The Health Department will vacate the building. Commissioner Elton Odum said he would like to see the old house demolished and a new health facility built adjacent to the new Town Hall. Others suggested the building be moved to the back of the property and used as a storage warehouse. No decision was made.

Commissioner Cirven Burnette made the motion that the county be given permission to use the old Town Hall and the vote was without

opposition.

In other matters, the board: —Endorsed a motion by Burnette that all street lights in the town be converted to mercury vapor lighting. Funds to accomplish the change over were included in the present fiscal budget.

—Agreed to assess the county Health Department \$3.25 a month for water at the new clinic building.

—Authorized Mayor Firman Myrick to execute a resolution raising the salary of Police Chief John Acree from \$7,200 to \$7,500 as recommended by the state. The state will pay the \$300 supplement as part of a new program designed to improve local law enforcement in the state.

—Voted to move the meeting night to the first Monday in the month in order that the town attorney can meet with the board.

—Agreed to install two separate phone lines in the new Town Hall at the request of the police chief.

—Okayed the exchange of a new water meter at Clary Lumber Co. at no cost to the company.

—Authorized the purchase of new furnishings for the new municipal building.

—Read a letter from town attorney Nick Long of Roanoke Rapids who expressed the opinion that previous complaints aired at prior town meetings concerning alleged noise ordinance violations by C & A Truck Lines are private matters.

Long's letter stated noise from the trucks is apparently not a general public nuisance but rather a problem that must be settled between the involved parties.

Another letter on a similar situation was read from an attorney with the North Carolina League of Municipalities. It reiterated Long's position stating several households would have to complain of the noise before it could be termed a public nuisance.

Decided to seek additional bids on extending the town's water line to a mobile home not presently served by the system. The bid quoted at Tuesday's meeting was \$1,300.

—Granted Cebron Jordan a 30 grace period during which time he is to get rid of a hog pen he maintains in a residential neighborhood in violation of municipal ordinance.

Jordan agreed to close the hog pen but stated he was not giving up his chicken pen.

Town law requires all hog pens be located no closer than 200 feet from a dwelling. Chicken pens may be within 50 feet of a home.

—Approved Christmas bonuses for employees totaling \$10 for the first year of employment and \$5 for each additional year.

## Leaves 55 Unemployed

### Plant Closes Without Notice

CONWAY — Employees of a garment plant here reported to work last Thursday morning only to find their employer moving out of town.

S & E Fashions, a New York based firm which also operates a plant in Wendell, has vacated the Hedspeth Building on US 158 in Conway. The company moved without notice to its employees.

S & E employed 55 persons, mostly women. The plant prepared women's garments for sale in northern markets.

S & E came to Conway several months ago when another sewing concern folded. S & E bought the equipment from the other firm and took up a lease on the Hedspeth Building.

Conway Mayor Grady Martin reported that when workers reported for duty Thursday morning they were confronted with moving men loading the plant's machinery on transport trucks.

Company official Jack Lieberman of New York could not be reached for comment on the concern's reasons for closing the Conway operation.

## Court Review Ordered In ABC Controversy

RALEIGH — Wake County Superior Court Judge James H. Pou Bailey ordered the state Board of Alcoholic Control Monday not to dismiss the chairman of Northampton County's ABC system, pending court determination of whether he is violating a state anti-nepotism policy.

The state ABC Board found last month that Burgwyn was acting as both chairman and supervisor of the local system in violation of a policy, adopted earlier this year, that no ABC employee or his close relative could hold office in a local ABC system.

The board ordered Burgwyn

to submit his resignation as supervisor.

Burgwyn contended in a superior court petition filed Monday that the supervisor's post does not exist and that the state board order is an attempt to cut his salary.

Burgwyn, through attorney George Ragsdale, accused the board of failing to follow proper procedures by holding no hearing and making no findings of fact before issuing its order.

The only meeting he has had with the state board was an informal conference to try to work out a compromise, Burgwyn said.

## Study Shows County Has Land And Work Force

### N'ampton Ready For Industrial Growth

The newly released study of the economic situation in Northampton points to the county's abundant labor supply and its numerous available industrial sites.

According to George Harris, county economic planner, "Those are the two biggest things going for the county in the way of industrial development."

Virginia Electric and Power Co.'s economic study shows there are over 7,000 persons in a 25 mile radius of Gaston,

Jackson and Rich Square available for work.

Rich Square has the greatest number of workers available numbering 2,925. Jackson has 2,625 and Gaston has 1,925.

Two types of labor in the area included in the figure estimates are persons seeking work such as the unemployed, part-time workers and underemployed trainable personnel as well as potential jobseekers like housewives, commuting workers, high

school graduates and part-time farmers.

The study shows that the per capita buying power of Northamptonians is \$1,950 annually. The median household income stands at \$4,335 with the income of the largest percentage of families in the county in the 0-\$2,999 bracket.

The report indicates a sharp drop in the number of farms in the county since 1959 when there were 2,118 farms. The latest figures show only

1,121 farms averaging 198 acres in size. The comparative 1959 average size was 115 acres. Value of farms has increased sizeable since 1959 from \$15,294 to \$51,629.

The report shows 1,588 persons now employed in industry in the county, mostly in wood products and textiles.

Woodland provides 501 industrial jobs, Rich Square 300, Conway 299, Seaboard 147, Sevon 132, Jackson 121, Gaston 72, Milwaukee 63, Pendleton 30 and Potocasi 23.

Industrial Sites

Seventeen prime industrial sites are highlighted and detailed in the Vepco study.

Four of the sites are in and around Rich Square and four others are in or near Woodland. Seaboard has four prospective industrial tracts, Conway has two and Jackson, Gaston and Garysburg each have one.

A 45-acre tract is located at the intersection of NC 48 and

the Old Emporia Road in Gaston. The property, which is inside the corporate limits, is owned by W. J. Long Jr.

J. L. Fitzhugh owns a 50-acre parcel near Garysburg on NC 46. It adjoins Seaboard Coast Line property.

A 40-acre tract at the southwest corporate limits of Seaboard is available and owned by Dr. R. B. Blow. It faces NC 195. A small eight-acre tract on Crocker Street is owned by the Seaboard Development Commission and Bettie H. Eastwood et al own a 17.5 acre parcel on SR 1324 partially inside the town limits. Seaboard's other available industrial tract is a 51-acre parcel on NC 195 east of town owned by H. R. Howell Sr. and F. E. Cordle.

A 32-acre parcel is available in Jackson on the north side of Jefferson Street east of the courthouse. It is owned by E. W. Lewis.

Macon Woodard owns a 30-

acre industrial tract on Ampac Road in Conway and the Bridgers family owns 26 acres that could be sold for industrial development on NC 35 South.

In Woodland a 275-acre tract that stretches from US 258 to the Seaboard Coast Line tracts is available for an industrial complex. E. L. Timberlake Jr. owns the property. Two 60-acre tracts, one owned by David Dickie and the other by Perry Lassiter et al, are located on US 258. The fourth Woodland tract is 45 acres located on US 258 at George and it is owned by Mrs. L. H. Wendell.

Charles E. Myers owns a 150-acre industrial site in Rich Square on US 258 North and a 140-acre parcel on 258 North is owned by James Johnson. David and Laura Evans own a 127-acre prospective industrial parcel also on US

258 North and it is owned by Mrs. L. H. Wendell.

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FIRST SNOWFALL — A veil of snowflakes add another deminon to this woodland near Jackson. The pre-winter snow, which weather

forecasters failed to predict, fell early Tuesday morning but had melted by mid-day.

## Woodland To Share In Paving Costs

WOODLAND — Woodland commissioners last Thursday agreed to pave an access road to the proposed 50-unit housing project to be constructed here.

The town's agreement is contingent on receipt of funds from the county for its share of the paving costs. The county board last week approved expenditure of \$7,800 on the paving project.

The county's payment will go to Woodland which will be responsible for seeing the

paving project to completion. The as yet undedicated street is 1,050 feet in length. Rights of way inside the project will be paved and curbed by the Roanoke-Chowan Regional Housing Authority which is supervising construction of the housing project.

Leigh Tinsley, tri-county housing executive director, and Al Vickery, authority architect, appeared before the board with the request.

Woodland will also provide other municipal services to the project like street lighting, garbage collection and police and fire protection.

The town will realize \$750 annually from the project as payment in lieu of taxes.

Ms. Tinsley estimated it would be 12 to 15 months before the project is complete. An option on the property for the development, to be built off US 258, has not been secured. The authority is trying to iron out a problem with the grade of the land prior to executing the option. Dr. Raleigh Parker owns the parcel.

In other action, the board: —Voted to adopt a

resolution paving the way for qualification for flood insurance.

The resolution is the first step taken by the board toward a program that would allow property owners in Woodland to purchase flood insurance.

—Made departmental assignments to commissioners for the new two-year term.

Kimsey King was named new police commissioner and John Hunsinger the new sanitation commissioner.

Commissioner Cary Reese will be in charge of water and sewer departments and John Outland will handle street department matters.

## County Minus Bus Service

RICH SQUARE — Those attempting to evade the energy crisis by utilizing bus transportation may as well turn back to the auto. There is no bus service in the county.

A strike of 350 union drivers has crippled the Carolina Trailways system and has left Northampton with absolutely no inter-city bus service.

Frazier Helms, Carolina

Trailways agent at Colonial Truck Plaza in Rich Square, says parcel delivery service is also hampered by the strike.

Trailways normally has six daily stops at the Rich Square terminal, but there has been no activity since Sunday.

Helms noted that the 15 firms that generally rely on

(See BUS, Page 11)

## Board Members Get Specific Assignments

RICH SQUARE — New town commissioners will be given specific departmental assignments at the January meeting of the Rich Square Board of Commissioners, Mayor James Outland announced last week.

In the board's organizational meeting Thursday, Outland proposed the plan of organization he hopes to initiate while serving as mayor.

In the past board members have had no departmental duties. All matters were handled by the full board.

Outland said his plan will hopefully eliminate a lot of problems coming before the town board.

Outland also stated that no one hereafter will be allowed to carry an item before the board unless it appears on a prepared agenda. Persons wishing to address the board should notify the town clerk at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Clerk Gladys Futrell will prepare an agenda for

distribution to board members prior to all board meetings.

New commissioners Claudie Lassiter, Doug Draffin, Grace Lambertson and Julian Edwards join veteran commissioner Joe Gordon on the board.

In other business, the commissioners: —Passed a resolution commending the outgoing board for its service.

—Approved the sale of town tags to begin Monday.

The \$1 tags must be displayed on vehicles by Feb. 15. After that date, the price of the tag doubles.

—Approved a \$50 Christmas bonus for eight fulltime and one parttime municipal employees.

—Agreed to burn Christmas lights on the two main streets and on the water tank Dec. 14 and 15 and 22-25.

Mayor Outland urged citizens to cooperate by observing the same dates. Decorations will be illuminated from 5-10 p.m. on those dates.

## northampton chaff

Livestock may not be buried in a municipality and Cecil Garner of Gaston found that out this week — the hard way.

Cecil's pet pony died Sunday night and, seemingly fitting to the owner, he prepared to bury the animal on his property, which just happens to be located inside the Gaston corporate limits.

It seems health state laws forbid interment of livestock within town limits as a precaution insuring a safe drinking water supply.

Cecil had dug a nine-foot resting place for the pony and had the animal partially covered when he was notified that the burial was unlawful.

The pony was unearthed and town sanitation crews removed the animal for a proper burial outside the town limits.

Northampton ABC chief Bart Burgwyn of Jackson this week found legal support for his fight to remain chairman of the county's ABC system.

Colorful Raleigh Judge James H. Pou Bailey, who is known for carrying a gun and camera in the courtroom with him at all times, has ordered the state ABC board to keep quiet in the drawn-out controversy until a judicial review of the case is held.

The county composite board just last week refused to obey the state order to lower Burgwyn's salary and instruct him not to carry out the duties of a county program supervisor.

One of the composite board's alternatives

in the matter was to seek a judicial review. Now Judge Bailey has made that decision easier for the composite board.

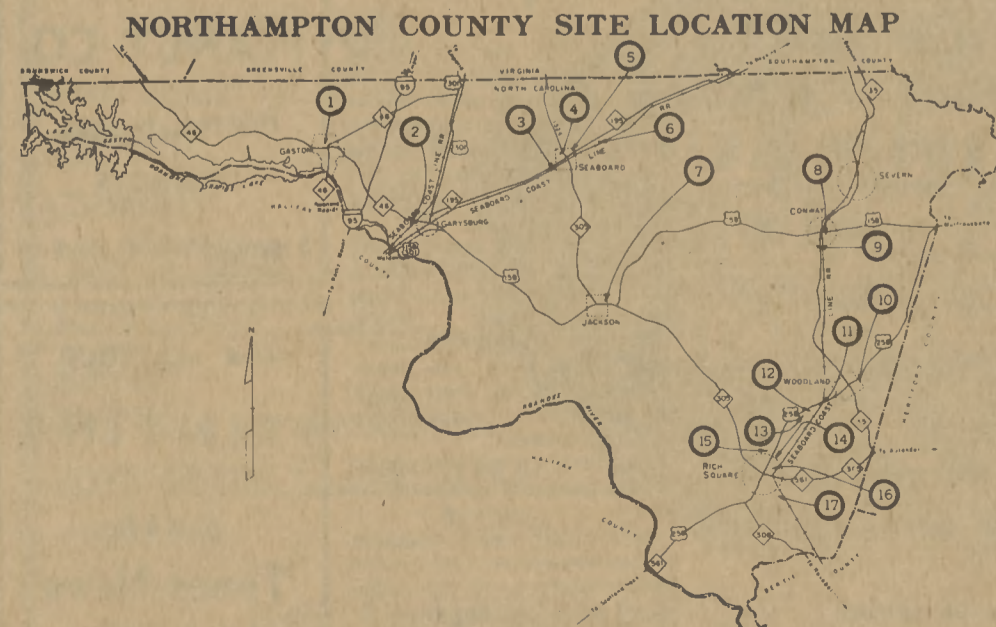
Female employes in and around the courthouse Tuesday night got together for their annual Christmas party.

Attending the Dutch dinner at a Roanoke Rapids steak house were Janey Ellen, Belinda Crowder, Miriam Pruden, Hazel Jones, Margaret Leake, Rebecca Parrish, Ann White, Dorothy Vick, Carolyn Wheeler, Elizabeth Hughes, Mary Barrett, Judy Strickland, Betty Nance, Barbara Wheeler, Emma Doris Edwards, Frances Midyette, Lillian Pearce, Rose Sumner, Swannie Williamson, Sandra Futrell, Alice Warrick, Margaret Jordan, Josey Gay, Margaret F. Hughes, Margaret Aston and Ola Mae Johnson.

Office workers in county buildings may get an extended holiday, thanks to the energy crisis.

County Manager Tim Ellen said this week commissioners will decide Monday whether or not to abide by a request from the governor's office that counties follow the example being set by the state in closing 11 days for the combined Christmas and New Years holiday.

It is presently proposed county agencies be closed Dec. 22-26 and Dec. 29-Jan. 1. The governor is asking counties to close also on the 27th and 28th in an effort to save fuel.



Map Shows Locations Of Available Industrial Tracts