

Public Hearing Set

Zoning Proposal Is Given Board

By KAY HORNER
News Editor

A proposal by the Warren County Planning Board for countywide zoning was well received last Wednesday night by county commissioners who agreed to take the matter to the public at a hearing scheduled for March 20.

Currently, only the Kerr Lake and Gaston Lake areas of the county

Loan Request By Parks Body Is Turned Down

A request by the Soul City Parks and Recreation Association for a county loan of \$1,152 was declined by county commissioners at the mid-monthly meeting last Wednesday on the advice of County Attorney Charles Johnson who questioned the advisability of the county making a loan to a private agency.

However, the board did vote to assist the association by advancing \$1,000 in county funds already budgeted to the association.

The county appropriated a total of \$12,500 in the 1984-85 budget to the association for operation of the Soul City pool. Of this amount, \$1,000 had been retained for disbursement in April or May when the pool opened, according to County Manager Charles Worth.

The board authorized Worth to advance the remaining funds in response to the association's request for a loan.

The board also referred to Worth for further study a request by Kathy Wilson, executive director of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, for assistance in obtaining Revenue Sharing funds and Community Development Block Grant funds for use in restoring the Haliwa

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are zoned and only single-family residences, lakeside and neighborhood businesses, and recreational businesses are allowed.

The new ordinance, seven months in the making, provides for multi-family dwellings, industry, business, mobile home parks, as well as planned unit developments throughout the county.

However, the majority of the county would be zoned agricultural-residential, and bona fide farmland, as prescribed by state statute, would be exempt from zoning regulations.

Farms and livestock production would be allowed in the agricultural-residential zone.

Because of the rural nature of the county, the commissioners and planning board are hoping for the support of the farming community on the zoning issue.

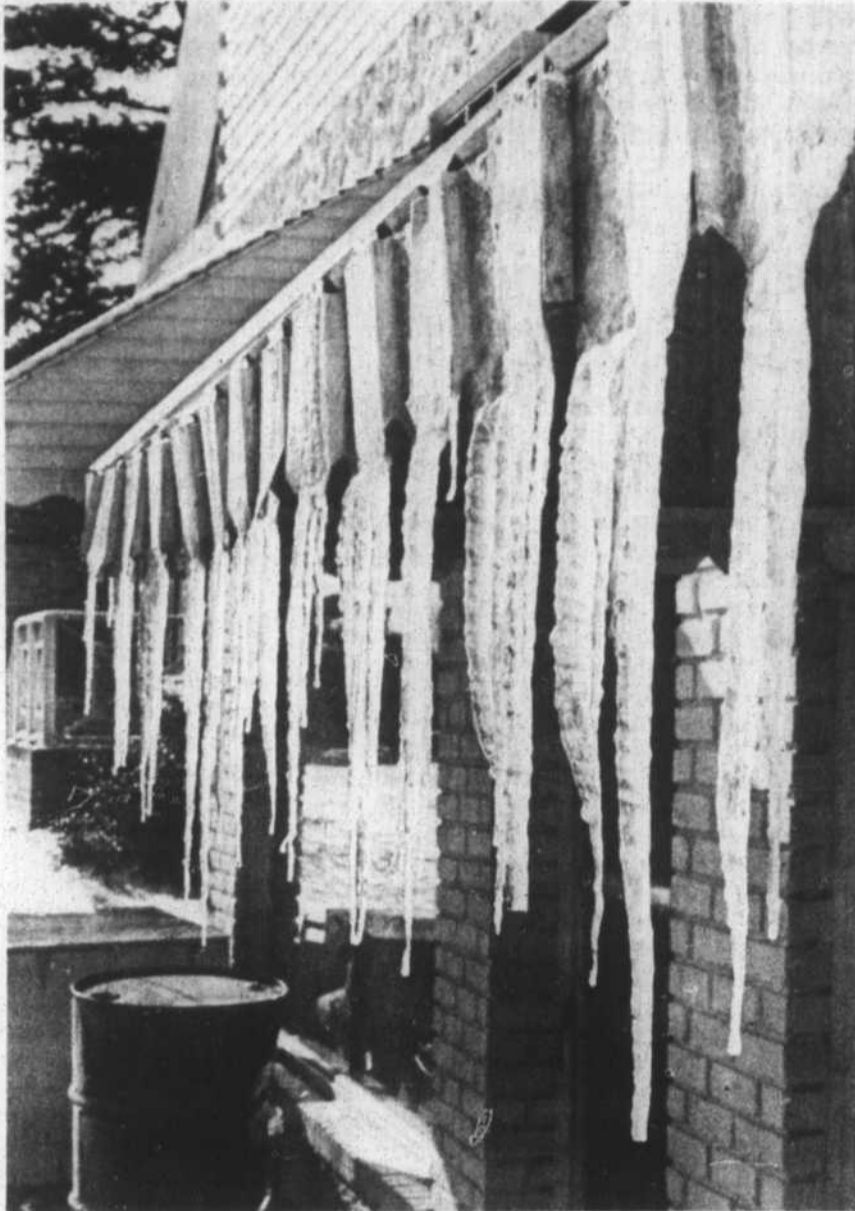
Planning Board Member William Brauer, himself a farmer, told the board that most of the farmers he had spoken with had no objection to countywide zoning, and Chairman Selby Benton cited one landowner on Lake Gaston who initially had been opposed to zoning, but was now one of its strongest supporters.

"He's in favor of it now that he has seen what it has done for him," Benton said.

One of the key elements of the proposal is industrial zoning for certain portions of a corridor from Warrenton to Norlina along U.S. 158 and 401 and from Norlina to Soul City along U.S. 1.

According to the Planning Board, industrial zoning is being proposed in that area to protect the county's investment in water and sewer lines.

The public hearing is required by law before the county commissioners can make any changes in the current zoning ordinance.



Anyone needing proof of just how cold it was Monday in Warren County had to look no further than the roof of Egerton's Market in Norlina where these icicles, some several feet long, had formed. Record-breaking temperatures that plummeted below zero gave school children and county employees a two-day vacation, but kept local law enforcement officers on the road helping stranded motorists and transporting employees to local health care centers. Volunteer firefighters also reported an increased number of fires throughout the county as residents stepped up efforts to heat their homes.

(Staff Photo)

Local Guardsmen To Aid Development Of Panama

Approximately 80 National Guardsmen from Company C 505th Engineer Battalion, based in Warrenton, are participating in a road-building project in Panama, according to Staff Sgt. Robert D. Edmonds, unit training NCO with the Warrenton company.

Twenty local Guardsmen who departed for Panama on Jan. 11 will be followed by others leaving at two-week intervals to help build a road in an underdeveloped area of Panama. The Warrenton unit was called to

assist with the rock-crushing part of the road construction, which will allow peasants who live in the hills of Panama to get to markets with their livestock, produce, and other marketable items, Sgt. Edmonds said.

Seven of the National Guardsmen from the Warrenton unit will stay until the operation, dubbed "Blazing Trails," is completed on May 5. The majority, however, will spend 17 days working on the special project. The first group is expected to return on Sunday, and the second

reinforcement will leave Friday.

In addition to the manpower, Company C has dispatched to Panama a rock crusher and other pieces of heavy equipment and maintenance supplies. The local unit is the only one in the state with equipment for crushing rock.

The order to Panama initiated some months ago as N. C. Adj. Gen. William E. Leonard became aware of the need while attending a conference of adjutants

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WGH To Close Feb. 15

Hospital Closing Date Is Delayed

By MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

Once again, the scheduled date for closing Warren General Hospital has been delayed, as the board of trustees voted tentatively on Saturday to close the hospital Feb. 15, two weeks later than the

previous deadline. The date was set with the hope that financial problems would not force an end to services earlier.

Financial support for the extension of the hospital through Feb. 1 had been assured by the county commission-

ers, who on Jan. 16 advanced \$100,290, the balance of the hospital operating budget. It is hoped the funds will allow operation through Feb. 15 to prevent a complete shutdown of services before an interim program can be established during planned hospital renovation.

A contract for roof repairs and overdue renovation will begin on Jan. 28, and completion is expected by July 22. Board members indicated that tentative plans were for the hospital to remain closed at least six months.

Trustees said they hoped to maintain emergency room services during the period of renovation. At the regular meeting last Wednesday, they adopted a proposal for immediate care services to be provided during the renovation.

The immediate care center would operate during hours when other medical services are not available and would offer treatment similar to that available in a doctor's office. The plan calls for moving the county existing emergency medical service to the hospital and expanding and upgrading the EMTs. The plan currently under consideration would be administered through HealthCo, Inc. and would be administered through federal funds.

Philip Williams, executive director of HealthCo, reported on Tuesday that the plan is contingent upon approval by the governing board of HealthCo, recruitment of physicians to staff the center, and the availability of federal funds. The HealthCo board, he said, is expected to act on the proposal at a meeting on Thursday, and if approval is granted, application would then be made for supplemental funding from the federal government. The approaching Feb. 15 deadline requires that all details be satisfied in an expeditious manner, Williams stated.

County officials have said that the interim plan would not be implemented until written consent for funding has been given. An estimated \$150,000 will be needed to administer the immediate care center for a six-month period.

In a memorandum to the hospital board on Jan. 16, Mrs. Eva Clayton, chairperson of the Warren County Commissioners, noted that four parties had expressed interest in submitting proposals for operating the hospital. Some have begun to define their plans, while others are still in the beginning stages, Mrs.

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During Special Meeting

Contracts Given School Officials

Members of the Warren County Board of Education Tuesday night voted to renew the contract of Warren School Supt. Michael F. Williams and his two assistants, James Jordan and Mrs. Rachael Ricks for a two-year term.

The special meeting, attended by all five board members, was a marathon affair which saw the board huddle in executive session for three hours after hearing a number of school officials sing the praises of the present school administration during a 30-minute open session which began shortly after 8 p. m.

Principals of all nine Warren County public schools were on hand for a show of support for Williams, Mrs. Ricks and Jordan.

First of the principals to speak in favor of contract renewal Tuesday night was Mrs. Shirley White, principal of Vaughan Elementary School, who called on board members to consider the "good working relationship" between faculty members and school administrators and to remember that "the county has made

strides in educating our young people."

Clint Hege, principal of Norlina Middle School, said principals had met last Thursday night and "we can all say the same thing—we have worked with the present superintendent and assistant superintendents and we strongly support the present slate. They put the children first."

W. T. Ramey, principal of John Graham Middle School, said "we come here tonight with the knowledge that our superintendent has one concern, and that is what is good for boys and girls."

Ramey said he had seen the scores of tests go up and the dropout rate go down under the present superintendent. "We have not tried to look good," he said, "We have tried to do what's good for boys and girls."

He noted that Supt. Williams has set the tone and worked for excellence in the public schools "and I would offer him a four-year contract."

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Flames Destroy Warrenton Home

A two-story frame house built on Hudgins property on south edge of Warrenton by the late Daniel E. Hudgins, and owned by Mrs. Ethel Hudgins was completely destroyed by fire at 10:54 on Monday morning. No one was at home when the fire originated, but a son, Pete Hudgins rode up on his bicycle soon after the firemen arrived.

The fire originated in a ground room and was confined to the building. It is reported that the fire started from a wood stove near the chimney.

Firemen used water to extinguish the flames, but it was a total loss, reported Captain Walter Gardner.

Twenty firemen with a crashwagon, two pumpers and a tanker responded to the call. The Norlina Company assisted the Warrenton Rural Fire Department in fighting the fire.

The Warrenton Rural (Continued on page 11)

County Native Aids Inaugural Showing

Local residents watching the Inaugural festivities of the past weekend also caught more than a few glimpses of the handiwork of a Warren County native.

Tom Powell, the son of Susie Powell of Inez and a 1950 graduate of John Graham High School, was the official floral consultant for the Inaugural Committee and coordinated the preparation of preliminary designs, plans, and the purchasing of flowers for all nine official Inaugural Balls and related events.

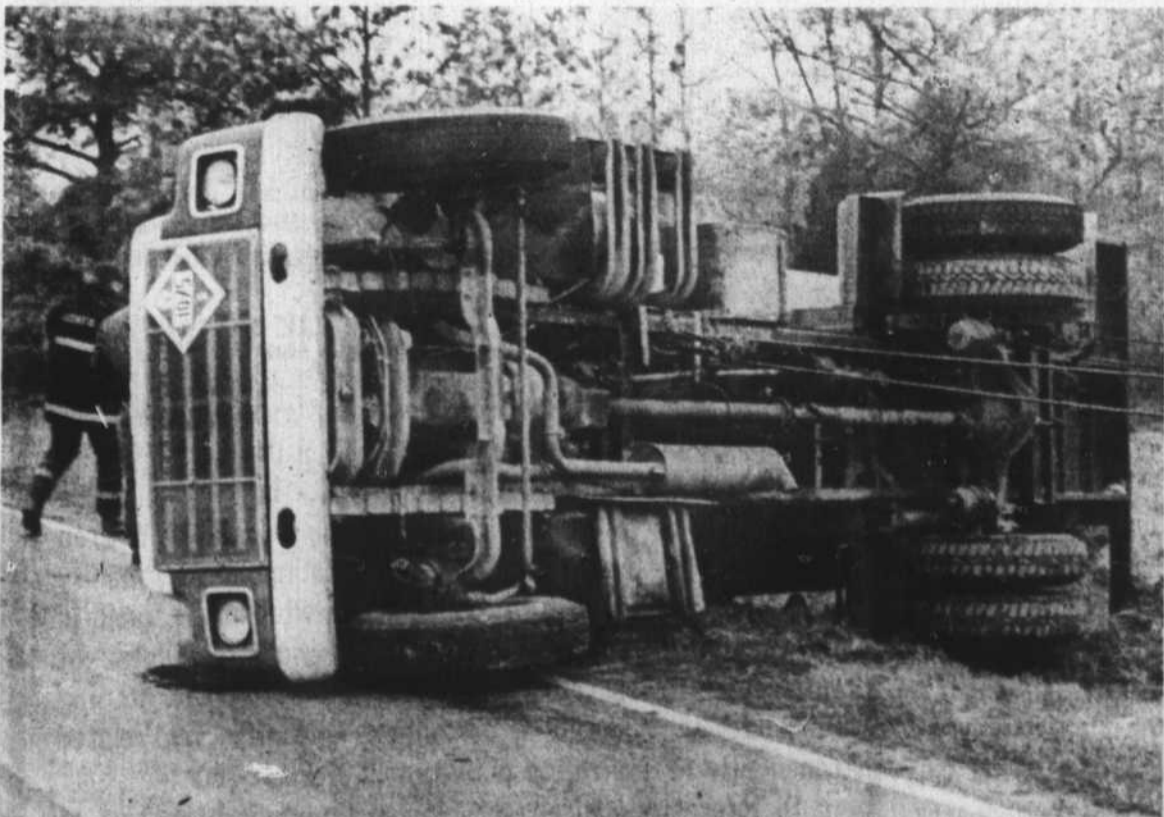
The owner of The Flower Gallery of Washington, D.C., Powell ordered more than 300,000 flowers for the events and invited more than 125 designers from across the nation to execute his floral

designs.

Powell is the immediate past president of the American Institute of Floral Designers and during the first Reagan Inaugural, Powell and the Flower Gallery staff decorated the interior of the Kennedy Center as well as two other ball locations. Powell has also chaired several national floral conventions.

The 1985 Inauguration used more flowers than any in recent history, and brought both newspaper and television recognition for Powell.

During Inaugural weekend, Powell also oversaw decorations for special events held in the Capital City by his clients, including NBC, Nutrasweet, and the Republican National Committee.



The driver of this ParGas of Warrenton truck escaped injuries last Thursday when the truck overturned in an accident on Rural Road 1620 about 10 miles south of Warrenton. According to Highway Patrol reports, the driver, Robert Henry Shearin of Warren Plains, drove the truck off the right shoulder of the road where it crossed a ditch and

overturned before coming to rest. Shearin was charged with exceeding a safe speed in the accident, which occurred at 12:40 p. m. Volunteers with Warrenton Rural Fire Department were called to the scene as a precautionary measure, but no fire was reported.

(Staff Photo)