

Lake Property Quarter Of Tax Base

By KAY HORNER
News Editor

Property on Lake Gaston comprises almost one-fourth of Warren County's total property valuation as listed for tax purposes, according to figures recently released by County Finance Officer and Tax Collector Susan W. Brown.

The value of lakefront property and property offshore but in lakeside developments or parcels is listed on the tax books at \$95,015,462, or 22.65 percent of the total county valuation of \$419,338,146.

The figure includes the value of farmland as well as residential and commercial property on the lake, Mrs. Brown said.

The information was compiled for the Warren County Committee of 100 at the request of

Cathy A. Wilson, Warren County economic developer.

The Committee of 100 was recently chartered by local citizens to promote, through private contributions and efforts, industrial growth and increased job opportunities in the county.

Lake Gaston, which also borders Halifax and Northampton counties and two Virginia counties, is viewed by local officials as one of the county's prime assets in the area's bid for economic improvement.

Mrs. Wilson said yesterday that concern had been expressed by some residents of Lake Gaston that county services to the lake area were not in keeping with revenue generated by

development there, prompting the request for the figures on property valuation.

The participation of Lake Gaston residents on the Committee of 100 is an outgrowth of their desire to protect their investment and "do something good" for the county, Mrs. Wilson said.

The majority of the property around the lake is still undeveloped, and a promotional brochure recently produced by the Economic Development Commission dubs the 20,000-acre lake "Warren County's best kept secret."

"It's a sure thing that Warren County needs to promote the lake and orderly growth in that area," Mrs. Wilson said.

Bridges In Three Warren Locations Will Be Replaced

A contract to replace bridges at three locations in Warren County was awarded by the state Board of Transportation at its meeting in Winston-Salem Friday.

The contract, which went to Sanford Construction Co. for \$1.2 million, calls for two-lane bridges to be built on U.S. 401 and N.C. 58 over Fishing Creek and on Shepard Road (Secondary Road 1133) over Shocco Creek.

According to James M. Peden, Jr. of Raleigh, who represents Warren County on the board, bridge construction could start next month.

The bridge on U.S. 401 is located south of Warrenton and will be built at the existing bridge site, Peden said. He said the new structure will be 180-feet long and that during construction traffic will use a detour bridge on the east side of the existing bridge.

The bridge on N.C. 58, which is south of Liberia, will be replaced east of the existing bridge, Peden said. It will be 120-feet long and includes 20-foot paved approach roadways with six-foot shoulders.

The bridge on Shepard Road, located east of Vicksboro, will be 90-feet long. According to Peden, it will be built west of the existing bridge site and will include 20-foot paved ap-

proach roadways with six-foot shoulders.

Traffic on N.C. 58 and Shepard Road will use the existing bridges until the new bridges are completed.

Peden said the bridges are scheduled to be completed by May 1987.

Gymnasium Beam Breaks

The gymnasium at John R. Hawkins Middle School was closed this week after a split was found in a 20-foot wood support beam in the ceiling.

According to Schools Superintendent Michael F. Williams, maintenance men doing routine work noticed that the beam was split down the middle.

"We don't really know that there is any danger, but we've closed the gym until we can have it checked," Williams said.

An engineer from the state Division of School Planning is expected in Warrenton to examine the beam Thursday, Williams said.

The gym, which has been used for activities of the Warren County Recreation Department, will remain closed until repairs are made or until it is determined that the beam poses no threat to safety.

Churches In Warrenton Planning Observances Of Christmas Season

Special services and activities for the celebration of Christmas have been scheduled by churches in Warrenton.

The Rev. Ed Beddingfield, pastor of Warrenton Baptist Church on North Main Street, has invited the community to view the live Nativity this week through Sunday night in front of the church from 7-8 p.m.

Also, on Sunday at the Baptist church, the Sanc-

tuary Choir, directed by Mrs. Marty Allen and accompanied by Mrs. Monroe Gardner, organist, will present a program of Christmas anthems at the 11 a.m. worship service. The Warrenton Baptist Church has scheduled a Christmas Eve carol service at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church will celebrate its annual service of Carols and Candlelight on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 6:30 p.m. Featured in the service will be the Chancel Choir, under the direction of Howard Stultz. A reception will follow immediately after the service at the parsonage, next door to the church, according to the Rev. Cam West, pastor.

Emmanuel Church, Wesley Memorial Church, All Saints Church and the Chapel of the Good Shepherd will join in a Christmas Eve celebration of the Holy Communion at 10:30 p.m. on Dec. 24 at Emmanuel Church, pastored by the Rev. Henry Presler.

All members of the Warren County community are warmly invited to join in these joyful and traditional services, the ministers stated.



Christmas Music Enjoyed

The Warren County Eagle Chorus, directed by Howard Stultz, performs a program of Christmas

music for parents and friends at the high school Sunday afternoon. (Photo by Anton Reid)

Warrenton Parade Is Held On Sunday

Area Residents Brave Main Street Cold To View Santa And Company

Donning layers of winter garb, area residents numbering in the hundreds braved the chilling temperatures and lined Main Street Sunday afternoon to watch the Warrenton Christmas Parade.

Parade Chairman Walter Gardner, a member of the sponsoring Warren County Jaycees, stated that the parade appeared to be a

success in spite of the brief period of preparation. The Jaycees decided two weeks ago to assume responsibility for sponsorship of the parade and Gardner expressed appreciation to area citizens for their help with transportation, judging and other details.

The Christmas Parade has traditionally been held on a weekday, but Gardner noted that the Sunday turnout was good. Previous parades have had more entries, he said, but this year's parade included several floats.

Thirty-five entries, including floats, scout

troops, clubs, musicians and, of course, Santa Claus, formed a caravan which started at Mariam Boyd School and ended at the Warren County Fairgrounds. The grand marshals, "Cousin Slick" Gray, Jr. and George "Deacon" Campbell, Jr., radio personalities from country music station WPTM in Roanoke Rapids, travel-

ed the parade route in a wagon drawn by Earl Williams' mule team.

In the float competition, the Haliwa-Saponi Indian tribe took first-place recognition and claimed the \$75 prize. The second-place award of \$45 went to the Jaycees and the \$30 third prize was taken by the Jordan Hill Baptist Church.

New Fee Schedule Goes Into Effect Next Month

A new fee schedule recently adopted by county commissioners for services of the Warren County Ambulance Service will become effective Jan. 1, according to Dennis Paschall, service director.

It calls for a base rate of \$35, Paschall said, one-way, from point of pick-up to destination anywhere in the county. The round trip rate fee is \$50, in the county.

In addition to the base rate, \$1.50 per mile from the county line is charged for trips outside the county. If the patient is returned to his residence or a health care facility, the rate is 75 cents per mile.

Following is a list of one-way charges for transportation to several health care facilities frequently used by county residents:

Maria Parham Hospital, Henderson, \$48.50; Franklin Memorial Hospital, Louisburg, \$65; Halifax Memorial Hospital, Roanoke Rapids, \$65; Community Memorial Hospital, South Hill, Va., \$65; Wake Medical Center, Raleigh, \$98; Duke Hospital, Durham, \$116; N.C. Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill, \$125; Nash General Hospital, Rocky Mount, \$75.50; and Wilson Memorial Hospital, \$102.50.

Cost of supplies has also been increased. The new schedule is as follows:

Oxygen, \$2.50 in the county, \$5 out-of-county; suction, \$3; first aid supplies, \$5; irrigating solutions, \$3; obstetrical kit, \$10; sterile burn sheet, \$10; cervical collar, \$8.

The new fees were adopted to compensate for rising costs and to bring the rate schedule more in line with those of surrounding counties, Paschall said.

Many Still Ignorant Of Need For Permits

Building permits have been required for construction in Warren County since this past July as mandated by state statute, but many county citizens are still unaware of the permit requirement, according to Chet Forrester, county building inspector.

"We want to get the message to the public that permits are now required for certain categories of construction in the county, and that our office can provide information on permits and inspections needed," Forrester said this week.

Essentially, state law requires that permits be issued before construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, removal or demolition of any building or structure in the county.

In addition, permits are required for the installation, extension, or general repair of plumbing systems and the installation, extension, alteration or general repair of heating and cooling systems and electrical wiring, devices, appliances and equipment.

No permit is required for any construction, installation, repair, replacement or alteration costing \$5,000 or less in a single-family residential or farm building unless one of the following applies:

- The addition, repair or replacement of a load-bearing structure;
- The addition (excluding replacement of same size and capacity) or change in the design of plumbing;
- The addition, replacement or change in the design of heating, air conditioning or electrical wiring, devices, appliances or equipment;
- The use of materials not permitted by the N.C. Uniform Residential Building Code; or
- The addition (excluding replacement of like grade of fire resistance) of roofing.

Anyone having questions about permit requirements should contact the County Inspection Department, housed at the Warren County Jail building at the corner of East Macon and Bragg streets, or call 257-1305.

Services Slated At Good Shepherd

A 9 a.m. Christmas communion service will be held Sunday at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Ridgeway.

The Rev. John Davis of Henderson will be the celebrant.



Violinist Mel Yan, center, 20-year-old music major from mainland China attending Chowan College in Murfreesboro, is pictured with Chowan dean of students and Rotarian, Clayton Lewis, left, and Warrenton Rotary president, George (Pepl) Perkinson, at the local Rotarians' ladies night Tuesday, Dec. 10. Miss Yan entertained the Rotarians and their guests during the program.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Yule Decoration Contest Planned

The Warrenton Lions Club has announced plans for sponsorship of the annual judging of home Christmas decorations in Warrenton.

According to Lion David Gardner, judging will take place on Monday, Dec. 23, between 7 and 9 p.m. Consideration will be given to homes located within the Warrenton city limits.

First and second prizes will be awarded in each of two categories, Gardner said: best interior decorations as viewed from the outside and best overall outside decorations.