

The Warren Record

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Priorities Set For Improvement Of Local Roads

The Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Warren County Commissioners met last week in a public hearing to establish the Department of Transportation's priorities on road improvements.

According to County Manager Charles Worth, the DOT furnished the commissioners with a proposed secondary road improvement program. This list, revised from 1986, contained an estimate of what it would cost the county to improve some of its secondary roads.

In the proposal, the estimated secondary road construction allocation is \$683,598, with a balance brought forward from last year of \$60,000. This totals \$743,598 the county has to spend on secondary road improvements.

The first of the priorities is to grade, drain, base and pave S. R. 1236, Horse Race Road, located near Manson, from U.S. 1-158 to S. R. 1224, the Ridgeway-Drewry Road, approximately 2.6 miles. The cost of this project was estimated at \$300,000.

Also on the list was a project by the DOT to grade, drain, base and pave S. R. 1207, Harris Road, (Continued on page 2B)

Funds To Aid Improvements

The discovery of almost \$53,000 in excess funds left over from the Town of Norlina's \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was one of the pressing matters dealt with Monday night when members of the board of town commissioners convened for a called meeting.

A sum of \$412,500 of CDBG funds had been budgeted for rehabilitation projects to bring 56 selected houses in the town up to state standards.

Because a portion of the rehabilitation projects had involved mobile homes that had required repairs less costly than anticipated, only \$359,385 was actually expended.

According to Mayor William Delbridge, the remaining \$52,916 could be used in only two ways: for more rehabilitations or for streets. The mayor noted that rehabilitations to qualified residences had already been completed and that remaining residences did not meet the requirements of the grant.

The Norlina Board of Town Commissioners voted Monday night to amend the block grant to use the remaining \$52,000 to pave 3,000 feet of streets in the Washington Street and German Lane area. The roadways will be made 18 feet wide and will be stabilized by building up the sides, the mayor explained.

The board also passed a resolution to apply for a grant or loan through the N. C. Clean Water Act of 1987. Because the deadline for the application for the current fiscal year is March 31, immediate action was necessary, the mayor explained.

The application will seek funds to replace with PVC pipe 13,000 linear feet of transit water pipes in the Town of Norlina that contain asbestos. Estimates for the required pipe have ranged from \$10-\$18 per foot.

"The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has assured us that the asbestos poses no danger for our residents, but we want to replace the transit pipe," the Delbridge said. "We'll replace it one way or another," he said, "but, we'd prefer to do it this way—at no cost to the town."

In other business, the board authorized an expenditure of \$15,375 for a tractor to be used for clearing right-of-ways, mowing grass along streets and small snow removal projects.



The glory of the risen Lord and the beauty of the season—Easter lilies—have been captured in the stained glass windows of Warrenton Baptist Church on N. Main Street.

(Staff Photos by Phyllis H. King)

Town Has Much To Offer, Speaker Tells Merchants

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

On Monday night, March 28, members of the Warrenton Merchants Association, Inc. met at the Lions Den for their annual membership meeting.

After a brief social hour, President Woody King welcomed guest Lee H. Capps, regional director of the N. C. Department of Commerce in the Research Triangle Park.

Capps spoke with the group about capitalizing on the community's assets and increasing the business traffic in town. He also gave ideas and thoughts concerning ways that merchants can promote the downtown business area.

According to Mrs. Kearney Watkins, treasurer of the Association, Capps' talk was very upbeat. She said that he pointed out many times how the citizens of Warrenton should take pride in their community. Capps indicated to the group that Warrenton already has so much going for it, such as the brick sidewalks and store facades.

He repeatedly told Merchant Association members that they, along with other citizens, should take pride in Warrenton because it is a community with a unique and quaint appearance and has much to offer.

President King felt that Capps presented a very informative and very inspiring program. "He had very enthusiastic comments and gave us a lot to think about," said King. "A lot of what he said should be taken to heart by our town's merchants."

King felt that the majority of the merchants present were optimistic about the future of War-

renton and its businesses. And for those present who were not members, King said that he believed that the meeting gave them the opportunity to learn about the Merchants Association's purpose.

Early in 1987, a group of Warrenton merchants met to discuss the need to take action to promote Warrenton's business area, seek ways to make Warrenton more attractive, and to retain the business that is already here and also to bring new business to Warrenton.

Enough support for these issues was expressed and, therefore, the Warrenton Merchants Association was formed. To date, there are 41 members of the Association.

Last year proved to be a good beginning for the Merchants Association. One of the activities that helped get the Association on its feet was the First Annual Pig Cook-Off that was held in conjunction with the Warren County Firemen's Day Activities.

The Warrenton Merchants Association along with the County Firemen's Association sponsored the event which netted approximately \$1,400 for the Merchants Association. Those funds in part were used to pay for the Christmas decorations downtown.

Another accomplishment of the Association last year was the installation of the new trash can receptacles downtown. The Merchants Association paid for the materials and the receptacles were constructed by the Warren County High School Carpentry Class under the direction of Thurman Royster.

(Continued on page 2B)

Over 50 Ageing Rate Here Identical To National Rate Youths, Teens Are Declining

Reflecting a national trend, Warren County in the past six years has seen a steady increase in the proportion of its population over age 50 and a steady decrease in the proportion under 17.

The number of persons 17 years old or younger declined locally from 4,813 to 4,525 between 1980 and 1986, or by 6 percent. From 1985 to 1986, that decline was 9 percent.

Nationally, the number of persons under age 17 declined by 2.3 percent from 1980 to 1986, from 63,660,000 to 62,187,804.

One of the more striking statistics from recent years centers on the period from 1985 to 1986 when the number of Americans over age 50 outnumbered the number of persons under age 17 for the first time in U.S. history.

Locally, the number of persons age 50 and over increased from 4,974 in 1980 to 5,394 in 1986, or by 8.4 percent. Warren's growth in that segment of the population was identical to the 8.4 percent growth reflected nationwide.

In 1985, there were 5,345 persons aged 50 or older in Warren County.

Overall, the county's population changes were less pronounced than national changes both from 1980 to 1986 and from 1985 to 1986. The population of Warren County increased from 16,232 in 1980 to 16,700 in 1986, or by 2.9 percent. From 1985 to 1986, the county's population increased by .6 percent, up from 16,600 in 1985.

The nation's population increased by 6.4 percent between 1980 and 1986 and by slightly less than 1 percent from 1985 to 1986.

During the six-year period, there was both a national and local decline in the number of persons age 18 to 24. Nationally, there was a decline of 8 percent, locally a decline of 10.6 percent.

The number of persons ages 25 to 34 increased both nationally and locally between 1980 and 1986, by 13.4 percent and 11.6 percent, respectively.

Increases were also noted in the population segment between 35 and 49. The increase nationally was 22.8 percent between 1980 and 1986 and 11.4 percent locally.

In 1985, there were 2,623 county residents in that age group.

If the trend continues, as expected, the demographics show that in Warren County, as well as throughout the nation, senior citizens will continue to be the largest single age group in the population.



LONG



MRS. CARTER

Macon, Wise Slots Filled

Two New Postmasters Begin Work In Warren

Two new postmasters went to work in Warren County postal facilities this week.

G. Wayne Long of Roanoke Rapids took over Monday as postmaster of the Macon Post Office. Mrs. Linda Carter of Afton, who had served as officer-in-charge of the Macon Post Office since the appointment of former postmaster Andrew Hundley as Norlina postmaster, took over as postmaster of the Wise Post Office.

The Wise Post Office had been without a postmaster since the retirement of Mrs. Marie Wilson in November. Robert Engram of Henderson had served as officer-in-charge.

Long, 38, had been serving as officer-in-charge of the Nashville Post Office when he was named to the new position. A veteran of 15 years services with the Postal Service, he had been supervisor of mails and delivery at the Roanoke Rapids Post Office.

A veteran of the U. S. Air Force, Long is married to the former Phyllis Lee of Roanoke Rapids. They and their two children, Christina, 13, and Christopher, 10, are members of Good News Baptist Church.

Long, who will be in charge of operations at Macon on the two rural routes served by the Macon Post Office, said he would commute from Roanoke Rapids for the present time.

"My door will always be open to the public," Long said. "I want

people to feel free to call on me anytime."

Mrs. Carter, 40, is married to Harry Jackson Carter, superintendent of the Warren County Unit of the Department of Correction. They have two children, Jay, 20, and Kevin, 11. She is the daughter of Alice and Joe B. Harris.

A 1965 graduate of John Graham High School, Mrs. Carter began her postal career at the Warrenton Post Office in June, 1986. She has served here as city carrier, window and distribution clerk and postmaster relief. She is currently serving a three-year term on the Raleigh Management Sectional Center Women's Program Advisory Council.

Mrs. Carter is a member of Providence United Methodist Church, serving as church treasurer and Sunday School teacher for the past ten years.

She is a charter member of the Afton-Elberon Ladies Auxiliary and serves as correspondence secretary. She is also president of the Warren Academy Parent-Teacher Organization.

Mrs. Carter is currently enrolled in the Postal Technology Degree Program at Vance-Granville Community College and Wake Technical College and maintains a 4.0 average.

"I will miss the Warrenton and Macon customers, but I look forward to serving the good people in Wise," she said.

School Property Unlawfully Entered

Persons of unknown identities seeking more than the "Three R's" entered two Warren County school properties recently. The unauthorized visitors left a gift at one of the sites: a collection of "red hot" candies.

The principal's office at Mariam Boyd Elementary School was reported entered last Friday morning. Last known to be secure on Thursday, March 24, at 4 p.m., arriving employees found the principal's office "trashed," with drawers dumped and papers scattered.

Reported missing were \$4-5 in cash and other assorted small items.

According to the report, entry is believed to have been gained through a window that had been broken by a rock. Warrenton (Continued on page 2B)

