



Marine Vehicle Declared Total Loss After Highway 58 Wreck

Planning Board Gathers Proposed Campground Discussed At Meeting

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

The developers of the proposed campgrounds that are to be located off SR 1205 near Kerr Lake were present at the Warren County Planning Board's regular monthly meeting Tuesday afternoon to hear the comments from the board concerning their project.

According to Bill and Nina Robinson, the developers of B & N Campgrounds, they received a copy of a letter from the board that had been sent to Charles Worth, county manager, which stated the board's disapproval of the project. The letter stated that the board felt the project would be out of character with the residents of the surrounding area. Currently, the proposed site of the project is zoned residential and would have to be changed to lakeside and tent camping before construction of the project could begin.

"We have a petition here that has the signatures of over 300 people who are in favor of the project, including those people who live closest to our property. So, how could our project be out of character if they are in favor of it, also?" said Bill Robinson.

Mrs. Robinson said she and her husband had been led to believe by the board that their project would be approved, citing several statements from letters she had received from the chairman of the board, Butch Meek. "We are looking forward to working with

you and making your project a success," she read from one of the letters. She stated that up until they received the last letter, they had thought their project would gain the approval of the board.

"We just want to know why you feel that our project is not a good idea," Mrs. Robinson said. Dean Andrews, Warren County Zoning Administrator, pointed out that a recommendation concerning the project had not been made within the 45-day period after a request was made to the county commissioners to amend the official zoning map. "It says in (the regulations) that the Planning Board shall, which means they must, make a recommendation within 45 days after the request is submitted. If this is not done, it constitutes a favorable recommendation of the board."

The Warren County Commissioners will now hold a vote on whether to amend the official zoning map. The vote will have to pass by a simple majority, or by three out of five commissioners voting affirmatively.

In other matters, the board:

- Approved final plats of Sunny Acres, a development by Alvis Fleming, subject to receiving total acreage on the plat, (Continued on page 8B)

Convoy Vehicle Wrecks During Warren Passage

A Marine vehicle traveling in a convoy towards Warren County was declared a total loss after a wreck on N. C. 58 last Wednesday afternoon.

According to a report filed by Trooper A. M. Bennett of the State Highway Patrol, a 1983 GMC truck was traveling north on N. C. 58 when it approached Pridden's Bridge. As the driver, Robert William Channell, 22, of Jacksonville, tried to apply brakes while going downhill, the truck began to skid and slid across the center line and struck the guard rail on the bridge. The truck then spun around and came to a rest on top of the guard rail.

The truck had been towing a trailer with two diesel engine fuel pumps aboard. The trailer jackknifed and overturned as a result of the accident.

Damage to the truck was estimated at \$7,000, while damage to the fuel pumps and trailer was estimated at \$2,500. The guard rail sustained \$250 in damage from the accident.

Channel sustained a broken arm from the accident and the other passenger in the vehicle, Marvin Long, 20, of Camp Lejeune, was uninjured.

There were no charges filed in the incident.

For Controversial Project Developers Withdraw Zoning Change Plea

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

The developers of the proposed multi-million dollar project on Lake Gaston withdrew their application for a conditional use zoning permit at last week's Wednesday night public hearing at the Warren County Courthouse.

Bobby Rodgers, a Henderson attorney who said that he represented Dr. Willie Carter—a New Jersey psychologist and developer of the planned Bright Horizons Camp—announced the withdrawal after asking the Warren County Board of Adjustment to postpone any action on the application by request of the developers. After a motion from the board made in respect to the request died for lack of a second, Rodgers said that he would like to withdraw the application on behalf of the developers, leaving board members with nothing before them.

Although there was said to be no legal authority to refuse the withdrawal, the board's counsel advised that a motion be made to accept the withdrawal of the application for a conditional use permit. The motion was approved unanimously by the board.

This action stemmed much comment from a number of the more than 200 people present at the meeting, many wanting to discuss what had happened. Jerry Keir, president of the recently-formed Lake Gaston Taxpayers Association, said, "If (the board) had denied their withdrawal, what would've happened?"

Robert Terry, Jr., chairman of the Board of Adjustment, explained that the developers could have appealed their decision to superior court. According to Terry, the developers now will have to start at square one if they wish to reapply for the permit.

The project was to be located in a residentially zoned area off SR 1344 near Eaton's Ferry Bridge in Warren County. Facility plans would have included a marina, a nursing home, restaurants, hotels

and a school for under-motivated children.

Bruce Songdahl, a member of the Lake Gaston Taxpayers Association and in charge of publicity for the organization, said that the withdrawal was "an obvious, very legal, ploy." He continued to say that the developer did this to avoid talking about the issues.

At the first public hearing held concerning the matter, many residents of Lake Gaston voiced their concerns about Dr. Carter's initial plans to dump treated sewage into the lake. Those plans were later changed by the developers after a request from the board for a back-up sewage system, along with secondary plans for a medical facility and a security system.

One Of 7 In State

Demonstration Award Approved For Warren

Warren County is among seven local governments that have been selected to receive housing demonstration awards totaling \$989,678, Karen Hayes Rotterman, director of communications for the office of Governor James G. Martin, said last week.

According to Ms. Rotterman, Warren County's portion of the award is \$140,266. "The award is to be used to assist the Warren County Housing Authority in acquiring lots and constructing single-family homes," Ms. Rotterman said. "A portion of CDBG funds will be used for second mortgages to ensure the affordability of the units," she added.

The awards are part of North Carolina's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and are administered by the Division of Community Assistance in the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

"We are especially pleased with our selection as a recipient of these funds," Mrs. Cathy J. Wilson, Warren County economic development director, said this week. "The program will provide assistance in facilitating homeowner opportunities in Warren County that would not otherwise be available for low- and moderate-income persons here," she said.

Charles Worth, Warren County manager, was equally optimistic and pleased with the award. "Hopefully, this will be a start and if we are able to demonstrate such a project can work, our state government may be inclined to give more funds for additional projects," he said.

Housing demonstration awards are made annually on a competitive basis. An application was submitted in early September to the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development for \$140,266 in NRCD funds to be used toward the \$170,566 project.

The balance of the needed funds are expected from the following sources: an income-producing feature of the project in which participants buy the residence for a small-percentage-above-actual-cost amount using loans received at below-market levels, the Franklin-Vance-Warren Community Action Agency and an allocation from the Warren County budget.

Practical assistance is also anticipated from Vance-Granville Community College in the form of instructors who will provide "self-help" in basic carpentry for program participants. That is one of the innovative features of the project, Warren County Commissioners' Chairman Mrs. Eva Clayton noted in a public hearing

held in September. "This plan allows persons to participate through 'sweat equity,'" she said. Work done by families—laying carpet and painting, for example, is expected to reduce the purchase price of the homes.

"The projects funded by NRCD will serve as models for other municipalities that are attempting to increase the number of housing units in their communities," Ms. Rotterman said.

In addition to Warren County's innovative housing demonstration project, Columbus County and local governments for the cities of Elizabeth City, Lenoir, Oxford, Valdese and Windsor have also been selected as recipients of the \$989,678 in CDBG funds for the following projects:

- Columbus County has received \$200,000 to assist the Waccamaw-Siouan Development Authority in acquiring 10 acres of land, develop streets and for work on 10 single-family residences;
- Elizabeth City has received \$92,000 to be used by a non-profit corporation to develop two triplex townhouses for sale to low- and moderate-income persons; As in Warren County, a portion of (Continued on page 8B)

Truck Struck By Pumpkins

"Just when you thought it was safe, they're here" may well be the thoughts of an Aulander man whose truck was attacked late Halloween night by pumpkin-throwing vandals.

According to the report filed by Deputy Harold Seaman, Harold Woodson Hall had been traveling east on US 158, about one and one-half miles east of Vaughan, when the 1987 Kenworth truck he was driving was passed by a Bronco truck.

After the Bronco had passed the Hall vehicle, an unidentified person hurled a pumpkin from the Bronco that struck Hall's Kenworth, breaking a passenger window.

A second pumpkin was also thrown from the Bronco which caused damage to the left front and rear deflectors of Hall's Kenworth.

Damages to Hall's truck total \$3,500 Deputy Seaman said.

The incident was reported to the Warren County Sheriff's Department at 10:50 p.m. on Monday. Soon after, a vehicle matching the description of the Bronco was sighted and there is a suspect, a sheriff's spokesperson said. At press time, no warrants had been drawn, pending location of the driver.

Warren Jobless Rate Shows Drop

Warren County recorded a drop in its jobless rate during the months of August and September, according to a report released recently by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

The report indicates that Warren experienced a rate of 3.6 percent in September, down from the 3.8 percent in August. September figures show a labor force of 7,150, with 6,890 employed. This left only 260 persons without jobs during that month.

Warren's four surrounding counties and their figures for the two months are:

- Franklin: from 6.4 percent in August to 7.1 percent in September;
- Halifax: from 6.2 percent in August to 4.2 percent in September;
- Northampton: from 3.6 percent in August to 4.3 percent in September;
- Vance: from 5.2 percent in August to 5.0 percent in September.



Workers in Perdue's Norlina Hatchery were honored on Wednesday of last week when they gained official recognition as the top hatchery among Perdue's eight North Carolina hatcheries for the third quarter of 1988. Wayne Dennis, second from right, hatchery manager, received an engraved plaque presented by Keith Shumaker, right, director of primary breeder operations for the giant poultry firm which employs 12,600 persons and ex-

pects sales of \$1.1 billion this year. Don Mabe, second from left, Perdue president and chief executive officer, paid his first visit to the Norlina hatchery to congratulate workers who were treated to a buffet dinner at the plant. At left is Gray Williams, manager of the primary breeder department. Williams oversees Perdue's Warren County operations at Wise and Soul City.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)