

More Than Four And Twenty Blackbirds



Blackbirds by the hundreds fill the sky between Manson and Ridgeway as they flit from side to side along U.S. Highway 1. There is no telling how many blackbird pies, fit for a king, this

flock could provide. The birds were a welcome sight to bird lovers, a distraction for passing motorists.
(Staff Photo by Phyllis H. King)

Some Water Customers Due Relief, Says Board

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

Norlina's residential water customers who are able to document breakages in their pipes—from which the flow has not entered the town's sewer system, but has resulted in unusually high water bills—will be given some relief, following action taken Monday night by the board of town commissioners.

Upon motion of Commissioner Walter Newman, seconded by Commissioner James Vaughan, the board voted unanimously to adjust water bills for those persons, who do not normally use 10,000 gallons of water, if complaints are made to the town that a leak exists that has not involved the sewer system and the validity of that leak is verified by the town. The normal monthly water usage for Norlina residents is 4,770 gallons. Currently, only eight residential customers exceed the 10,000-gallon-per-month level, Mayor Bill Delbridge said.

Because the town is billed monthly by the Town of Warrenton for the gallons of sewage that flow through Norlina's sewers, the new policy is limited to only those breaks which do not allow water to flow into the town's sewer system. The town is billed monthly by the Town of Warrenton for the gallons of sewage that flow through the system. The new policy will be amended if, after a

comparative study of policies of other municipalities, further modification is thought necessary.

Board members stressed the responsibility of Norlina's citizenry to inform the town of breaks, mentioning documented cases in which known breakages have been allowed to continue for as many as three months before being repaired. Currently, the town monitors water bills and telephones customers whose monthly usage seems excessive. Those calls will continue to be made from town hall, the board agreed.

The board also agreed unanimously to retain its \$250 fee for establishing water service using three-fourth-inch to one-inch meters. For meters larger than one inch, the fee will be adjusted by 10 percent to cover the costs of materials and labor.

The actions have been taken to comply with regulations required by Farmers Home Administration in preparation for the town's approaching bond referendum.

In an unrelated matter, the board also agreed to expand its telephone service at the town hall by authorizing the installation of a separate line and jack for the modern to be used by its new computer system. A modem is a device which allows computers to "talk to each other by tele-

(Continued on page 9)

Ground-Breaking Slated

The official ground-breaking ceremony for Cochrane Furniture Company's new 35,000-square-foot rough mill will begin today (Wednesday, March 8) at 3 p.m. at the Warrenton plant. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Traditional Industries, White G. Watkins, will be master of ceremonies and corporate officers expected to attend include: T. E. "Sonny" Cochrane, president; Jerry Cochrane, executive vice president; Bruce Cochrane, vice president of sales and marketing; and Bob Harold, division manager. Also present will be Marshall Murdock, Warrenton plant manager since Dec. 9, 1988, and Jim Warren, executive director of the Lincoln County economic development commission.

Plant operations will cease at 3 p.m. and employees' cars will be removed from the parking lot by noon. The ceremony will be held outside and refreshments will be served in the plant canteen. Tours of the Warrenton plant will also be available.

Board Passes Regulations Regarding County Burials

The Warren County Board of Health Monday night passed regulations regulating burial practices within the county.

Under new health regulations adopted by the board, funeral home directors will be required to bury vaults at least 16 inches below the surface.

Warren County Health Director Dennis Retzlaff said that this regulation will prevent potential problems of safety and health, which can be caused by breaking of vault seals. "Burial vaults are not designed to be exposed to surface changes of temperature," Retzlaff said. "Such exposure causes eventual breaking of the

seals and seepage of water into the vaults."

The Warren County Department of Health will inform all funeral homes which serve Warren County's residents of the new regulation, which takes effect immediately, Retzlaff said.

In other action, the Warren County Board of Health passed revised regulations governing the collection of fees for various health services. Under these regulations, scheduled to go into effect April 1, following confirmation by the board of county commissioners, a new fee for water samples will be assessed. Requests for testing of private water supplies will be charged at a rate of \$10 for bacteria analysis tests and \$15 for tests for pesticides or petroleum contamination.

The new fee regulations also include provisions for restricting services to those persons who refuse to make an attempt to pay outstanding balances. Under the new regulations, individuals with a balance of over \$100 will be required to pay at least \$20 to continue to receive clinic services from the Warren County Health Department.

Retzlaff emphasized that these collection policies will affect relatively few persons. "Clinic charges are assessed on a sliding fee scale, which is based on the client's income," he said. "Few users of our services are assessed full charges, thereby decreasing the possibility that many will exceed the maximum balance."

Happy Birthday!

Board Approves Site Purchase For New School

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

Following a report concerning the progress in planning for the county's new middle school and high school addition presented by architects from the Chapel Hill firm of Cogswell Hausler, the Warren County Board of Education gave its unanimous support to a resolution to complete the purchase of the Hawkes tract adjacent to Warren County High School.

The purchase price of the 30-acre tract is \$90,000, of which \$7,500 was paid last November to take an option on the land. The sellers of the site are Lucas Allen Hawkes and his wife, Mrs. Alice Hundley Hawkes.

The construction documents for the high school addition are 35 percent complete, Arthur Cogswell, firm president, told the board last Tuesday night. He submitted to the board a set of blueprints which incorporated revisions made following consultation with the school board, the instructional staff and the Division of School Planning.

The bulk of the architect's presentation to the board concerned Warren County's new middle school. According to Cogswell and Victor Vines, firm architect, Cogswell Hausler has completed about 95 percent of the schematic plan for the new middle school. A schematic design of the 100,000-square-foot structure planned for 775 students in grades six through eight was presented for comment by the board.

"The building will be basically filled when we move in—with no accommodation for the population growth in Warren County that will 'take off' in the next five years," Richard Roddy noted.

Because the construction site has land which slopes, Cogswell Hausler had recommended a multi-story, triangular-shaped structure, which would reduce expenses incurred by extensive grading and accommodate the board-requested sloping roof. Each wing of the building would have a ground-level entrance and an elevator would be included for handicapped students. A courtyard would be located at the center of the triangular-shaped structure. At the front of the structure, a circular-shaped unit (the site of the media center) would join two of the wings.

Arthur Cogswell explained the rationale for the circular junction: "The whole building is very straightforward and simple with nothing innately expensive about it," he said. "Our feeling was that there needs to be something there a little bit 'gee whiz,' so that when the students move through, they can be excited and given the idea that things can be different than what they see everyday."

"But there are no extra bucks here and it is exciting for some students to come where there is indoor plumbing," Roddy said, as he encouraged the architects to consider absolute utilization of space. "The more this gets on paper, the greater the idea that there are not enough funds," Roddy continued. "We went to the voters (who were used to things being done) piecemeal in the past with the assurance that things would be done right and all at once," he said. "A rectangular building where the roof does not leak and the kids can go inside and learn is what we need."

According to the architects, the modernistic design had been a suggestion at the schematic phase for the \$60-per-square-foot middle school. Vines and Cogswell also hope to reduce the size of the building to about 95,000 square feet.

Board members inquired about the design of a one-level, more traditional building. Vines said his experience had shown that about 113,000 square feet would be needed and Cogswell said the multi-level design would be less costly than a single-level design. Vines had also said earlier that the triangular design would "shave off half the costs of roofing."

In the absence of Mrs. Barbara Brayboy, pending consultation with department heads and members of the board, unanimous conditional approval was given last Tuesday night to permit the architects to proceed with submission of their concept of the new middle school to the Division of School Planning in Raleigh. Following final approval of the schematic phase, the architects will proceed with more detailed plans.

Students Must Repay Days Lost Due To Snowfall

The school vacation days given recently by Mother Nature and her bounty of snow in Warren County have been taken away, following revisions of the school calendar made last Tuesday night by the Warren County Board of Education.

The county's schools were closed on Feb. 20 and Feb. 24. To make up those missed class days, schools will be in session on March 24 (Good Friday) and May 29 (Memorial Day). "Barring any further days lost because of inclement weather, there would still be one week left at Easter for spring holidays," interim superintendent of schools Dr. Harry S. Howard said.

The board also approved a brochure and application form to be used in the search for a new superintendent of schools. Dr. Howard has accepted the interim post following the departure on Jan. 31 of former-superintendent of schools Michael F. Williams, who accepted a post in the Roanoke Rapids city school system.

The recruitment and descriptive brochure and qualifications required for the position had been developed by board members Dr. Doris Terry-Williams and Richard Roddy, and interim superintendent Howard.

According to the brochure, comprehensive experience in public education and management is required.

(Continued on page 9)

Democrats Planning Precinct Meetings

The North Carolina Democratic Party will hold its precinct meetings across the state on Thursday, March 9, State Democratic Party Chairman Lawrence Davis announced this week. The precinct meetings will be held at the precinct polling places and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

"Our precinct and county organizations are the cornerstones upon which all else is built in the Democratic Party," Davis said. "It is the responsibility of each Democrat to attend these meetings."

In case of severe weather, the make-up date for the precinct meetings will be March 16. For further information, contact T. T. Clayton, party chairman for Warren County.

County conventions will be held on April 22.



A temperate winter morning gave rise to fog in many parts of Warren County on Sunday. This serene landscape is part of the beauty one can find while

meandering along the shoreline of Lake Gaston as visitors head the approach of spring.
(Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)