

Volunteer Firemen Prepare To Erect New Road Signs In Warren

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Emergency service organizations throughout Warren County may find it much easier to locate homes when area firemen install road signs throughout the county.

According to Walter Gardner, president of the Warren County Fireman's Association, the idea to place signs bearing the road name and number at every intersection in the county was brought up nearly five years ago, but funds for the project were not available until 1987.

The total cost of the project was \$34,100. The county commissioners received a grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Commission in the amount of \$23,870, which covered 70 percent of the total cost of the project. The remaining \$10,230 was paid for by county funds.

Ms. Linda T. Jones, clerk to the Warren County Board of Commissioners, said the approximate cost of each of the 550 signs ordered was \$62, which includes the cost of the sign, the hardware and the post.

Last spring, public hearings were held to recommend county road names. Public input was heard concerning many of the names, and commissioners had the final vote.

Ms. Jones said none of the road names could be changed because public hearings have already been held on the matter, and the signs have been made.

According to Gardner, the signs will be sorted out at Gilbert Manufacturing's warehouse and then distributed to all of the county's volunteer fire departments for installation.

No target date has been set for the completion of the project. "This is a good forward step, and it certainly will help all emergency services," Gardner said.

Previously, a resident who couldn't identify the road on which he or she lived had to give firemen or rescue workers landmarks to locate the home, Gardner said. He also said the road signs may decrease response time for an emergency call.

In addition to helping emergency workers, the road signs may be utilized by the U. S. Postal Service, Gardner said.

Sherwood Knight, postmaster of the Warrenton Post Office, said last Thursday morning he thinks the county firemen's idea of changing the rural route addresses to a road name and number is "really a good idea." Knight said in order to begin that process, a new county map needs to be devised with the road numbers and names on them.

From that map, Knight said he could develop new addresses for rural route boxholders, a project that would require a lot of time and paperwork.

"We haven't really sat down and discussed it," he said, but added, "we are willing to work with them (firemen) on that."

Knight said the trend within the system is to change the rural address to road names and numbers, like those within corporate limits of a town. He cited Vance and Wake counties as two local areas which have incorporated the new address system.



Warren County Fireman's Association member Kenny Clayton looks at the new road signs which will be placed at every intersection throughout the county. The road signs bear the road's name and number and will aid emergency organizations by decreasing response time for emergency calls. (Staff Photo by Diane Davis)

Restraining Order Upheld In Lake Case

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

A Wake County Superior Court judge ruled last week that a temporary restraining order remain in effect against two Virginia-based development companies and their owners who were sued by the state.

According to Barbara Shaw, an attorney with the state Attorney General's Office, at the May 4 hearing, Judge Donald Stephens upheld an injunction which was placed against Kerr Lake Development Corporation, Tri-City Corporation, Paul Carrithers and Jarrell Brock.

Shaw said all of the defendants except for Jarrell Brock consented to the order, and only Brock had a judgment entered against him. Brock was not in court to enter a plea.

All of the defendants are prohibited from selling undeveloped land.

Shaw said the Attorney General's Office received 12 complaints about the defendants, 10 of which involved land transactions. The other two concerned allegedly misleading advertising, she said.

Shaw said the complainants, some of whom had made down payments and monthly installments, said they had never received deeds to lots which they purchased in Section 2-A of Eaton's Ferry Estates. Also, they were told that there was a community water system available to them. No such system exists, Shaw said.

Warren County Subdivision Regulations require that permits to build cannot be issued for the lots until the community water system is installed.

To appeal Stephens' decision, the defendants would have to go before the court, Shaw said.

Woman Killed In Accident

A Warren County woman was killed instantly last Friday afternoon, when the car she was driving collided with a truck being driven by a Warren County man.

Ms. Stephanie Renee Alston, 22, of Rt. 4, Warrenton died in a head-on collision on the Warrenton Road (SR 1001), about 3.7 miles east of the Henderson city limits.

According to the report filed by N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper N. C. Foster, a rain-slickened highway was a contributing factor in the fatality.

Ms. Alston had been traveling east, when her 1977 Oldsmobile (Continued on page 8B)



Stantina Evans Solomon, 22, of Rt. 3, Box 222, Warrenton, was charged with a safe movement violation after she drove her 1971 Pontiac, right, into the path of a 1978 Mercury being driven by Harvey Debnam, 77, of Rt. 2, Box 84, Warrenton. Sgt. George Alston of the Warrenton Police Department said Mrs. Solomon had been heading north on

Hall Street and Debnam west on East Macon Street when the accident occurred. Mrs. Solomon was transported to Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson by Warren County EMS for injuries to her mouth and forehead, while Debnam was not injured. Both cars were declared total losses. (Photo by Brenda Clarke)

Vehicles Are Stolen As Thieves Enter Firm

Vehicles valued at in excess of \$17,000 and other items of personal property have been reported stolen from an area business, Sheriff Theodore Williams said Monday.

According to the report taken on Sunday, May 7, by Deputy B. R. Rollins, Jr., the vehicles were removed unlawfully from Maple Crescent Rental, which is located at 77 River Road, near the Eaton's Ferry Bridge.

Reported missing were a 1967 Pontiac Firebird convertible, belonging to James William Dawson, Jr., of Rt. 4, Littleton, and a 1980 Cadillac diesel sedan, belonging to Mildred John Dotson, also of Rt. 4, Littleton.

The Pontiac is ruby red in color and has a white top. The vehicle's license plate was numbered BTN 1616.

The Cadillac is copper-orange in color and has a steering wheel on which "Birtha Caddi" has been engraved. The vehicle's license plate was numbered BSR 1317.

According to the report, both vehicles have a combined value of \$17,500.

After entering through the front security gate of the rental business, the unauthorized persons also entered the rental office. Reported missing were one Kohler generator valued at \$475.65, one Poulan chain saw valued at \$380, and one portable hand sander valued at \$270. Also reported missing from a pick-up truck, left parked at the rear of the office, was a Panasonic car radio/cassette valued at \$279.

Prior to the discovery of the theft, a witness saw the Cadillac leaving the establishment, but thought that employees were

working late, Rollins said in his report.

Sgt. Lawrence Harrison recovered the Pontiac Monday night. The vehicle had been abandoned at Happy Valley Subdivision on Lake Gaston. Except for the removal of the vehicle's ignition switch, the Pontiac was undamaged and has been returned to its owner.

Teachers Granted Leaves Of Absence

Two Warren County teachers were granted leaves of absence by the Warren County Board of Education meeting here on Monday night.

Leaves for the rest of the school year were approved for Ronnie Marable, a John Graham reading teacher; and for Laura Kearney, a Vaughan reading teacher.

Calendar Approved,
See Page 2B

Town Annexation Comes Under Discussion

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Warrenton commissioners Monday night agreed to begin a study of proposed areas outside the Warrenton city limits which are under consideration for annexation.

Mayor B. G. White told the board of commissioners he and Town Administrator V. R. "Pete" Vaughan had discussed the annexation of land off the Baltimore Road, through Country Meadows (Ridgecrest Drive area), through the lower portion of Mrs. Hal Connell's pond near the Armory on East Macon Street and to part of the Warren Street extension. (See map.)

White said the reason the town is considering the annexation is because a population count had been performed recently, and it was discovered that the town had experienced a loss of 100 or more residents during the past 10 years. The town receives sales tax refunds and Powell Bill monies based on population figures.

"We cannot afford to lose the revenue," Mayor White told the

board. "It would be detrimental to the town. We need the headcount to keep the money coming in."

Although White could not say exactly how many more residents the annexation would bring, he estimated at least 200 or more people would be gained by the town.

According to Vaughan, a study of the proposed area will be performed at no cost to the town by the N. C. Department of Human Resources and the Region K Council of Governments. If the study shows the proposal would benefit the town, residents could petition the commissioners to be annexed into the city limits or the town would have to write each resident to tell them about the advantages of living in Warrenton.

Two or three public hearings would be held and a final vote will be made by the commissioners.

A second phase of the annexation has been discussed, but commissioners have only agreed to a study on the first phase. (See map for Phase II.)

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Boards To Confer On Fund Request

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

The Warren County boards of education and county commissioners will meet Thursday at 7:30 p.m. for a working session on the school board's request for local funds for the next fiscal year.

The budget request submitted to the county commissioners totals \$2,142,719 and is comprised of three major elements: continuation expenses—\$1,637,657; expansion items—\$323,562; and capital outlay items—\$181,500.

Prior to submission of that request, the board of education had made some adjustments in its original draft request, which had totaled \$1,953,720.

The majority of that increase appears in the expansion item portion of the budget request, which has grown from \$155,424 to \$323,562. Not included in the draft version was \$139,544 for remedial programs for third-graders at four elementary schools.

Another portion of the increase appears in the continuation portion of the request for local funds. Salaries for some employees had been eliminated from the draft, on the assumption that funding would come from the Basic Education Plan. Because the BEP funding remains uncertain, however, those salaries were

added back, resulting in an increase in continuation expense from \$1,610,796 to \$1,637,657.

The capital outlay portion of the budget request has been reduced by about \$6,000. That reduction occurred following revision of the estimate for repairs to the heating system at Vaughan Elementary School.

Monday night in their regular meeting, the board of education requested that estimates of funds available for summer janitorial service at several of the county's schools be tabulated in time for Thursday's work session. The request was made after the board had received, as information, a report that the cost of summer custodians at eight schools would be \$21,607.

After Thursday's meeting, the request for local funding from the Warren County Board of Education, along with those received from the county's department heads, will be compiled by the county manager into a budget memorandum to the board of county commissioners.

That memorandum will be presented to the commissioners in June and will be available for public inspection. A public hearing will also be held before the final county budget for the next fiscal year is adopted by the commissioners in time for implementation on July 1.

