

## Six-Cent County Tax Hike Is Approved

### New Tax Rate Of 86 Cents Is Decided By Vote Of 4-1

By DIANE DAVIS  
Staff Writer

Warren County commissioners on Wednesday night of last week set a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 valuation, to support a 1989-90 budget of \$8,650,843.

This means a Warren County resident with a \$50,000 home with pay an additional \$30 in property taxes. This reflects a tax rate increase of six cents.

The budget was passed by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner William T. Skinner casting his traditional negative vote.

County Manager Charles Worth initially proposed an increase of nine cents for the property tax rate, based on an estimated total property valuation of \$453,041,289 and an estimated collection rate of 95 percent. Following two budget work sessions, the commissioners trimmed three cents from the proposed tax rate.

An appropriation for Vance-Granville Community College for \$25,000 was postponed until next year on a request by the college. This, along with a one-percent decrease in the proposed 4.6 percent cost-of-living raise for county employees which saved an extra \$30,000, accounted for a one-cent tax saving.

A review by Worth of Medicaid allocation expenditures resulted in a \$38,000 cut. This and a revision of revenues from various county departments resulted in the board trimming an additional two cents from the proposed property tax rate.

By eliminating consideration for an emergency medical technician position and deleting another central communications dispatcher, a request for a county drug enforcement officer which

was previously turned down was placed back on the list of needs for the county. The \$38,000 which will be needed to provide the salary, car and equipment will come from funds previously budgeted for those positions.

An allocation of \$1,624,783 was approved for current expense items for the Warren County Schools. Also included in this year's budget is \$350,000 to be placed in a newly-established capital reserve fund.

The commissioners adopted an ordinance establishing the capital reserve fund for the purpose of meeting the future capital needs of the school system. Monies placed in the fund are to be used for construction and retirement of debts.

The commissioners also approved a request by the Warren County Board of Education that \$77,000 be transferred from the schools' expansion budget to their current expense budget.

Other major allocations in the 1989-90 budget include \$1,832,452 to the Warren County Department of Social Services; \$471,762 to the sheriff's department; \$132,285 for the operation of the Warren County Jail; \$391,697 to Emergency Medical Services; \$179,800 to county fire departments and rescue squads; \$815,562 to the county health department; and \$358,129 for operation of the county landfill.

Nearly \$1.8 million from collections of delinquent taxes and penalties, intangibles taxes, one percent sales taxes, one-half percent restricted and unrestricted taxes, additional one-half percent restricted and unrestricted taxes and excise tax stamps is estimated for the county's general fund this year. That figure is in addition to \$3,701,347 estimated for property tax collections.

The county's first fire district tax of .075 cents per \$100 property valuation will be levied on residents in the Churchill-Five Forks fire district to pay for their fire service.

### Road Is Added To State System

A new road was added on to the state highway system following action taken Monday by the county board of commissioners at their regular monthly meeting.

Residents of Cynthia Avenue, located in the Rennhaven Development at Kimball Point on Kerr Lake, requested the commissioners to approve the addition of their road to the state highway system, giving reasons of needed maintenance and improvements.

Cynthia Avenue is approximately 670 feet long, with five occupied homes located on it. The road is also used as an access road to Kerr Lake.

### Norlina Man Said Found In School

A Norlina man—apparently caught red-handed during non-school hours at Northside Elementary School—was expected to have his day in court today (Wednesday).

James Williams, 36, was found inside the cafeteria of Northside School early last Saturday morning. Although the suspect had not removed any school property from the building, he has been charged with breaking and entering, and preparation to commit burglary.

After appearing before the magistrate, Williams was confined in the Warren County Jail under bond of \$1,000.

### Freak Mishap Injures Woman

A Warrenton woman remains hospitalized at an area facility, following injuries sustained Sunday morning in a freak, one-car accident.

Mrs. Winnie Davis Green, 77, was transported to Maria Parham Hospital, where she was admitted for treatment of lacerations and injuries to her left leg and chest.

According to Warrenton Police Chief Freddie Robinson, Mrs. Green had been traveling east on Franklin Street, approaching the intersection of Franklin and Front streets, when the spring in the accelerator of her 1968 Ford Galaxy became stuck.

The carburetor became frozen in an open position and Mrs. Green's vehicle sped through the intersections of Main, Bragg and Hall streets.

According to the police chief, after passing the site of the former Currin's Warehouse, the Ford soared over an embankment, flying about 100 feet in the air before crashing "nose down" on the pavement in the loading area behind Byrd's Food Center.

Chief Robinson said that after landing on its front, right wheel, the Ford skidded sideways—stopping only six feet short of a utility pole.

Mrs. Green remains a patient at Maria Parham Hospital and on Monday underwent surgery.

### Stretch Knit Not To Move

By DIANE DAVIS  
Staff Writer

Stretch Knit Elastics of North Carolina will stay in Warrenton, according to Marvin Lewis, the plant's manager.

Lewis told the Louisburg Planning Board at their June 27 meeting that he was not moving the plant to Louisburg.

On June 8, Lewis received a special exception permit from the board to move his elastic-manufacturing factory into the former IGA building in Louisburg, which is located on the corner of Bickett Boulevard and Hwy. 561.

He also requested that the board consider rezoning the area from highway business (B-2) to light industrial (I-1).

In a telephone interview Tuesday morning, Lewis said after considering the costs of moving, the decision to stay in Warrenton was made.

"I didn't know if we could overcome the costs of moving," he said.

Lewis indicated that his workers seemed pleased of the decision to remain in Warrenton. However, he said that he still faces the problem of getting a third shift going.

"We are trying to do that now," he said. "But I don't know how well it will go."

Lewis said he was surprised at the number of his employees who remained at the plant, even after being told that he was considering moving the plant to Louisburg.

"It sure would've made me go out there and find another job," he said.

Charlie Ford, Jr., from whom Lewis was planning to rent the IGA property, has been notified of Lewis' decision.

### Appearance Set

Scoby Doo or Yogi Bear from Carowinds are scheduled to appear at the Warren County Library on Thursday, July 13 at 2 p.m.

Mrs. Mary Louise Limer, librarian, invites all the county's children to come and visit.



Warrenton Police Chief Freddie Robinson, above, writes a report on an accident Sunday morning involving the 1968 Ford Galaxy. The vehicle's accelerator became stuck, causing it to speed through the intersections of Main, Bragg and Front streets before soaring over an embankment and crashing

nose down on the pavement behind Byrd's Food Store. Below, rescue workers arrive on the scene. The vehicle's driver, Mrs. Winnie Davis Green, 77, of Warrenton, under went surgery on Monday for injuries to her left leg and chest.

(Photos by Brenda Clarke)

## No Size Reduction Of Middle School Allowed

By THURLETTA M. BROWN  
News Editor

To accommodate all academic and administrative space needs thought necessary by faculty and staff, Warren County's new middle school has grown on paper from the originally-conceived 100,000-square-foot structure to a larger 105,000-square-foot facility, and it will remain that way—with cuts to save money being made elsewhere—says the Warren County Board of Education.

And in addition to being larger than expected, the new middle school is some \$615,000 over the original cost summary.

"These are not cost overruns (since) the original estimate was about \$1 million under-budgeted," Interim Superintendent Dr. Harry S. Howard said.

The original budget was prepared in conjunction with state school planning personnel.

One example of that under-budgeting was the original estimate of only \$65,000 for site work. According to the architects, \$400,000—which includes grading parking lots and landscaping—is probably a more realistic figure.

"We should give some of our vocational students some practical experience and, at the same time, help ourselves and save money. The way it went up...it can also come down," Richard Roddy said.

Roddy's statement was made Thursday night of last week when Arthur Cogswell and Victor Vines appeared before the board to present a progress report on the new middle school and high school addition. The architects told the board that the anticipated \$55-per-square-foot estimate would probably be closer to \$62-\$65 per square-foot.

The \$65-per-square-foot estimate includes the purchase of all new kitchen equipment. According to Vines, the new equipment, which includes a \$15,000 dish-washing system, will cost about \$105,000.

Although the board had hoped to reduce that amount by using existing kitchen equipment, Assistant Superintendent James Jordan told the board that 90 percent of the existing stock would be "unusable" at the new facility. According to Jordan, a large percentage of the equipment had been purchased in the 60's. "A lot of money is being spent already on repairs," he added.

Dr. Howard suggested that the board and its architects explore using the existing WCHS cafeteria to cater meals for the new middle school. That possibility will be explored, although Jordan cautioned the board that Warren

## Officer Finds Runaway Girl, 13, Kitten

By THURLETTA M. BROWN  
News Editor

A 13-year-old girl and her kitten may be reunited soon. The pair had been apprehended Saturday near Boyd's Texaco Station, following a report from her mother of the girl's location—all after having driven her grandmother's "borrowed" car here from Virginia.

Although the youth had left Saturday from a Virginia address, she had been there only three weeks. The girl's mother, who lives in Florida, had sent her daughter to live with her grandmother in Virginia.

But the girl wanted to come back home to her mother. Taking her kitten with her early Saturday, she used her grandmother's car to set out for Florida.

Authorities never stopped the youthful driver. The girl stopped in Warren County to call her mother to tell her she was coming home and to ask for money.

And while she was waiting for that money to arrive Saturday morning, the youthful driver was taken into protective custody by Det. R. A. Coleman.

What the youth did not know was that her mother, fearful of her unlicensed daughter's safety on the highway, had called the Warren County Sheriff's office to file a runaway report.

According to Sherman Wilson, chief court counselor in the Juvenile Services Office in Henderson, arrangements were made to place the girl in a Youth Home in Durham. Other arrangements were made to ensure the safety of the kitten. On Monday, the girl appeared before Judge Charles Wilkinson in Person County and signed a voluntary consent form to return to Virginia.

Arrangements are being made this week through the Virginia Interstate Compact on Juveniles and Wilson's office to transport the girl and her kitten back to her grandmother's home. Wilson said the youth understands that her mother was concerned for her safety and did not wish her harm. On Monday, she remained in the Durham Youth Home—and the kitten remained in the "protective custody" of a concerned court worker. After learning of the girl's plight, a local animal-lover has donated a cat-carrier to ensure the safe transport of the girl's feline friend.