

The Warren Record

No Reduction In CP&L Force Seen In Warren

The Carolina Power & Light Warrenton office has survived the massive staff reductions announced this week by company officials, but other CP&L employees have not been as fortunate.

About 500 CP&L employees were laid off this week and that number may grow, as the fate of an additional 226 employees is determined.

But no CP&L employees in Warren County have lost their jobs and the Warrenton office will remain open.

Although two positions in the Warrenton office which were lost earlier this year due to employee attrition will not be filled, local service will not be affected by CP&L's reorganization.

"Carolina Power & Light Company will continue to provide reliable and quality service to our Warren County customers," said James Parnell, local CP&L manager, on Tuesday. Warrenton-area customers may still apply for electric service, ask questions about their bills and pay their bills at the Warrenton site.

Under the reorganization, Parnell will continue to be manager and coordinate the activities in the Warrenton area, while reporting to the district manager in the Henderson office. He will also have additional responsibilities, which will be announced at a later date.

Though the Warrenton office has remained unscathed in CP&L's massive staff reduction, other areas have not fared as well. The Hazelwood office will be closed, causing CP&L customers there to be served by the Canton office.

In addition to eliminating positions held by CP&L employees in the two Carolinas, the company is also reducing—by about 1,000—the number of contract personnel used for building maintenance, security, tree trimming, engineering projects, equipment maintenance/installation, and other specific jobs.

"The work force reduction will benefit the company and our customers over the long run by helping to offset increasing costs in the company's operations," Sherwood H. Smith, Jr., CP&L chairman/president, said Monday. "While there are some additional current costs associated with the reduction, we estimate the future savings from the reduction and related changes in operations to grow to a minimum of \$70 million annually (and these cost-savings will help the (Continued on page 12)



A new leaf collector/shredder, complete with holding box, early Tuesday morning was received from Old Dominion Brush Company in Richmond, Va. by the Town of Norlina. Operated by a four-cylinder, Ford diesel engine, the machine will be placed in locked storage until needed in the fall for

leaf collection and sanitation. Secured through a lease/purchase agreement, the cost of the machine and receptacle is \$17,535. Shown with the unit, left to right, are: James Boyd, Norlina public works director; Mayor Bill Delbridge; and Carl Bruster, of Old Dominion. (Staff Photo by Diane Davis)

Multiple Projects Are Under Way As Water-Supply Update Launched

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

Multiple projects are under way in Norlina, as the town begins the arduous task of updating its water-supply system.

On Monday of last week, two work crews arrived from Greenville's Hendrix-Barnhill to begin installation of parallel water lines.

All of the bids received by the town earlier this summer were higher than anticipated, but negotiations with Hendrix-Barnhill in July resulted in a more acceptable \$290,785 bid. Added to that cost will be Wooten's engineering fees, legal and administrative fees and a contingency amount for a total of \$344,000. The new lines will replace the old asbestos-laced transite pipe which has carried the town's water supply.

A third crew arrived on Tuesday of this week to continue the work begun on US 1, between US 158 and Hyco Street. Completion of the work along US 1 will permit W. T. Wooten to begin its curbing/guttering and storm drain project along that route.

The Hendrix-Barnhill crews will begin work soon to install new water pipes along other Norlina streets. When the conditions of their contract have been satisfied, over 1,000 linear feet of new water pipes will have been installed.

Labor Day Closings Slated

The Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 4, will affect the hours of operation of a number of Warren County businesses and offices. Because the schedules of individual stores will vary, citizens are encouraged to make direct contact with the management of the establishments not listed below.

- All Warren County departments, with the exception of the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and the Sheriff's office, will be closed. The county commissioners' meeting has been postponed until Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 9:30 a.m.
- Norlina Town Hall will be closed. The board of town commissioners' meeting has been postponed until Monday, Sept. 11, at 7:30 p.m.
- Warrenton Town Hall will be closed.
- HealthCo and the Warren Health Plan will be closed. Emergencies should be referred to Maria Parham Hospital. On Tuesday, HealthCo will be open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The Warren Health Plan will be open Tuesday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m., and will remain in its current location in the old Warren General Hospital building until the end of September.
- The Warren Record office will be open 8:30-5:30, and everyone is reminded to get their new articles to us on Monday. All advertisements must be received by Saturday, Sept. 2 at 1 p.m.

Funding for the \$344,000 project has come from the \$275,000 in water bonds approved by Norlina's citizens in a referendum. The balance will be paid by a combination of state legislative discretionary funds combined with an allocation from the town's operational budget.

According to Mayor Delbridge, the project will be completed within 90 days.

And while the water lines are being installed, a separate project is also under way at the Northside pumping station, located off King Drive.

An unexpected breakdown at the Northside pumping station has necessitated repairs by Sydnor Hydrodynamics, Inc. of Richmond, Va. Currently, Sydnor workmen are installing two (Continued on page 12)

Byrd's Planning Enlargement Of Shopping Center

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Tentative plans to build an additional seven business spaces onto Hall Springs Shopping Center are under way by its owner, Byrd's Food Stores of Burlington.

Watson Byrd, co-chairman of Byrd's board of directors, said on Friday morning of last week that the company is planning to expand the local shopping facility which currently houses Byrd's Food Store, Rite Aid Pharmacy and Family Dollar.

Byrd said seven additional shops are being planned, but no guidelines for their construction have been set.

"The plans can vary at this point," Byrd said. "We've just started preparations to get (construction) off the ground."

He did say that there has been some interest from businesses which may lease the spaces, but nothing permanent has been discussed. Plans for the spaces may be changed to accommodate an interested leasor, Byrd said.

New features to the shopping center other than the seven 2,000-2,500 sq. ft. stores include a 10,000-sq. ft. addition to Byrd's Food Store, with remodeling to be completed on the inside and outside; an expanded parking lot; and a new side entrance from Hall Street.

Although Byrd deemed the start of construction as "tentative," he did say that the remodeling to Byrd's has already been scheduled to begin.

Zoning Change Asked By Firm

If an amendment to Warrenton's Zoning Ordinance is adopted Thursday, an unnamed button manufacturer will be allowed to set up operations on the Warren Academy site near Warrenton.

The Warrenton Board of Commissioners and Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall to consider a request to change the zoning of the site one mile east of Warrenton on N.C. (Continued on page 12)

"The materials are on site, and Kenneth Copley, a local contractor, has been hired to upgrade the front roof area of the store," he said.

Other renovations will include a deli and bakery and an enlarging of the present grocery aisles.



REP. WATKINS

Representative Dies In Oxford

State Representative William T. "Billy" Watkins, D-Granville, has been remembered by an area official as a man who "didn't mind bucking the odds," following his death Saturday at his Oxford home.

Watkins, 68, a lawyer and N. C. House of Representatives member for 20 years, died of a heart attack Saturday. A report from Granville Medical Center indicates that Watkins apparently collapsed while working in his yard about 8 p.m.

He has been described by Rep. John T. Church, D-Vance, as a "yellow dog Democrat who was proud of it. He didn't mind bucking the odds. He was very much aware of the person on Main Street."

The State House of Representatives District Committee from District 22 will recommend a replacement for Watkins' seat. Part of that district includes the River, Sixpound, Hawtree, Smith Creek, Nutbush, Judkins, Roanoke and Norlina precincts in Warren County. (Continued on page 12)

Market Value Of Farm Products Down In Warren By 18.3 Percent

In addition to the decline in the number of farmers from 1982 to 1987—while farm acreage increased during the same period—an advance report of the 1987 Census of Agriculture has shown that the market value of agricultural products sold in Warren County declined by 18.3 percent.

In 1982, agricultural products sold had a value of \$20,587,000. But in 1987, the value was only \$16,824,000.

But while overall value decreased in Warren County, average sales of agricultural products per farm here increased from \$43,803 in 1982 to \$50,070 in 1987, or by 14.3 percent.

Statewide the market value of agriculture products increased from \$3,590,750,000 in 1982 to \$3,541,419,000 in 1987 (1.3 percent), while average sales per farm increased from \$48,093 to \$59,737 for the same period.

The Farmers' Lot Worsens

The average value-per-acre of Warren County farmland declined from \$756 in 1982 to \$717 in 1987, or by 5.2 percent. At the same time, the average value of farm machinery and equipment in the county declined from \$34,978 in 1982 to \$30,777 in 1987 (9.7 percent). Statewide, the average value-per-acre declined from \$1,314 in 1982 to \$1,263 in 1987 (3.9 percent).

Declining values for farmland, combined with increasingly expensive farm equipment have caused increasing economic hardship for most American farmers in recent years. Nationally, farm real estate values are estimated to have declined by 34.5 percent from 1982 to 1987, according to preliminary Department of Agriculture figures.

Other factors also illustrate the extent of farm difficulties. Average farm production expenses in Warren County were \$39,948 in 1987. In other words, the difference between average

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farm sales and average farm expenses here was \$10,642 that year. By comparison, average farm production expenses in North Carolina were \$46,879 in 1987, while the difference in average farm sales and expenses was \$12,858 for the same period.

And Fewer Farmers See That As Their Principal Occupation Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that a significant proportion of Warren County's farmers did not consider farming as their principal occupation. In 1987, 213 (83.4 percent) of local farmers listed farming as their principal occupation. In 1982, 67.2 percent (316) had done so. Some 150 Warren County farmers were employed off their farms for at least part of the year in 1987, while 97 (28.9 percent) of all Warren County farmers were employed off their farms for more than 200 days out of the year.

The Department of Agriculture provides a local breakdown of farms by size of sales. A substantial proportion of Warren County farmers—157 or 46.7 percent—had total sales of less than \$10,000 during 1987. Of these, 58 or 17.3 percent had seen sales of less than \$2,500 during that year. In 1982, however, there had been 229 farmers with sales of less than \$10,000. Of those, 190 had seen sales of less than \$2,500.

The decline was even more noticeable across the state. Some 56.6 percent of all farmers in the state had sales of less than \$10,000 in 1987, while 54.4 percent had seen sales of that magnitude in 1982.

And nationwide, the trend was almost equally striking. A total of 54.7 percent of all farmers had seen gross sales of less than \$10,000 in 1987. In 1982, 41.9 percent of the farmers had seen sales of that size.

But In Warren, Things Were Not Always Bad

In 1987, over half of the local farmers saw sales exceeding \$100,000 per year, a total of 179 farmers or 53.3 percent. In 1982, there had been 247 farmers with sales of this size, who had accounted for 52.6 percent of local farmers.

But at the same time nationwide, 45.3 percent had seen sales in excess of \$10,000 in 1987. In 1982, 49.0 percent of the nation's farmers had had sales of this size.

Across North Carolina, while 45.6 percent of the farmers had seen sales of more than \$10,000 in 1982, only 43.4 percent had sales at that level in 1987.

During 1987, 57 (17 percent) of all Warren County farmers had sales ranging from \$10,000 to \$24,999. Another 46 (13.7 percent) had \$25,000-\$49,999 sales and 21 farmers (7.1 percent) had \$50,000-\$99,999 sales. A total of 15.5 percent (53) of Warren County farmers had sales larger than \$100,000 in 1987. In 1982, the number had been 57 (12.1 percent).

Nationally, 13.5 percent of all farmers' sales were in excess of \$100,000 in 1982. By 1987, the proportion was 13.3 percent. In North Carolina, 12.3 percent of all farms had seen sales in excess of \$10,000. In 1982, 13.7 percent had experienced that good fortune.