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Community Development Contest

Greater Ivy Sweeps Awards

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

Madison's Greater Ivy community development awards in county competition Thursday night, and will become a strong contender in area competition which will be judged this week in the Western North Carolina Community Development Association contest.

Area competition awards will be presented at a banquet Dec. 5 at Inn on the Plaza in Asheville.

The county awards were presented at the annual recognition dinner held at the Greater Ivy Community Center at Beech Glen. Over 70 representatives of county community development clubs were on hand to participate in the program and hear keynote speaker, Dr. Don Anderson, associate dean of community development at Mars Hill College.

Greater Ivy captured first place awards in overall Community Development, Division C (200 or more residents); Beautification and Youth Division.

Sleepy Valley took first place in Division A (100 families or less) in Community Development, and Walnut was first place winner in Division B (101 to 200 families).

Other winners in the Beautification category were Mars Hill, second place; Upper Laurel, third place; and Walnut, fourth place. Mars Hill also placed second in the Youth Division, and Sleepy Valley received a special merit award in the Youth Division.

Robert Bailey of Upper Laurel won first place in the Mobile Home category, and Phil Fox of Mars Hill received second place.

Recognized as outstanding individuals who have made contributions



Dr. Don Anderson

to their community and the county, Mrs. Annie Fox and Rev. David Allman were chosen Woman and Man of the Year. Both are from the Upper Laurel community.

In his address, Anderson said that while the awards program was "a celebration of the accomplishments of the past year," citizens of the county should focus their attention on three fundamental needs in the county for the future. Those needs, he said, are getting young people involved in the community, taking care of the growing number of elderly persons in the county, and creating and maintaining a diversified economic base for the county.

He said figures show that many of the county's young people grow up and leave the county and that much of the county's population growth in recent years is the result of in-migration of adults. He called the need to get young people involved in the community a "fundamental urgency," and indicated that providing them with jobs and getting them actively involved would slow the out-migration of the county's youth.

Anderson said youth involvement could start with allowing youth to become involved with volunteer services in the community. He said volunteerism is a "normal and expected part of being a citizen."

"Neighboring and caring must be done by neighbors. There's no other way to do it. Paid staffs shouldn't be doing it," he said.

Anderson said it's up to the community volunteer to help provide many of the services that face budget cuts in the future.

Madison County ranks 27th out of the state's 100 counties in the number of doctors per 10,000 population, and 62nd in the state in infant mortality rate, according to Anderson. And with young people migrating out, and older people migrating in, the county's elderly population is steadily growing. He said there is a growing need to provide proper care for the elderly.

He said studies have shown where communities have based their economies on one industry or source of income, there has inevitably been economic hardship. He called on community leaders to strive for a diversified economic base in the county.

"We want to nurture small industry," he said, "and we need to keep agriculture also."



Photo by N. Hancock

SPECIAL MERIT AWARD — Charlie Davis, 10, (left) receives the special merit award in the Youth Division for the Sleepy Valley Community at Thursday night's county com-

munity development awards dinner at Beech Glen. Cioce Plemmons presented awards to the county winners. Charlie is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Davis of Rt. 2, Hot Springs.

Anderson concluded by saying community development activities were "crucial" to the county and perhaps the most significant need here is an "increased sense of community."

He said the principal goal of community development should be a process "that will make us be more caring and neighborly." The increase in size of political and economic organizations leads to a decrease in small scale organizations such as the family-owned

store, the locally owned bank and the community church, he said.

The price we pay for an increase in political and economical organizations is the destruction of community ties, he said.

A total of 35 communities in 17 counties will be judged this week in the WNC Community Development Contest. In addition to holding top honors for community improvements, the winners will share more than \$10,000 in prizes when

awards are handed out Dec. 5 at the Inn on the Plaza.

Greater Ivy will be competing in Division C of the contest and Walnut-Brush Creek and Sleepy Valley in Divisions B and A respectively.

The WNC Community Development Program is in its 32nd year and is co-sponsored by the WNC Development Association and the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service.

Powell Resigns Medical Consultant Post Monday

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

Dr. Charles H. Powell submitted a letter of resignation to the Madison County Board of Health and to county commissioners Monday stating he was resigning his seat on the board and his position as medical consultant to the county health department effective immediately.

Powell cited a resolution adopted at the Nov. 6 commissioners meeting and Commissioners James Ledford and Virginia Anderson's "concern with my failure as a private physician to admit patients to the new Madison Manor nursing facility" as reasons for his resignation. (See letters to the editor on Page 2).

Powell's resignation came in the wake of a months-long battle between him and commissioners Chairman Ledford over reinstatement of the county's share of the medical consultant's fee. Ledford contends the \$1,700 sum was frozen as a county budget tightening move. Powell says the funds were frozen because he refused to admit elderly patients to the Mars Hill nursing home.

At Friday night's commissioners meeting, a request by the board of health to reinstate the medical consultant's fee died on the table when commissioners refused to make a motion regarding the matter. The request was delivered to the commissioners by Ed Morton, director of the county health

department.

Powell has said Morton delivered a message of a different kind to him during the latter part of August when Ledford sent word that the fee would be reinstated if Powell would agree to admit patients to Madison Manor.

Ledford, who also serves as chairman of the board of health and as a director of Madison County Convalescent Center, Inc. (the parent organization of Madison Manor), has neither denied nor confirmed that he sent such word to Powell.

Just before the request to reinstate the funds came up for consideration, the commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution instructing county attorney Larry Leake to approach the Hot Springs Health Program about providing a medical consultant for the county. The resolution also authorizes the county to enter into a contract with the HSHP should an agreement on the matter be reached between the two entities.

Powell questioned the adoption of the resolution saying the board of health had neither met on it or discussed it. "Are you saying the commissioners are just going to take charge and ignore the board of health?" he asked.

Ledford responded by saying the request for reinstatement of the funds had not yet been considered, and that the resolution involving the HSHP had nothing to do with the board of health request.

Ledford said, "The commissioners have acted on the motion for the resolution, the motion has been approved and it stands. That's the law."

Powell again objected saying the commissioners initiated the resolution and acted on it without consulting the board of health.

Ledford said, "State law says the county commissioners can change any board they want to at any time for the benefit of the people of the county."

"Well, if you're not going to use the board that you've got now, then that would probably be a wise thing to do," Powell said.

In other action at the commissioners meeting, the commissioners:

- Approved the hiring of Marilyn Rice as meal site manager at Mars Hill.
- Appointed Joan Caldwell to the Madison County Day Care Board.
- Approved a pay raise for Maria Cox of the Child Development Program in the Department of Social Services.
- Hired Mary Jane Pressley to work with the Energy Assistance Program in the Department of Social Services.
- Approved the hiring of Sandra Wallin Ford as county CETA coordinator and Louise Anderson as CETA job counselor.
- Approved a lease contract with Richard Kingston for leasing the Sprinkle-Shelton Building in Marshall.
- Approved a \$8,900 contract with Greene, Skidmore and Smith of Asheville for audit services.



Recent Graduates Of Health Department CPR Course

Opposes Term Amendment

Gilmore Resigns DHR Post

Tom Gilmore, deputy secretary of the N.C. Department of Human Resources, resigned his position Tuesday morning, announcing his plans to organize a statewide committee to work against a constitutional amendment allowing four-year terms for members of the General Assembly.

In a press conference statement in Raleigh Gilmore said he thinks a four-year term is "a serious mistake" and another step toward a full-time General Assembly.

"In the only state which does not permit a governor's veto, the General Assembly should be held on a short leash by the public and that leash is a two-year term," Gilmore said.

"Of specific concern to me is the clause in the amendment calling for the election of the General Assembly in the non-gubernatorial election year when so few people vote," he added.

Gilmore said North Carolina would be one of only five states in the nation with four-year terms for both Houses and would become the on-

ly state with four-year terms that would not elect the legislature in the same year as the governor, lieutenant governor and Council of State.

"We have a citizen General Assembly made up of some of the most outstanding men and women in the state and we must maintain a part-time citizen-based legislature."

Gilmore added that the election system should be designed for the benefit of the voter, not the candidate, and the best interest of the voter would not be served by a four-year term.

Gilmore, 44, has been deputy secretary of DHR since being appointed to the position in 1977. He will leave the office Jan. 1. Contrary to wide speculation in Raleigh circles, Gilmore said he will not be a candidate for Congress in 1982. When asked about entering the governor's race for 1984, Gilmore said that was definitely too far off to consider at this time.

Gilmore said that he will be returning to Randolph County to operate his own business.

Residents Approve Road Proposal

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK

Residents along U.S. Highway 32-70 between Marshall and Big Laurel Creek have voiced overwhelming approval of proposed improvements to the ten-mile stretch of highway which connects Marshall to Hot Springs, according to Zeno Ponder, member of the N.C. Board of Transportation.

Interviewed Friday after an informal public meeting held

Thursday in Marshall, Ponder said all but one of the nearly 100 residents who turned out for the afternoon and evening sessions of the meeting, held by the N.C. Department of Transportation, said they would like to see the road improved and would be willing to negotiate rights-of-way with the state in the matter.

Ponder said "solid commitments" exist to get the road upgraded to a 34-foot

wide, 55 mile per hour road "provided that the people want it."

He said the next step in the proposed project would be getting a motion carried at a Board of Transportation meeting for appropriation of \$75,000 to \$100,000 to pay for surveying, location and design of the road.

Surveying and design work should be completed by the first of January, and

right-of-way negotiations should be completed within another six months, he said.

Ponder estimated total cost for the project would be between \$10.5 and \$11 million and said without limitation that money would be available for the work. The money, he said, is federal money which can be used for improvement of federal highways and is not in competition for use as are state primary road moneys.