



# THE NEWS RECORD

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## Spring Creek Road Urged

# Board Hears Citizens' Proposals

Members of the state transportation board heard from the public at a meeting of the Transportation Improvement Program held at Madison High School on Aug. 4.

Board members Zeno Ponder and James Daniels and deputy secretary Wesley Webster listened as more than a dozen public officials and private citizens spoke out on the problems and needs of the area's transportation system. Ponder and Daniels represent District 13 which encompasses most of the counties of Western North Carolina.

Secretary Webster opened the meeting by apologizing for the absence of Secretary of Transportation William R.

Roberson Jr. Roberson was prevented by other commitments from attending the public hearing. The deputy secretary assured the audience that his boss would soon come to Western Carolina for a personal look at the area's transportation needs.

Webster went on to relate some of the improvements the state Department of Transportation has made in the past year. He cited the department's saving of \$40 million in construction costs in 1981 as the chief accomplishment of the past year. He also pointed to \$8 million in savings gained from the elimination of 220 jobs within the department.

Following a slide presentation detailing the many services provided by the Department of Transportation, the floor was given over to the public for their opinions.

A large delegation of residents from McDowell County attended the hearing. The group presented a number of speakers who urged the board to approve plans for the construction of a bypass around Marion.

State Rep. Robert C. Hunter and Marion Mayor Jim Seegers urged the board to move ahead with the plan to divert traffic away from Marion's main thoroughfare. Both men cited the heavy volume of traffic and the effect on downtown businesses

as reasons for constructing the alternate route.

When Hunter asked the McDowell residents in the audience to stand to show their support for the project, no less than half the audience took to their feet.

Several black residents of Marion spoke out in opposition to the route of the proposed bypass. One speaker, Clyde Howard, presented the board members with a petition signed by 761 residents of the West Marion community in opposition to the proposed route. All the black speakers voiced concern over the effect the road would have on the West Marion and Cross Mill communities.

Many Madison County residents were also in the audience and spoke to the board members. A number of Marshall residents spoke out in favor of a road to be constructed between the Spring Creek area and Marshall.

Larry Leake, attorney for the Madison County Board of Education, read to the board members a resolution passed by the board during their meeting on Wednesday morning. The resolution urged that the Department of Transportation build a road from Hwy. 213 which would link the Spring Creek area with Marshall. The board also asked that a road be constructed from Laurel River into Hot Springs.

Leake pointed out to the board members that a bond

issue which financed the construction of the consolidated high school was passed after residents of the Spring Creek area were given assurances that such a road would be constructed. He said that then-Gov. Bob Scott told the people of the county that such a road would be constructed.

Leake also pointed out that the proposed road would cut the travel time for Spring Creek students in half.

Dr. Fred Bentley also spoke out in favor of the Spring Creek project, asking the board to "restore the people's faith in government" by fulfilling the promise made by Gov. Scott.

Dean Shields of Marshall addressed the board saying,

"It's been interesting sitting here and listening to people speak on the problems they have in their communities. I'm sure that there are problems up in McDowell County, but you ain't seen nothing yet, until you've seen Madison County. Take a trip over to Laurel River or go up through Spring Creek on 209 and you'll know what I'm talking about. I've been here 25 years, and I'm appalled by the needs we have here in Madison County."

Phil Elam of Mars Hill also spoke in favor of the Spring Creek road, telling the board, "I came here 46½ years ago and I was told that many a man had been sent to the state legislature by promising to

build a road from Spring Creek to Marshall. I hope we can find another way to elect our representatives."

Marshall Mayor Lawrence Ponder also urged the construction. He told the board, "The Spring Creek people supported the bond issue to build the high school because they were promised the new road. I urge you to approve the construction of the road. It's needed for the children's sake."

Asheville Mayor Roy Trantham addressed the board, asking for improvements to I-240 in South Asheville and the widening of both Louisiana Avenue and the Leicester highway. He thanked the

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FR. ANDREW GRAVES HONORED with gift to Hot Springs Medical/Dental Center. L to R Fr. Tom Gaunt, Bill Whitten, Fr. Frank Reese, Ruth Smith, Garland Woody, and Fr. Graves. Fr. Gaunt, Fr. Reese and Fr. Graves

are associated with the Hot Springs Catholic Church. Whitten and Ms. Smith are members of The Community Fund Drive Committee and Woody is Chairman of that group.

## Program Receives Donation

A \$5,000 donation given in honor of Rev. Andrew V. Graves' 45 years of service in Madison County narrows the gap between already garnered funds and the needed \$350,000 for a new health care facility here.

Father Graves, a Jesuit from the Maryland Province, came to the Catholic mission in Revere in 1937. The mission had been started in 1931 by a Jesuit from the New Orleans Province of the Society of Jesus (S. J.)

Because of health reasons, Fr. Graves had been advised to move from Revere. While awaiting reassignment in

Washington, D. C., Fr. Graves did move—15 miles west where he started the Chapel of the Redeemer. He has now retired here and continues an active ministry.

Celebrating his 60 years in the order, Fr. Graves was honored by 19 fellow Jesuits last week at the Jesuit Residence and House of Prayer where he was surprised by the donation to the clinic.

Ordained in 1934, he served as assistant pastor at Holy Trinity Parish in Washington before coming to Western North Carolina. Fr. Graves quickly adapted to living in the mountains. He worked

with the local youth as coach of athletic teams, and he seldom travels around the county without meeting a former team member he had coached.

The \$5,000 brings the total of local donations, cash and pledges, to over \$31,000 according to Garland Woody, Chairman of the Community Fund Drive.

Jerry Plemmons, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Hot Springs Health Program, the community group operating the service, stated that the 3700 square foot building will house both medical and dental offices. In-

cluded in the passive solar structure will be three examination rooms, a minor trauma room, laboratory, X-ray room and ancillary rooms for medical services and a dental unit consisting of two operatives and appropriate office space.

The Board of Directors estimates the cost at more than \$350,000. To date, \$90,000 in state funds and \$18,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission monies in addition to the local funding have been received. A loan application for \$150,000 from the Farmers

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# School Board Approves New Music Program

The Madison County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on Aug. 4 in the county courthouse. The board made a number of decisions regarding insurance for students and teachers, considered several requests for transfers and approved the creation of a music instruction program on the elementary school level.

The board approved a measure which will provide insurance to Madison County teachers as a fringe benefit. It also decided to terminate its present liability insurance policy in favor of another program which will raise the medical payments for students injured while riding on a school activity bus.

The present policy allows for a \$1,000 medical payment in the event of injury. The policy the board approved on Wednesday raises that payment to \$5,000.

The board was also informed by attorney Larry Leake that it will receive \$25,000 from the County Commission which had previously been withheld. The funds are unrestricted and will be used as the board directs.

Upon learning of the additional revenue, the board unanimously approved the

creation of a music program for the county elementary schools. The board allocated \$5,000 to establish the program.

Vernon Ponder, principal of the Laurel Elementary School, addressed the board with a number of recommendations. Ponder asked that the board approve Ollie Shelton for the position of primary reading aide in place of Barbara Wallin, who declined the position.

Ponder also recommended that the board approve the hiring of Daisy Franklin to a position as a teacher in the first and second grades and that they accept Viola Rice as a substitute teacher at the school.

The board accepted all three of Ponder's recommendations. Bernice Wright was also approved for a position as an aide in the Title I office.

The board also approved Madison High School principal David Wyatt's request that Diane Kingston and Debra Ball be hired as substitute teachers at the high school.

The board was also informed that two new secretaries to be hired at Madison High School will cost \$16,736 for the year.

In other business, the board approved a \$50 expense to enroll attorney Larry Leake in the N.C. School Board Attorneys' Association. The board also approved two resolutions at the Wednesday meeting. One resolution asked the state transportation board to construct a road linking the Spring Creek area to Marshall. The other resolution commended Marshall Elementary School students Jennie Pegg and Carol Fox for winning the first prize in a national history contest conducted at the University of Maryland in June.

The board also took up David Wyatt's request for new school buses for Madison High School. Wyatt told the board that the school needs a new bus for school activity trips. He told the members, "I'd be afraid to send the buses we have now on a trip to Raleigh." He said a new 60-passenger bus and a smaller van were needed.

The board delayed making a final decision on the purchase of a new bus until they receive their funds from the county commission. The board is looking into the possibility of purchasing a used van and will take up the matter at its next meeting.

By a unanimous vote, the board also approved a new attendance policy for Madison High School students.

Regarding requests for transfers, the board delayed making a decision on the requests by the parents of Ronald Conner, Sherry Collins and Matthew Green that they be allowed to attend the Red Oak school. It also tabled a decision on whether or not to allow Sharon L. Ray of Weaverville to transfer to Madison High School from the Buncombe County school system.

The board also heard a request from Mrs. Eugene Turner that her daughter, Darlene Turner, be allowed to attend Erwin High School. The Turners live in Leicester but their property is in Madison County. They are employed as custodians at Erwin High School.

Board attorney Larry Leake advised the board to deny the request. The board declined to hear the request in executive session. Reached on Thursday, Mr. Turner reported that the board denied the request, ordering Darlene Turner to attend Madison High School.

The next regular monthly meeting of the board is scheduled for Sept. 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the county courthouse.

## Car Wreck Claims Life

A single-car crash north of Mars Hill Friday night claimed the life of an 18-year-old Waynesville man. The vehicle, a 1977 Ford Mercury, left the road on Puncheon Fork Road and overturned when it struck a ditch bank.

The driver of the vehicle, Kermit Gaston Moxley, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident by county medical examiner Dr. Otis Duck. The medical examiner reported that Moxley was partially thrown from the car and was killed instantly. Cause of death was ruled to be suffocation.

Trooper Lee Cooper of the state Highway Patrol reported

that Moxley was driving at an excessive rate of speed south on Puncheon Fork Road Friday at about 9:05 p.m. When Moxley attempted to pass another car on the curve, he lost control of the vehicle. The car then veered off the right side of the road, struck a ditch bank and overturned several times.

Three other passengers in the car were not seriously injured. The passengers were Moxley's wife, Donna Moxley, 18, of Weaverville; Turrell Rice, 18, of Mars Hill; and Loretta Riddle, 18, also of Mars Hill.

A Mars Hill woman escaped serious injury in an unrelated

accident Friday afternoon on US 19-23 when the car she was driving collided with a truck one mile south of Mars Hill.

Jennifer Mason, 21, of Mars Hill was treated and released at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville.

Mason, a student at Mars Hill College, was charged for failing to yield at a stop sign.

The driver of the truck, Charles Lee Brown II of Burnsville, was not injured. He was driving a load of wood chips to a paper mill when Mason's car pulled onto US 19-23 from NC 313, North Carolina Highway Patrol trooper W.C. Swanson said the truck reversed to avoid hitting the car, struck

the passenger side of the car and overturned, spilling the load of wood chips onto the highway.

The accident backed up traffic on 19-23 for five hours while the wood chips were cleaned up and the truck was righted. The southbound lanes of the highway were closed and traffic was detoured over the highway median.

Damages to the truck, owned by Brown Trucking of Burnsville, were estimated at \$5,000. The damages to Mason's car were estimated to be \$1,000.

The 1982-83 school year began this morning for students in the Madison County school system. With today's first day of classes, the students become the first Western North Carolina youngsters to return to class.

Today's first day of classes also marks the opening of the new Marshall Elementary School opposite Madison High School. The new facility will house classes in kindergarten through the third grade, enabling students to leave the school on Blount/Hassett Island. The island school will continue to house students in grades four through eight.

The new elementary school has a number of modern features including a passive solar heating design. Each classroom has its own built-in storage area for books, materials and coats.

The storage areas provide the only dividers between the classrooms and the central hallway, enabling the school's teachers to use team teaching methods in some circumstances.

The school features eight classroom areas and a spacious area in the center of the building for assemblies. The new school also boasts a new principal, Nancy Allen of Marshall. At age 29, the Madison County native is the youngest principal in the county school system.

Mrs. Allen was appointed to her new position on July 1. She has a first-hand knowledge of many of the students in her school from her seven years as a teacher in the school system before being named to head the new school this summer. Mrs. Allen taught classes in the kindergarten

through third grade level.

A graduate of Mars Hill College, she received her master's degree in education from Western Carolina University in 1978. Married for the past eight years to David Allen, the couple live in Marshall with their four-year old daughter, Sabrina.

Although she will miss teaching, she says she's excited about her new position. "I'll still be working first-hand with the students and faculty."

As principal, she will work with the school's nine teachers and teacher aids.

The new school is expected to attract approximately 200 students from the Marshall area. Under the split Marshall-Walnut District, Walnut students have the choice of attending the new classes in the kindergarten



NANCY ALLEN  
Walnut students may remain at the Walnut School or attend the new facility.  
Built at a cost of more than \$1 million, the new school also features a number of modern features.