

Community  
Calendar

## Shrubbery Sale

Shrubbery, ornamentals, fruit trees and berry plants are available through the Madison County Extension Service 4-H Club program. A price-list can be picked up at the Extension office or obtained by calling 649-2411. Shrubbery will be available for pickup April 10 and 11. Orders will be taken until April 1. All proceeds benefit the county 4-H Youth Program.

## Ivy Women To Meet

An organizational meeting for the Greater Ivy Women's Club will be held Thursday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Greater Ivy Community Center. All former members and others interested in joining are invited to attend.

## Community Meeting

The Greater Ivy Community meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 24 at the Community Center. All residents of the Greater Ivy community are urged to attend. Speaker will be Marilyn Cole of the Western North Carolina Development Assn.

## Fire Company To Meet

Ebbs Chapel Volunteer Fire Dept. will hold its annual meeting on March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ebbs Chapel Community Center, Mars Hill. Everyone in the district is urged to attend.

County-wide Development  
Meeting May Be In May

All parts of Madison County need to work together for development if any one town is to succeed, Ann Payne, assistant executive director of the Bristol-Kingsport-Sullivan County Industrial Commission told the Marshall Aldermen on Tuesday. Her visit spurred a call for a meeting of all town officials and the Board of County Commissioners.

Payne, who is originally from Hot Springs and offered to give the town of Marshall any development help she could, said that Marshall and the county in general have many assets businesses look for: good schools, a railroad, good roads into the county, a good airport within easy reach, and more.

She said that "spin-offs" from the General Motors plant in her area are looking for places where the labor is less expensive for plant sites to manufacture parts related to the GM plant. Such small plants, she said, are likely to be pleasanter

to deal with than very large plants. Some of these, she said, might be just right for the Madison County area.

She enumerated recruiting techniques she uses in her Tennessee area, including careful study of every kind of help available from the state and visits to the agencies which might be able to help. She suggested a video tape promoting the area.

Jesse Ledford, chairman of the county commission, who attended the meeting, explained that many of the techniques she suggested were already in use in the county.

He agreed with Mrs. Payne and the Marshall aldermen that a meeting of all the town officials and the Board of County Commissioners to discuss development would be beneficial to all. He said he would probably try to schedule such a meeting for May after the primary, and invite all those interested in town government.

## Stopgap Sign Rule Set:

Weaverville  
Council OKs  
Zone Change

Weaverville's Town Council on Monday night approved rezoning for a 22-acre tract on Weaver Boulevard for a new shopping center, but took first steps toward sharply limiting height rules for signs throughout the town.

The council voted 3-0, with Councilman Howard Payne voting nay, to change the zone classification for the Buckner tract to C-2 commercial. Councilman David Langdon was absent with flu.

Because the council's Long Range Planning Committee has not yet come up with proposed sign regulations for the town, and there is currently only a mention in the zoning rules that signs may be no higher than the 35-foot height limit for buildings, the council decided, as what Mayor Reece Lauber called "a stopgap measure," to place a 20-foot limit on the height of signs. It was generally agreed that such a move would effectively limit the height of signs for the development on the Buckner tract-but the change requires a second reading before it takes effect.

At a public hearing immediately before the council meeting, Joseph Joyner, who lives near the affected area, said that while he had been pleased at the council's development of plans for the Lake Louise recreational area, the proposed sign regulations would be a "stopgap measure" and that the council should wait until it had a more permanent sign regulation.

was because it was in the financial interests of the developers. He said the Long Range Planning Committee had not been consulted on the annexation idea. The area was annexed by the council earlier this month.

Joyner was joined in opposition by residents of the adjacent Wildwood area.

Town Manager Charles Horne observed that the part of the tract that was already within the town limits before annexation of the latest tract would remain zoned as R-1 residential.

In other action, the council on Monday:

-Gave a plaque to Attorney William Reeves in commemoration of his many years of legal services to the town.

Agreed to let the Buncombe County Sheriff's Dept. have use of the firing range in Weaverville for another year, dating from March, but on condition that access to the area may be obtained by the town in connection with improvements to the Lake Louise recreational area.

Councilman Bernard Keesters said the Lake Louise project can proceed and that he has determined that work on the dam of the site won't be affected by state rules.

"At least we don't have to comply with the dam regulations," he said, drawing loud laughter.

Agreed to discuss further the

Grease, Water On Front  
Burner, Sewer Rules on Back

Marshall's sewer plant is "wounded and limping" because of too much grease and unnecessary water, representatives of the State Dept. of Natural Resources and Community Development told a special Aldermen's meeting on Tuesday. They suggested an ordinance to prohibit the pouring of uncontaminated water into the system, and a requirement for grease traps to be installed and maintained in food service establishments.

Max L. Haner, Environmental Chemistry Consultant for the water quality section of NRCD, said that some days the plant, designed to treat 80,000 gallons, was flooded with about 200,000 gallons. If the uncontaminated water flowing into the system could be stemmed, he said, the plant would actually have excess capacity.

In consultation with Morris Trammel of Waste Water Services, who supervises the Marshall plant, the town arranged for smoke tests of the sewer system to find water entry points and Roy Davis, regional supervisor or Environmental management for NRCD, said that the tests needed to be followed up almost immediately with corrective action.

"But grease is probably your greatest problem," Davis told the aldermen.

The grease, which the sewer plant is unable to cope with, comes from school and restaurant kitchens

## Where There's Smoke — There's Water

Smoke should be pouring out of the tops of buildings, vacant lots, storm drains and into a few cellars in a part of Marshall on Friday, but Mayor Anita Ward wants to be sure nobody panics and calls the fire department.

Smoke will be pumped into the sewer system, section by section, in a test to see where water is entering the sewer in inappropriate ways. At one time roof drains were hooked into the sewer and the smoke will

reveal where this is still the case. Old sewer connections from torn-down houses which collect water when it rains will be "smoked out" in vacant lots, and floor drains without traps will belch smoke. Sinks, toilets and other household appliances with traps should not be affected. Autry Black and James Marler will operate smoke equipment borrowed from Waste Water Services, Inc., which supervises Marshall's sewage treatment plant.

The smoke will not be harmful to breathe in reasonable amounts, says Morris Trammel, president of Waste Water Services.

The town will make a map of smoke spots and may put markers on some. The aim is to block incursions and keep water which does not need to be treated out of the town's swamped sewage plant, so that the plant will operate properly, says the Mayor.

without proper grease traps and from garages, those at the meeting agreed. The problem of both excess water and grease has become much worse since the Walnut Creek hookup was added to the system about a year ago Trammel said. Food service for the high school, which feeds about 500 people a day, and a shopping center feed into that system.

It would probably be necessary to negotiate with food service establishments to see how quickly they would be able to comply, Haner said. The school, for example, would need time to go to the school board and get funds appropriated

for the necessary grease trap. In the meantime, he said, it would be im-

portant to discuss what establishments could do to cut down on grease immediately. The principal of the school, for example could talk to the cafeteria people and ask them not to pour any grease down the drain.

Those people who already have grease traps must be asked to maintain them properly right away, he said.

Trammel said the town would need to define "maintained" because adding chemicals to the grease would merely put it in solution and the sewage plant would be worse off. Westall said the grease traps would need to be inspected from time to time.

He suggested an immediate letter to food establishments on the subject of grease traps. It is important that these should be large enough, he said.

Westall said NRCD had been sending Marshall letters stating that its sewer system was not in compliance, and wanted to work with the town to help it come into compliance. If that did not happen, however, at some point NRCD would have to take an enforcement action and negotiate a schedule of compliance. He said he would prefer to avoid that, and that he thought citizens would be glad to take actions to save their swamped sewer plant.

The NRCD staff people suggested that Marshall put the grease and water "on the front burner" and put a more extended sewer ordinance on the back burner for more careful study.

Snow Doesn't  
Whittle Vacation

Easter vacation for Madison County schoolchildren will be a week long this year despite last week's snow day, according to School Superintendent Robert L. Edwards.

The school system can make up one more missed day by holding classes on Memorial Day, May 26. Only if another day is missed will Easter vacation—May 31 to April 4—have to be shortened, he said. The system has used up 11.5 teacher workdays.

On Friday, when it snowed again, principals were authorized to decide when their schools should close, depending on the conditions in their areas, Edwards said. At 1:30 the State Highway Patrol reported icing conditions on Murray Mountain, and county elementary schools were dismissed at around 2:15, he said, and the high school about 3 p.m.

Some drivers took buses to the garage to put on chains, he said, and since traveling was also slow, some buses were as much as an hour and a half late getting home. While there were rumors that some students were stranded, he said, all students arrived home safely—although one bus encountered a jeep, slid into a ditch and had to be pulled out.

Edwards said that, in his 38 years with the school system, Friday's snow was the fastest-falling he has ever had to deal with.

## Ready For Masters

Lori Lewis Amato of Mars Hill has completed requirements for a master of education degree at UNC-Greensboro and will be back on campus in May to receive the degree. A food, nutrition and food service management major, she is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Sigma Xi Honor Society.

Fire Code  
Hearing  
Set

Proposed fire code changes in Mars Hill will be aired at a hearing on Monday, March 3 at 7:30 right before the regular business meeting of the aldermen in the town hall.

New building or renovation regulations and a permit system for those using combustible materials will be among changes up for questions or comment.

"Our main object," says Chief Eddie Fox, "is to make things safe." The town has not had a fire prevention program except for educational work in the schools, and needs one, he says.

Unless a life threatening situation is found, the new code would not effect existing buildings until they are renovated or change hands, he said. Like new construction, renovations would have to meet a code which provided for minimum distances to exits from apartments, for example.

A permit system is proposed for occupations using combustible or explosive materials or producing combustible dust: woodworking, for example, a paint shop, or welding and cutting operations.

A permit would cost \$5.00 and be good for two years.

Short term permits would also be required for short term use of explosives and other hazardous materials, dynamite, for example.

Even a Halloween "spook house" decorated with crepe paper and straw would require a permit. But in such a case the fire company would probably issue the permit to an organization without cost as a courtesy.

Storage of hazardous materials like acids and chemicals would also need a permit.

The hoped for effect of the permit system would be that the fire department would be constantly aware of potential dangers, says Chief Fox.

The code would also provide for annual inspections to check the wiring and other possible problems in every business and in buildings occupied by more than two families. Information cards will be kept on file with the location of switch boxes and exits, for example.

Where new construction is proposed, the fire department would be able to rule whether enough water would be available to the site of a large shopping center, for example to make it possible for the fire department to protect the area.

If the Board of Aldermen approves the changes to the fire code, they will take effect 30 days after adoption.

Council Widens  
Zone Jurisdiction

First steps toward extending Weaverville's planning and zoning influence a mile beyond its borders were taken Monday night by the Town Council.

The jurisdictional move, which proponents emphasized had nothing to do with supply of services or with taxation, was outlined for the council by two representatives of the State Dept. of Natural Resources and Community Development, Alan Long and Geoffrey Willet.

Land use planning is needed to give meaning to the state's land use development plan. Some towns have boundaries which do not fit the needs of the region, and the state is now looking for ways to help them.

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Nuke Dump Foes  
Gird For Briefing,  
Long-Term Fight

Never say "it can't happen here," urge members of the Madison County Nuclear Waste Education Committee, one of the county groups urging citizens to attend a Department of Energy public briefing on the possible nuclear waste depository at the junction of Madison, Buncombe and Haywood counties. The meeting is tonight, Thursday, February 20, at 7 p.m. at the Asheville Civic Center.

Working to head off a waste depository of about 20,000 acres, with about a six-mile radius, citizens are continuing to do and have done all of the following:

-Written letters to the newspaper, as the bulging letters-to-the-editor section in this week's issue makes clear.

-Circulated anti-waste-facility petitions door-to-door.

-Placed copies of DOE's Draft Area Recommended Report on the crystalline repository project (locally called the nuke dump site) in all county libraries.

-Put out a call for somebody who is a geologist or hydrologist by training. Such a volunteer is needed to help the Nuclear Waste Education Committee find and get out the facts, said Louis Zeller of the NWE.

-Set up lines of communication between Western North Carolina groups working against the site, such as Save The Mountains with an office at 4 Lexington Avenue in Asheville which

is assembling a scientific advisory committee to evaluate and critique DOE's research methods findings and conclusions.

An article in the NWE newsletter outlined the group's concerns with the question of unstable rock formations, possible water contamination, steep curving roads, and said that in the group's opinion, Western North Carolina is in fact one of the most likely sites to be chosen.

The group said it feared that the decision will be made as much or more on political or convenience grounds as on safety, environmental and economic concerns; that the siting of a Monitored Retrievable Storage Facility in Tennessee, the closeness of I-40 and nuclear waste plants in South Carolina would make this a convenient area.

The newsletter also raised the question of what will happen to the waste in the excavated tunnels about 1,500 feet below the surface after the DOE fills and abandons the site, and after the possible contamination from leaks is no longer monitored.

Questions will be taken at the meeting tonight, but not comments. NWE has suggested that those who attend the meeting try to think of questions about safety, health or the environment.

The deadline for written comments to DOE about this site is April 15.