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Ramsey Brings Home \$1 Million In 'Pork'

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

Madison County was one of the big winners in the General Assembly's pork barrel battles of 1987, as House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey helped win \$1,125,000 for town and county projects.

That figure doesn't include \$334,034 in previously appropriated money that will be made available to Madison County towns as a result of legislation requested by Ramsey.

The special appropriations money - usually called "pork barrel" funds - will be used in Marshall for water and sewer projects, in Hot Springs for a new municipal building and for tourism promotion, in Mars Hill for a community building at the college, and in Madison County for a new landfill, health and domestic violence programs and a new campus of Asheville-Buncombe Technical College.

So many projects in Madison Coun-

ty - and elsewhere in Ramsey's district and across Western North Carolina - won pork barrel funding that Ramsey has been the target of some criticism. But Ramsey said he doesn't pay a lot of attention to critics who say he's sending too much of the state's money to the folks back home.

"I don't worry about what these papers are saying," Ramsey said Tuesday in a telephone interview. "If I help Charlotte get \$9 million for a cultural center, that's fine. But if I get a little something for a water and sewer line back home, it's called pork barrel."

In addition to the special appropriations, Madison County should also receive \$10 million over the next 10 years for the construction of new schools. Buncombe County would receive \$80 million under the "Better Schools For North Carolina" legislation, approved last month. The legislation appropriates \$3.2 billion statewide over the next decade.

Ramsey called that legislation "the highlight of the whole General Assembly."

"That (\$10 million) will go a long way toward solving our building

needs in Madison County," he said. "It won't build a fancy new school on every creek, but it will certainly help. Our people just don't have the money to build the buildings themselves."

Madison County municipalities will also benefit from Ramsey legislation giving towns one more year to apply for already allocated money set aside by the state for local sewer and water

projects.

The General Assembly appropriated a total of \$120 million in Senate Bill II funds to be used by towns in the 1985-87 biennium for water and sewer projects. But the deadline for applying for the funds has expired, and much of the money was destined to revert back to the state treasury.

Ramsey's legislation will enable Mars Hill, Marshall and Hot Springs to apply for their share of \$334,034 in Senate Bill II money allocated to Madison County.

Mars Hill will be eligible to apply for \$203,070 to use toward its on-going project at the town spillway and reservoir; Marshall will be able to apply for \$80,964 for various water and sewer projects; and Hot Springs will be eligible for \$50,000.

"Time had expired, and the money would revert back to the general

-Continued on Page 9

Lake Louise Project Receives \$5,000

The on-going Lake Louise project in Weaverville recently received a \$5,000 boost from the General Assembly.

The boost comes in the form of a special appropriations bill that won General Assembly approval during this month's lengthy budget battles.

The "pork barrel" money will go toward the cleanup and rehabilitation of the lake, which in recent years had become little more than a haven for lily pads and water bugs.

Weaverville officials are constructing a multi-purpose recreational area at the lake, including picnic grounds, a playground, covered shelters and an exercise trail around the perimeter of the lake.

The project was originally scheduled to be complete by July 4, but additional work delayed completion by two months, and town officials expected to wrap up the project by Labor Day. But Weaverville officials now

say that the late delivery of pipes needed for water lines has pushed the estimated completion date to mid-September.

The \$5,000 in pork barrel money will enable the town to do additional culverting work around the lake.

"We are putting in culverts at the upper end of the lake to give us more green space," said Charles Horne, Weaverville town manager. "That will permit us to channel water and create a larger area for recreation."



BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Weaverville Town Manager Charles Horne explains to a North Buncombe County resident the town's plans to extend zoning regula-

tions into portions of a one-mile extraterritorial area.

Weaverville Extends Zoning Power Along U.S. 19-23

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

The Weaverville Town Council unanimously agreed Thursday to extend zoning regulations into a one-mile extraterritorial area along the west side of the U.S. 19-23 corridor.

Weaverville officials, during a public hearing at North Buncombe Middle School, said the step was necessary to help protect the quality of life in the rapidly developing Weaverville area.

"This is a mechanism we feel will give you an opportunity to manage your land value better and to have a better quality of life in your neighborhood," said Charlie Horne, Weaverville town manager.

Municipal zoning regulations, effective Sept. 15, will be in force in the area immediately adjacent to U.S. 19-23 on the west side of the highway, from the Flat Creek Road exit to New Stock Road.

Weaverville zoning regulations will also apply in the Stoney Knob and Woodland Hills areas on the east side

of U.S. 19-23.

Town officials say they intend to extend zoning regulations to areas east of U.S. 19-23 from Flat Creek down to Merrimon Avenue later, possibly in January.

"We are right now looking at only the high-demand, highly developed area along the west side of U.S. 19-23," Horne said.

Nearly 100 residents of the North Buncombe area attended Thursday's public hearing, but only 13 spoke during the session - and none in opposition to the council's plans.

Most of those who did speak had specific questions about extraterritorial zoning. The major question was, does the extension of municipal zoning regulations into unincorporated areas of the county mean that annexation is next on the council's agenda?

"I'm not so opposed to people keeping their neighborhoods like they should be," North Buncombe resident Jim Garrison said. "But have you got in the back of your mind annexing this area?"

Weaverville Mayor Reese Lasher responded to that question. "Number one, I can't stand here tonight and tell you what a future board for the town of Weaverville might do," Lasher said. "But we have no plans to do any involuntary annexations and no plans to start any involuntary annexations."

A number of residents who live outside Weaverville's corporate limits told the council they welcome zoning controls.

"The best opportunity all of you folks have to protect your property values and the quality of life you have now is to go along with the town of Weaverville and let them protect you," said Steve Zarnowski of Upper Flat Creek.

"The state and the county will not protect your welfare," Zarnowski said. "Without zoning, you're on your own."

Joe Joyner agreed that zoning regulations are necessary because of the threat of unchecked development.

-Continued on Page 9

Spring Creek Principal Resigns To Take New Job

By MARGARET A. STUDENC
Staff Writer

Spring Creek Elementary School will be losing its current principal, Larry Plemmons, as of Sept. 1 to North Canton Elementary School in Haywood County.

Plemmons' resignation came during the Madison County Board of Education's Monday night meeting. The board accepted the resignation.

Plemmons, contacted Tuesday, said he has always had good cooperation from the Spring Creek community and has had a good group of coworkers.

"The reason I'm leaving is because it (North Canton) is closer to where I live," said Plemmons, who resides

near Waynesville.

Madison County Schools Superintendent Bobby Edwards said he will hate to lose Plemmons.

"He's served the community well, as well as the school," said Edwards.

The school board also accepted the resignation of Marshall Elementary teacher Donald Banks.

Also on Monday night, each board member received a copy of the 1986-87 energy cost report compiled from French Broad Electrical Membership Cooperative and Carolina Power & Light invoices and from school principal monthly reports on fuel usage.

The total combined cost of electricity and fuel oil for the 1986-87 school

year was \$244,862. Madison High and Marshall Primary were at the top of the list with a total of \$114,677 in energy cost, while Spring Creek was at the bottom with a total cost of \$11,008.

The board also received a report on the first week of enrollment. As of Friday, total enrollment in Madison County was 2,688. Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, general supervisor, said this figure usually increases over the first weeks of the school year.

Linda Harrell, director of special education for Madison County, presented the board with contracts for physical therapy for school children.

-Continued on Page 9

State Says No To Marshall, Yes To Weaverville Grant

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

State officials have rejected Marshall's request for some \$220,000 in grant money for a housing rehabilitation project on Cotton Mill Hill, while awarding nearly \$200,000 to Weaverville.

The state approved a \$100,000 Community Development Block Grant for housing rehabilitation and sewer line construction in Hillsdale and East Street in Weaverville.

Town officials received word of the status of their grant applications last week.

"This is the third time we've been turned down."

Marshall officials had hoped to receive some \$220,000 in grant money to repair and renovate several dilapidated houses in the Cotton Mill Hill area.

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development rejected Marshall's request because the town "had not met threshold requirements," Dodson said.

In order to obtain a CDBG grant, the town must have spent by May 15 at least 50 percent of money awarded in previous grants. Marshall officials had spent only 25 percent of their

grant money from 1985, according to state officials.

But town officials had thought they were required to expend only 50 percent of the 1985 grant money, Dodson said.

"We never thought that would be a problem. We thought we had met that requirement," she said.

In Weaverville, municipal officials say they are pleased to learn of approval of the town's CDBG grant.

Weaverville Mayor Reese Lasher called the grant "fantastic."

"This is the first grant in Weaverville's history," said Charles Horne, town manager.

-Continued on Page 9



Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh English of Mars Hill give Dr. Fred Bentley, president of Mars Hill College, the deed to a house and lot in Mars

Hill which will become the site of a new college chapel while Jim Cox, director of development for the college (right) watches.

Engishes Donate Land To Mars Hill College For Chapel

By WALTER SMITH
Special to The News Record

For the first time in its 124-year history, Mars Hill College is going to have its own chapel. And Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh V. English of Route 3 Mars Hill are helping make the dream a reality.

The new chapel, the college's 16th in its history, is to be built on a lot on the campus, located near the

center of campus, will become the site for the long-awaited chapel, a place of worship for students, faculty and staff.

The land, adjacent to the college's Harris Media Center, has been a family holding for many years. Mrs. English's father, John English, purchased it in 1925 and lived nearby. He left the property to his daughter, Mrs. English, who lives with her sister, Mrs. Rebecca English, who lives

ed it to Mrs. English.

"When we decided to build a chapel, we began searching for an appropriate place to put it," said Dr. Fred Bentley, president of the college. "We were determined to buy the best land available to be a place of land that the college did not own."

That's how Mrs. English and Mrs. Rebecca English, who lives with their

-Continued on Page 9