

Land use

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development.

Transportation needs

With a firm grip on how and what kind of development comes into the county, officials said they must incorporate infrastructural needs, especially transportation.

"We tend to ruin our traffic-carrying capacity while we build up commercial development," Mitchell said. "We're always doing a balancing act."

That act, Mitchell and DOT representative Tamara Shaw said, should include improving traffic flow along N.C. 211 and U.S. 401, and other roads.

Currently officials estimate 12,000 cars travel through the area daily via

U.S. 401. By the year 2020, they hope to accommodate 25,000 travelers a day.

Along N.C. 211 between Moore County and Raeford, the DOT estimates 7,500 drivers a day. In 23 years, they project that number will more than double.

Proposed improvements would loop a N.C. 211 by-pass around Raeford and add several minor collectors to connect residents to major roads.

More lanes would be added to U.S. 401, primarily in the southwestern portion of the county — improving flow between Hoke and Scotland counties.

Thoroughfares in the eastern part of Hoke could also use a boost to accommodate burgeoning populations in that area.

With the addition of Heritage Village (military housing) as well as several subdivisions catering to Fayetteville commuters, Hoke's "backroads" move to the forefront.

"Traffic's been increasing very steadily on Rockfish Road," Shaw said. That road, she said, should be widened to multilanes before it could serve as a viable corollary.

Growth in leaps and bounds

According to Mitchell, Hoke's population grows at approximately a 2 percent rate per year. If those rates continue, by the year 2020, Hoke's population would swell from 28,500 to 46,400. If the rate increases to 3 percent, that number would double to 56,100.

"Some of our developers might perk up a bit when they see how this translates in terms of housing development in the county," he said.

With a 2 percent rate, an additional 310 housing units would need to be built a year to accommodate those extra people. Mitchell's proposal would guide builders to build up rather than out — building multifamily housing like townhomes or apartments.

And the county's sewer expansion plan serves as the linchpin to the development.

"A sewer plan is the cornerstone for future development," Mitchell said. Until the county can fund a sewer project, he recommended housing units be limited to two units per acre in the

eastern portion of the county.

Plans laid but broken

Hoke adopted a zoning plan in 1990, but allowed zoning activity to stray from the plan.

"You've zoned areas without regard to your adopted plan," Mitchell said. "We've got to start thinking about why does our zoning not match our planning."

Mitchell's plan establishes integration of office, shopping, industrial areas with residential areas. That integration, he said, could remove the rezoning thorn from the county's side.

"If we do planning now, we prevent future problems with rezoning issues," he said.

Smokers

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not on the agenda, board chairperson Jean Hodges allowed a local tobacco farmer to speak.

Richard McMillan passed out a letter to the board outlining the economic impact tobacco has in Hoke County. He said this ordinance is detrimental to the county's economy and its tobacco farmers.

The proposal does not ban smoking entirely and people could still smoke in their offices, Yarborough said. It mainly targets public areas in certain buildings, he said.

Penalties for violating this ordinance include a \$100 civil fine and a written citation.

The board scheduled the public hearing for April 14 at 7 p.m.

Around

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Annual Raeford-Hoke Business Exposition will take place. It will be held at the National Guard Armory on Teal Drive, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 25 and 26. On Tuesday, March 25, a ribbon cutting and after hours for Chamber members will be held. On Wednesday, March 26 the exhibits are open to the public from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The admission is free. There will be door prizes and also outside exhibits. The entertainment will feature the Raeford Dance Arts, the Quick Step Express and Smith McInnis and his group.

I hope that many from the city and county will take time to go out and see the exhibits. Much time has been put into this project, and it should grow each year if we give it our support.

I had a call last week from a lady who wanted to know how to get her cablevision to work. I informed her of the ads in The News-Journal wanting people to register a complaint. She

said she would clip both ads.

Later in talking with Mike McNeill, city manager, he said he had been in conference with the cablevision company and that they promised to get the situation straightened out; so far they have done the job on my sets.

Mike wasn't sure if the company would offer any rebate to the customers for the time lost. I think most people feel that they are willing to pay if the service is acceptable. Let's hope that the company is straight and that service will be good from now on.

Alex Norton was by the house last week and he had with him some old papers that he had found in an old violin case that was his grandfather's. One was a receipt for 635 1/2 acres of land for \$23,812.50 from C. A. Purcell. The receipt was dated 1900. There were several catalogues or brochures that advertised whiskey. Most of the distilleries were in Georgia. One was the A. Samuels and Co. It had all brands of whiskey. Another was the

Fox Liquor Co of Atlanta. The York Distributing Co. of Newport, Ky. offered a shotgun free if you would purchase \$40 or more whiskey. The price was from 50 cents to \$1 a gallon.

Some other paper had the names of John Stom of Laurel Hill renting land from Hirom Norton deeded Sept. 27, 1907. Another was from an attorney, John P. Cameron of Rockingham, dated 1900.

The thing that amazed me about the letters and receipts was how well the people in the early 1900s could write. You could read the items without trying to figure out what was written. I guess they had to write clearly because they didn't have typewriters or computers.

Thanks, Alex, it was nice talking with you!

Ed Hasty called the house last week. He wanted to know about a name that was in the old minutes of the town that was in this column recently. The item

was "M.N. Pearson permit to build brick building on Main St." He said that his grandfather was named Pearson and that he and others of his relatives were wondering if it was their kin. I could not tell him because I didn't know. If anyone can recall a building built by a Pearson in Raeford, I would like to know so that Ed could be informed.

There are so many names and places that come up every day that most of us can't relate too. The people that can recall things of the early 1900s are not around anymore.

In an item in this column last week, it should have said that 2011 was the 100th anniversary of the county. It was called to my attention by Bobby Carter.

I am now in my third week of confinement with arthritis. I hope after I go to the doctor Thursday, I will be back at my desk early in the morning.

Anyway I did get to see all the games on television of the ACC Basketball Tournament. A month ago if anyone had said that NC State and Carolina would be playing for the championship, I would have questioned their sanity.

Most of the games were close and the outcome was in doubt until the final minutes. This can make you want to get up and cut off the set.

It was also a surprise to see that Carolina was number one seed in the Eastern Regional. What a turn around for Tar Heels in February and March. How far will they go?

I also see that the Lady Tar Heels' are seeded number one in their region. Has both the men's and women's teams from the same school been seeded number one?

From the old minutes of the Town of Raeford:

August 2, 1915; It shall be the duty of every practicing physician who shall

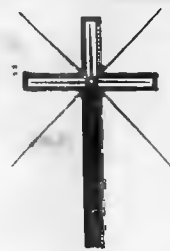
discover that any of his patients has tuberculosis to make a report of same to local public health officer of the town or county within 48 hours. Therefore under penalty of a fine of \$10.00.

January 24, 1916; Resolution issuing \$30,000 bonds for the purpose of establishing a system of waterworks and sewages.

September 4, 1916; Section 43 of Raeford Code Book: Every able bodied male person between the ages of 18 and 45 years residing in the Town of Raeford shall be required to work upon the street of said town two days during each year and at such times as the superintendent of streets may designate, but in lieu of women upon said streets may pay the tax collector the sum of \$1.00 to be used as a special fund for the betterment of the streets of the town, anyone failing to work on said street when summoned by the superintendent of streets or in lieu thereof paying the sum of \$1.00 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall pay a fine of \$5.00.



Christians Unite!



At my last encounter at a Hoke County Commissioners meeting, I was refused an opportunity to voice my strong convictions against bringing in liquor-by-the-drink into Hoke County. Afterwards, the chairman of that committee, Madame Jean Hodges, gave me some extremely sound advice. She said, "Go tell the people!"

Ms. Hodges told both myself and a local reporter who was standing by that she didn't care one way or the other whether or not LBD came to Hoke County. She did state, however, that her personal belief was that the forces who wanted to keep LBD out of Hoke would probably win anyway.

To my fellow Christian brothers and sisters in Hoke County, this is not a time to be lukewarm about the things of God and the things of this world. We know all too well what Jesus' admonition is in His Word about being lukewarm about spiritual things. If there ever was an issue that will affect the well-being of our families, our churches and our lives here in the community, the issue of the possible additional availability of alcohol is certainly one of them.

Even though the following document is quite lengthy, I believe it is in the best interest of every Christian here in the County of Hoke to read it prayerfully and to act according to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for your time,
In Christ,

Rev. C.S. "Dallas" Morales, Pastor of Hoke County Baptist Mission and Chairman,
The Committee Against Open Bars and Liquor-by-the-drink.

Our Declaration Of Freedom

On July 4, 1776, that historic day on which Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, Benjamin Franklin stated, "We must deed hang together, or most assuredly we shall hang separately."

The vision of our forefathers was one of a united effort of resistance against the tyrannical rule of England. They knew the cost involved. To be free of oppression at all costs was the mindset of the hour. This single-mindedness was summed up passionately by Nathan Hale as the hangman's noose was placed around his neck.

"I only regret I have but one life to lose for my country," he said.

We, the body of Christ here in Hoke County, North Carolina have a vision as well. Our vision is of a spiritual freedom that will lead to a spiritual revival, the likes of which has never been seen in the history of Hoke County. The path of this freedom is a path of single-mindedness in Christ, to be followed by ALL Christians of all denominations and races. To have the mind of Christ is summed up in the great two-fold commandment found in the Gospel of Matthew 22:37-40, where Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

We delight our enemy when we continue to remain separate little individual churches and separate individual little Christians who smile at each other but rarely join together in the power of Christ to carry out his will.

Unlike our fellow patriots of old, whose common enemy was another country, our common enemy is Satan, the prince of darkness, who rules all countries on earth in darkness, destructiveness and death. We must remind ourselves, however, that our enemy is limited to operate within the parameters that God Himself has set. We must never forget that although our foe is too strong for us to alone overcome, his time is short, his eternal damnation is sure and only by the precious blood of the Lamb can we have victory over him and his dominion.

We who belong to Jesus Christ — the person of God who is the only way to salvation — choose a different way to fight. Our enemy is spiritual, so we wage war against him in the name of Jesus and use only spiritual weapons. These weapons are the name of Jesus, the Word of God, prayer and being filled with the Holy Spirit and being led by Him to do His will.

This document was born out of a response to two Scriptures that reveal the spiritual condition of our community. Proverbs 29:18 states, "Where there is no vision, God's people perish." Second Chronicles 7:14 says, "If My people who are called by name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land."

As the Christians of Hoke County, we now in the sight of God Himself declare with one voice that we want the sovereign rule of God over our county, our city, our communities, our neighborhoods, businesses, our workplaces, our churches, our homes and our individual lives. We express this knowing that both a personal and corporate act of confession and repentance of sin must be offered by us first to our Holy and Most Sovereign God of this universe.

We therefore pledge not only to fulfill our spiritual duties but also our civic duties in our response to His revealed will. This civic duty in part directs us to register to vote in Raeford and Hoke County and to follow through with the act of voting as we give not our neck but our vote to further aid the cause of Christ locally.

Registered before April 11, 1997 and voting AGAINST allowing LIQUOR BY THE DRINK to be permitted in Hoke County is one of the first steps in our warfare against Satan's handiwork and for the freedom of Christ and His Spirit to rule our land.

Our vision is that of Christ's vision found in John 10:10 which states, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy, I have come that they may have life and life more abundantly."

We, the Christian community have a vision of Hoke County that is free from spiritual, social and economic bondage. We have a vision of a spirit of unity and cooperation akin to that which was seen in the mind's eye of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he said, "I have a dream today!"

On May 3, 1997, beginning at 10:00 am this vision will become a reality in the form of an exciting and uplifting event. CELEBRATE HOKE will begin with a walk down Main Street in Raeford, consisting of thanksgiving and singing and leading into testifying through the Word and through song and prayer at the STAGE next to the library. Pastors representing four predominant races here in Hoke County will bring a fresh word from God's Word. Our desire that day will be to lift up the name of Jesus as ALL Christians from ALL races and ALL denominations give a living testimony and witness to unity in Christ and to the Lordship of Christ that is available to ALL believers who desire simply to do the will of God. We will conclude by sharing in a fellowship picnic lunch on the grounds.

A covenant among Hoke County's Christians has been drafted and is meant to be signed by every Spirit-filled Christian who is ready to take a public stand for the Kingdom of God. Copies of the covenant will be circulated throughout Hoke County's churches and will be signed by the members of those churches. These signatures will be published in an ad in the Raeford News-Journal to let the general public know of our convictions for the up and coming vote against liquor-by-the-drink, and of our intentions to vote it down.

The Christian community of Hoke County will continue to vote against ungodliness entering in our county and we will also continue to vote for steps that will strengthen us and cause us to prosper in the sight of God.

Signed, The Committee Against Open Bars and Liquor-by-the-drink
Jeff Sumner, Robert McRae, Rev. Gene Chavis, Frank Crumpler, Kathryn McPhatter,
James O. Cunningham, Rev. James Leach, Rev. C.S. "Dallas" Morales, Chairman

Every pastor who senses the necessity and urgency of taking a stand for Christ and leading their congregation to follow suit, please write: COVENANT/DECLARATION OF FREEDOM, P.O. Box 1405, Raeford, NC 28376 to receive a copy of the covenant for you and your church. Paid Advertisement

Want your church news in the paper? Drop items and photos by our office at 119 W. Elwood Ave. by noon Friday. All items are used on a space available basis. For questions, call the editor at 875-2121.