

# Duplin Times

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## Headlines Of '79, Looking Back In Review

By Emily Killeto

This week's newspaper marks the first publication in the new 1980 decade and the new year. Last year's events are over, and many forgotten, while others live on in printed copies of THE DUPLIN TIMES.

During January, the completion and occupancy of the new jail complex was expected by the end of the month. Results of the November competency test in the Duplin County public schools came back with 87% of the 685 eleventh grade students passing the reading portion and 82% passing the math. Florence Brown was appointed postmaster of the Kenansville post office after 24 years of service as a clerk. Duplin County received \$187,927 from the N.C. Board of Transportation for improvements on secondary roads.

In February, Kenansville submitted the first official entry in the Governor's Community of Excellence Award Program. Ray Johnson was presented the Kenansville Jaycee Distinguished Award. Initial funding to prepare preliminary engineering plans for the construction of an interstate-

type facility from Benson to Wilmington was approved by the N.C. Board of Transportation. After more than ten years of planning, surveying and discussion, the first easements for work on the Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed project of eastern Duplin County were obtained.

In March, an organization to promote development of N.C. 24 between Fayetteville and its junction with U.S. 70 west of Morehead City developed from a meeting held in Kenansville. The Duplin County Democratic executive committee decided to appoint a committee to study the issue of selecting school board members by districts. The county board of commissioners voted to go to a county manager form of government for Duplin. Construction of a \$578,459 municipal water system in Greenevers was expected to begin by the end of March. The board of commissioners voted to apply for a FmHA grant of \$3.3 million, and a state clean water bond grant of \$3.2 million for a proposed county-wide water system.

April was poultry and egg month in the state, with

Duplin County being the leading poultry-producing county. The board of education installed new member Mrs. Pat Broadrick of Warsaw. She was the first woman to serve on the board. Farmers Home Administration approved a loan of \$598,000 and a grant of \$683,000 for the funding of improvements on the Warsaw water system. Sheriff Edwood Revell requested funding for three additional staff members at the new county jail, and the positions were approved by the Duplin commissioners.

In May, a resolution by the board of commissioners proclaimed May 6-12 as Dallas Herring Week in the county. Openhouse was held for the new county jail and the newly remodeled courthouse and annex addition. Workers for the U.S. Census Bureau began compiling a house-by-house address list within Duplin County. Frank Saas, D.D.S. and family were welcomed to Kenansville by the area chamber of commerce. Lloyd B. Stevens, assistant superintendent who served as director of vocational education and director of pupil personnel in the county, announced his retirement.

In June, Warsaw residents approved two bond proposals for water and sewer projects totaling \$998,000. Duplin County's 1979-80 property tax rate dropped 4 cents from 72 to 68 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. More than half of the regular students who failed the competency test in the fall of 1978 passed on their second try in May, reported Superintendent C.H. Yelverton. Gov. Jim Hunt and Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham visited the Faison produce market and told buyers and sellers that they were doing all they could to help the critical situation caused by the strike of independent truckers. THE LIBERTY CART opened its fourth season.

In July, a reunion of Kenansville public school students and teachers was staged on the school grounds in Kenansville July 7. According to independent truck drivers, a move to take away a 25-cents-per-package increase in hauling rate by some brokers or shippers at the Faison produce auction market brought on a blockade for several hours. The Wallace board of commis-

sioners adopted a budget of \$1,948,706.93 for the 1979-80 fiscal year. The board of education rejected a request to allow senior citizens to buy school lunches in communities lacking meals-for-the-elderly programs.

In August, Ira Ricky Wheeler, 19, of 306 S. Cumberland Street in Wallace, was in the Duplin County jail under \$3,000 bond on charges of child abuse. Three towns were inspected by the N.C. Department of Commerce officials for the Governor's Community of Excellence award. The town of Rose Hill became the home for a Vietnamese family who lived on a boat off the Malaysian coast until rescued and brought to the United States. A tractor-truck pulling a containerized trailer overturned eight miles south of Kenansville at the Island Creek bridge and spilled sodium bichromate dry, an industrial chemical, onto the sides of the road and into the creek. The Duplin County Democratic executive committee voted in favor of electing the board of education by commissioner districts.

In September, the Kenans-

ville board of commissioners appointed a new ABC board after the resignation of the entire board. Voters in Kenansville defeated a proposed \$170,000 water bond issue by a one-vote margin of 62 to 61. A Dunn nursing home owner C. Gilmer Parrish, and a Warsaw contractor, Sam Godwin, were scheduled to go on trial in Raleigh on six counts of fraud and conspiracy to defraud the Federal government. Dennis Rogers, columnist for the Raleigh N&O newspaper, stomped to win revenge against Debra Joneck, Duplin Agricultural Extension Agent, in Duplin Wine Cellars' second grape stomp.

In October a Kenan Transport Co. tanker truck carrying about 5,000 gallons of DMT skidded off the rural paved road 241 near Pink Hill and overturned in a ditch while enroute to DuPont in Kinston. Fire destroyed a home owned by Christine Williams, Duplin County Register of Deeds, near Pink Hill, one of the first brick homes in the county. By action of the James Sprunt Institute board of trustees and Duplin County commis-

sioners, JSI was renamed James Sprunt Technical College. No opposition was expressed at the public hearing on the realignment of a portion of Section B of Highway 40 through Duplin County.

In November, the second public hearing was held on the proposed Kenansville water project, the first referendum having failed by a margin of one vote. The ninth annual Duplin soil and water conservation tour was held, and the Richard Boyce family of Wallace was named the Conservation Farm Family of the Year. Murphy Farms, Inc. will expand their hog-producing capacity by ten percent in the next year with a new farrowing operation. Wendell Murphy said at the presentation of the hog facility. A resolution to ask the Duplin board of education to halt the practice of allowing grade school children to sell items for various school activities was approved by the board of commissioners. The Warsaw recreation commission met with the Warsaw town board to discuss plans for the proposed community park.

In December, the Kenansville elementary school opening date was pushed back from the planned December opening to March, said H.P. Honeycutt, Duplin County assistant school superintendent. Charges against Warsaw contractor Sam Godwin were dismissed by Chief U.S. District Court Judge F.T. Dupree after Godwin testified on behalf of C. Gilmer Parrish of Dunn who had pleaded guilty on two counts of the indictment of six charges. Dr. Stephen Griffin and Dr. Clark Hemmer, two of three physicians to visit Duplin County, announced intentions to begin a family-type practice in Warsaw. The Greenevers board of commissioners voted to sell water to the planned Duplin County water system. Citizens in Kenansville voted 153 to 62 in favor of a \$170,000 city water bond which had failed by one vote in September. The intensive care unit at Duplin General was completed and patients were moved into five of the nine rooms in the facility. Kenansville received statewide attention for their "Twelve Days of Christmas in Historic Kenansville."

### Warsaw And Calypso Jaycees To Present

## Miss Duplin County Pageant Jan. 19

Calypso and Warsaw Jaycees will present the 1980 Miss Duplin County Pageant in Kenan Auditorium in Kenansville January 19 and will feature Tina Brewer, Miss Duplin County 1979, who was a top ten winner at this year's Miss North Carolina Pageant last June.

Since the pageant in Raleigh, Tina has toured the state representing the Jaycees and Duplin County at pageants, festivals and parades. Tina also student taught in Chapel Hill this fall, and received her degree from UNC-CH this month.

Tina will lead a group of

talented young ladies from Duplin County through this year's pageant, the theme of which is "City Lights." In addition to the contestants, entertainment will be provided by visiting queens, local dancers and guest entertainers.

Charlie Gaddy, television personality of WRAL-TV in Raleigh, will be the master of ceremonies for the pageant and will also entertain. Gaddy, well-known for his television work, has had extensive pageant experience on the local and state level.

All former Miss Duplin

Counties and Miss Warsaws are invited to attend the pageant and reception which will be held immediately following the pageant. Any young lady who is a former crown wearer should identify

herself at the door, and tickets will be provided for her and an escort. These young ladies will be presented on stage during the pageant.

The pageant, sponsored by the Calypso and Warsaw

Jaycees, is directed by Sam Garner of Wilmington, who is business manager for Miss Duplin County and serves as advisor to the winner during the year and the Miss North Carolina Pageant.

## Rose Hill Public Hearing Water & Sewer Projects

By Emily Killeto

The Rose Hill board of commissioners will hold a public hearing on the proposed town water and sewer bond referendum Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Ben Harrell said the referendum will be held March 4 for a \$65,000 water bond and a \$435,000 sewer bond, which will be voted on individually. The citizens could pass either bond or both, Harrell said. However, the town is under a temporary operating permit for its sewage system and does not have much choice about a new sewage facility. Until improvements are made to meet the minimum federal standards, Rose Hill is under a no-growth mandate and cannot extend sewer lines to new customers, Harrell said.

According to Woody Brinson, town administrator, the proposed water system will replace old two-inch mains which have caused maintenance problems and provide only minimal pressure and fire protection. The system will be looped to provide adequate fire flow to all areas of the town plus additional fire hydrants. Brinson said. The water system also includes a new 250,000-gallon elevated storage tank, which, Brinson said, is necessary to meet the state Department of Human Resources recommendations that a town have storage capacity of at least one day's water consumption. Presently, Brinson said, Rose Hill has only a 75,000-gallon tank with a per capita flow of 243,000 gallons per day. The proposed water im-

provements will consist of approximately 43,600 linear feet of six-, eight-, and 12-inch water mains, one 250,000 elevated water storage tank, renovation of existing wells, and 42 fire hydrants. The proposed sewer improvements consist of two sewage pumping stations, approximately 4,500 linear feet of forced sewer mains, approximately 24,450 linear feet of gravity sewer mains, approximately 5,200 linear feet of interceptor gravity mains, and a 325,000 gallon-per-day wastewater treatment facility. Brinson said.

The proposed water project will be financed with

### Tobacco Meeting

The annual tobacco meeting sponsored by the Duplin County Agricultural Extension Service and the Duplin County Young Farmers Organization will be held Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in James Kenan High School cafeteria.

Following the free supper, presentations will be given by featured speakers Dr. W. K. Collins, a tobacco specialist on the NCSU faculty, and Professor Furney Todd, extension professor of plant pathology. Door prizes and special awards will be presented during the meeting. All Duplin County farmers and their wives are invited. Persons planning to attend should contact the Duplin Agricultural Extension office.

a Farmers Home Administration grant of \$378,000 and a FmHA loan of \$650,000 for a total cost of \$1,028,000. The proposed sewer project will be financed with an Environmental Protection Administration grant of \$1,455,000, a FmHA grant of \$475,000, a FmHA loan of \$435,000, and a N.C. Clean Water Bond grant of \$379,000, totaling \$2,745,000.

The grant commitments are contingent upon the passage of the bond referendum, and will guarantee 71% of the total water and sewer project costs, said Brinson. The general obligation bonds will be purchased with an interest rate of 5% and will be repaid over a period of 40 years, he said.

The proposed water and sewer systems are designed to pay their own way to avoid a tax increase. The proposed rate structure will call for an increase of one dollar over the present minimum water bill, and \$5.07 over the minimum sewage bill, raising the combined minimum bill to \$14.07, said Brinson.

### Two Duplin Students Johnston Scholars

Two students from Duplin are among outstanding scholars at UNC-CH studying this year under the prestigious James M. Johnston Scholarship Program. They are Mark Keane Brown of Chingapin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew W. Brown, a graduate of East Duplin, and Betty Ruth Carter of Calypso, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E.



**LEADERSHIP AWARD** - Mrs. J.B. Stroud of Route 1, Magnolia, is shown above with the leadership award she received recently. The silver tray was presented to her for her work in cooperation with the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service. She was one of 14 women receiving the award at the fall meeting of the N.C. Extension Homemakers' Association held in Pinehurst. The award, sponsored by A & P, was presented based on efforts in extension homemakers, community development and 4-H programs. Presently, Mrs. Stroud is a member of the Kenansville Extension Club and has been an

Extension Homemaker member for more than 24 years. She has held offices and has been chairman of numerous committees from the local to state level. She and her husband have three children, Frances S. Jackson of Kenansville, Sharon Stroud of Sumter, S.C., and J.B. Stroud, Jr. of Magnolia. In her spare time she enjoys reading, crocheting, knitting, cooking, doing community work, helping others and gardening. Mrs. Stroud says that she has become a better person and homemaker because of her involvement with the Extension Homemakers' organization.

### Soil Key In Watershed Project

Appointment of a soil technician to work with landowners on conservation practices emphasizes the importance of proper land treatment in connection with the Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed project, an official said this week.

Boyce W. Boyette will start work Jan. 7 as soil conservation district technician. A farmer in western Duplin, he has previously worked for the district part-time.

Boyette's principal activities will be assisting landowners in planning and applying practices to hold their soils in place, according to Calvin R. Mercer of Beulaville, chairman of the district's supervisors.

"While people think of channel clearing as the necessary work in such a project, the most vital element is the land treatment program to keep soil of the drainage area in place," said Kenneth Futreal, district conservationist. "If this is not done, the work in the creek beds will be useless."

Futreal said Limestone-Muddy Creek is one of the first small watershed projects in which the federal government will emphasize this value through sharing the cost of conservation efforts such as no-till handling of fields, grass field borders, and grass-covered water-

ways. The work would directly benefit more than 700 landowners and indirectly benefit all of the 8,000 residents of the eastern Duplin County area, Futreal said. He estimated it would provide \$2.50 to \$3 in benefits to each \$1 of cost.

Futreal said the project would improve operation of septic tanks throughout the area involved. It would also improve drainage on 9,145 acres of crop and pastureland and greatly improve flood and mosquito control in the area, he added.

Futreal pointed out the channels of the creeks and swamps of the area have become clogged with sediment and debris.

The project calls for excavation of 55.9 miles of stream channel, restoration of 45.4 miles of channel, establishment of a 68-acre lake for recreational purposes, and 11 fishing access areas on the major streams.

Limestone Creek empties into the Northeast Cape Fear River near Hallsville and Muddy Creek into the Northeast River near Chingapin.

Planning for the project began a decade ago. Following numerous meetings with farmers and state conservation officials, an application was prepared and submitted to state and federal conservation boards in the early 1970s.

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