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Board Buys Land At James Kenan

Steps to purchase 15.4 acres of land adjacent to James Kenan High School in Warsaw were completed last week by the Duplin County Board of Education at their meeting. The school board formally approved the sale for \$85,000. The board plans to use the land for recreation and parking. Eventually, the land beside James Kenan will be used for an extension of the school building to house ninth graders who currently are sent to Warsaw

Junior High School and E.E. Smith Junior High School. Additions are also planned to the vocational program and library.

The site extends for 300 feet on N.C. 14 east of the high school, south to an unpaved road and west behind the present school property.

In other business, Superintendent C. H. Yelverton presented the board with a schedule for preparing the budget for the 1981-82 fiscal year. The schedule calls for

assistant superintendents to develop budgets with their staffs and place items in priority order. The proposals will be reviewed by the school principals in the districts Jan. 25-30. The school system's finance officer will review the proposals Feb. 2-6.

The superintendent and administrative staff will review the proposals Feb. 9-20 and final preparation of the system's proposed budget will be accomplished Feb. 23-27. A final budget review

is scheduled March 2-6 by the administrative staff and principals. The budget proposal will be presented to the board of education March 9-20. A public hearing will be scheduled in late March.

The week of March 30-April 3 has been set aside for alterations and preparation of the budget proposal for the county commissioners. It will be presented to the county manager, Ralph Cottle, and the finance officer, Russell Tucker, on April 4.



RECEIVES HAM - Newly-installed President Earl Stroud is shown presenting guest speaker, Ira Beeson, a Westwater Country Ham as a token of appreciation during

the Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce meeting held last week. Pictured (L to R), Mrs. Beeson, Beeson, Stroud, Robert Worthington, MC; and Mrs. Robert Worthington.

Duplin Board Searches For New Magistrate's Office

Duplin County Manager Ralph Cottle was directed to seek the most economical office space for the magistrate in Wallace by the board of commissioners at their meeting last week.

Clerk of Court John A. Johnson urged the board to take action after saying the present 8-foot-by-8-foot office adjacent to the Wallace police department is "totally inadequate."

He told the board Wallace officials informed him there is no additional space available in the Wallace city hall.

Johnson said Buck Wells, who has retired, has offered to rent part of his former dentist's office for \$150 per month plus utilities.

Johnson said the magistrate's office should be in a dignified setting. He noted the magistrate's office is one of the most important in the judicial system. "He deals with the people first, and the office should look like a

courtroom and not the back room in some service station," Johnson said.

Commissioner S. Franklin Williams said the office conditions described by Johnson are accurate.

Commissioner D. J. Fussell added, "I feel it should be in the town hall. That's where you need a magistrate."

Johnson disagreed. He said he believes the magistrate's office should be as far from the police offices as possible. He said when the police, sheriff's people and maybe the highway patrol are all in the room together, talking and moving about, it can give a person brought before the magistrate "the impression they are all in cahoots."

Johnson told the board there are five magistrates in the county. In Faison, C.A. Precythe received \$25 a month for use of a portion of his office. The office in Rose Hill costs \$33 a month. The

Warsaw, Kenansville and Wallace offices cost \$50 a month. The rental fees are paid from court facility fees.

The county has budgeted \$32,000 in court facilities fees for this fiscal year, Russell Tucker, finance officer, said. He said income from the fees for the first six months of the fiscal year totalled \$16,000. He noted \$150 a month rent could gradually exceed the income from the fees and that paying that amount in one town could bring reaction in the other towns that would increase all rents for magistrates' offices.

Kenneth Futreal, county soil conservationist, said state conservation officials would join him Thursday to attempt to plan construction schedules for the Limestone-Muddy Creek watershed projects. He said construction may begin in September or October.

The board agreed to meet the board of education for an

informal supper this past Monday in the Rose Hill Restaurant in Rose Hill to discuss the old Kenansville school.

Approval of a \$50,000 grant for a senior citizens meal center at Kenansville has been received from the Neuse River Council of Governments.

Larry Cooper of Warsaw was appointed to the community development citizens advisory committee.

Appointed to the community-based alternatives committee were W. T. Stokes, Randy Hammond, Leatrice Hammond and Shirley Benson of Kenansville, Eleanor Alexander of Calypso and Bryan McIver of Warsaw.

Eva Bland was hired as an accounting clerk at \$8,295 per year; Karen Rhodes Tyndall as a receptionist at \$8,295; and Robert J. Hatcher as energy specialist at \$12,263 per year.

Warsaw-Faison Towns And Officers Found Not Liable In Civil Action

A U.S. Federal court jury found Wednesday that all actions taken by Faison and Warsaw police officers in a civil suit alleging discrimination filed by three Wayne County men, "were consistent with due process and that the officers were not in violation of any constitutional rights," according to Jene Thompson, town attorney for Warsaw and Faison.

Earlier Thompson stated, "Upon my motion to dismiss, the action against both towns and Warsaw Police Chief R.P. Wood was dismissed Tuesday after which the case against the remaining officers went to the jury. The officers were cleared of all liability, including Faison police officers Alton Ray King and Randy Brock, and Warsaw police officers, J.W.

Vinson and Anthony Braswell.

The civil suit was filed by William L. Smith, Marshall K. Thompson and James McCoy, who are represented by Durham attorney Thomas Loflin, a former law partner of Jerry Paul, the attorney who represented Joan Little. The suit asked for \$340,000 in damages and charged that the three had been discriminated against because of race.

The three Wayne County men were charged by Faison police with conspiracy to commit a bank robbery and going about armed to the terror of the people Dec. 15, 1978. The arrest was made by Faison officer King when the three were allegedly seen in front of the Branch Bank in Faison. Faison residents reported seeing one of the men with a gun, police said.

Warsaw police officers J.W. Vinson and Anthony Braswell and Chief R.P. Wood, as well as the Towns of Faison and Warsaw, were also named in the civil action filed by the three men. The Warsaw officers apprehended the three men in their vehicle as they entered Warsaw and held them until Faison police officers arrived on the scene. On the advice of Magistrate Dot Sheffield and District Attorney Dewey Hudson Jr., Officer King charged the three. The three men were later found not guilty in Duplin District Court in Kenansville of the charge of going about armed to the terror of the people. No probable cause was found for the felonious conspiracy to commit a bank robbery

charge. Jene Thompson said that the state "failed to subpoena the proper witnesses in the case," which resulted in the verdicts given the three men.

As a result of the arrests and the verdicts in the charges filed by Officer King, the civil rights suit was filed alleging that the three men's constitutional rights were violated and that they were deprived of their rights, liberties and immunities provided by the 14th amendment.

Thompson said, "The suit also alleged that police officers and the towns discriminated against them because they were blacks and that the towns of Warsaw and Faison have established policies concerning arrest procedures against blacks. They also maintained that their constitutional rights were violated in that they were not afforded the due process of law during the arrest procedures and that their fourth amendment rights were violated through unlawful search and seizure."

"We contended that without the prompt and responsible action of police officers, a crime could have been committed," Thompson said. "And we further argued that the two Warsaw police officers and the Faison officers acted very responsibly and diligently and were very courteous to the three men," he said.

The jury found the officers not liable. Thompson said the men can appeal the decision by filing motions with the court of appeals in Richmond, Va.

Stroud To Lead Kenansville Area Chamber For 1981

Earl Stroud was installed as president of the Historic Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce for the year 1981 during their annual meeting Thursday night in Kenansville.

Other 1981 officers include: Vice-President, Mrs. Wiley Booth; Treasurer, Carey Wrenn; Executive Secretary, Carolyn Hall; Directors - Richard Harrell, Earl Stroud, Ray Bell, Carey Wrenn, Mrs. Wiley Booth, Carey Williams Jr., Mrs. Craig Rich and Bill McKay.

Dinner was served by the Kenansville United Methodist Women, after which a medley of songs from The Sound of Music was presented by Mrs. Jimmy Summerlin, pianist, and Mrs. Bert Alabaster, soloist.

Robert Worthington, master of ceremonies, introduced Ira Beeson as the evening's speaker by saying, "We are fortunate to have a man here to speak to us who has been in one line of work for 30 years."

Beeson, a special agent

with Jefferson Standard Life Insurance, said he was very impressed with the people in Kenansville.

After several humorous stories, Beeson gave a talk entitled, "As a Man or Woman Thinks." "You are a Chamber of Commerce, and in each of your businesses, there is not anything as

important in your staff or employees as a thinker. We need big thinkers," concluded Beeson, "because shallow thinkers miss the goals and blessings of life."

Outgoing president, Rich Boyd, gave a report on the Chamber's accomplishments for 1980 and reviewed his 13-point program initiated last

year. After the installation of 1981 officers by Beeson, incoming President Stroud made a few remarks concerning the Chamber and leadership for the upcoming year.

The meeting ended with the benediction by the Rev. Ann Dickey.

Dinner Theatre Production Set

James Sprunt Foundation Raising Funds

The James Sprunt Foundation will present a fundraising dinner theatre at The Country Squire Restaurant on Feb. 14 featuring the College of the Albemarle Satyr's production of the musical I DO! I DO!

The valentine musical about marriage is based on Jan de Hartog's book, The Fourposter. I DO! I DO! was originally produced on Broadway by David Merrick and written by Tom Jones. Starring in the Satyr's production are Alice Sue Rousseau and Jim Bridges. The production will be directed by Lucy Vaughan with musical accompaniment by Russell Rumpf and Louise Hubbard.

Proceeds from the dinner theatre will be used to supplement public funds received by JSTC. "Public funds received through the state are often limited or not applicable in the areas of scholarships, programs and facilities development," said Foundation Chairman Willard Hoffer.

"The increased private support of JSTC will extend the range of opportunities and services the institute can offer," he added, "and the benefits to graduates and their communities are directly related to funds available to provide support to these educational services."

Working with Hoffer to plan the fund-raising dinner theatre are board members Tom Yates, Charles Albertson and Mrs. Winifred T. Wells. The activities are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. with the show beginning at 9. Tickets are available through any member of the JSTC Foundation Board or Donna Thigpen, Foundation executive secretary at JSTC.

The College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City is a

member of the N.C. Community College System. The Satyr's is a campus organization featuring students, instructors and local citizens. Alice Sue Rousseau holds an associate degree in music from the College, and a bachelor's from Atlantic Christian. She has performed for the Satyr's and the Albemarle Players. Jim Bridges is chairman of the CTA English department. He is well-known in the area for his Mark Twain lectures. Lucy Vaughan has appeared in or directed over 100 plays. She holds a bachelor's degree in theatre from the University of Houston and a master's in speech and theatre from Kent State University with additional graduate studies in theatre at Ohio State. Lucy is an associate professor of speech and theatre at the College of The Albemarle.

Russell Rumpf plays the drums in several area bands and has won playwriting awards from the Carolina Dramatic Association. Louise Hubbard plays the piano professionally in the Outer Banks and Virginia Beach area, and she has worked as a program director for a Virginia radio station.

Further information can be obtained through Donna Thigpen at JSTC or Foundation boardmembers, Edd Dudley Monk, Dr. Corbett L. Quinn, Robert Lee, Mrs. Winifred T. Wells, Tom Yates, Mrs. Ellen Brewer, Allen Nethercutt, J. Willard Hoffer, William S. Buckley, Charles W. Albertson, Mrs. Pearl McGowen, Wilbur Carr, Harold Precythe, Riddick Wilkins and Prentice W. Smith. A limited number of tickets are available.

Jaycees Sponsor Shopping Spree

The Kenansville Jaycees are sponsoring a three-minute shopping spree to be held at Jackson's IGA on Saturday, February 14 at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$1 each. What better Valentine's Day present than to win a three-minute shopping spree?

Rules for the spree are as follows:

You may take all the groceries you can out in your arms.

No limit on the amount you may take out.

No cigarettes, beer or wine will be taken.

No substitutions may be made for the winner.

The drawing will be held

on Thursday, Feb. 12 at Jackson's IGA. Deadline to purchase tickets will be Thursday, Feb. 12 at 5 p.m. Tickets will be on sale by any Kenansville Jaycee, Dean's Barber Shop, Kenansville Drug Store, and Jackson's IGA.

KENANSVILLE TOWN TAGS

As a reminder to residents of Kenansville, your 1981 Town Tags should be purchased and displayed on your vehicles by Feb. 15. The tags are \$1 again this year, and may be purchased at the clerk's office in the town hall.

Hunt To Dedicate Imperial Spinning

Wallace's newest industrial plant, Imperial Spinning Co., will be dedicated at 10:45 a.m., Jan. 30 by Gov. Jim Hunt.

The appearance will be the governor's first in Duplin county since being elected to his second term.

Public tours of the plant will be conducted all day. Operations have begun at the plant where spinning equipment is still being installed and tested. When it achieves full production the firm will employ about 125 workers with an annual payroll estimated at \$1.5 million.

It spins synthetic fiber into yarn for manufacturing hosiery and sweaters.

Building, land and machinery represents an investment of about \$4 million, according to company officials.

Jerry Hamza, now of Wallace, one of the three owners,

is manager. The other owners are George Perkins, president, and George Paker, vice president, both of Sanford. The IGA organized the company last year after having been employed by other textile firms for many years.

Last year the firm purchased an industrial shell building erected in Wallace in 1978 by Davidson & Jones Construction Co. of Raleigh under an arrangement whereby the Wallace Industrial Commission, the Duplin County Industrial Development Commission and the state would seek a purchaser.

The 40,000-square-foot structure was built in 1978 just south of Wallace on U.S. 117 at a cost of about \$18 per square foot.

Imperial added 10,000 square feet after purchasing the structure.