

# Duplin Times

## PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXVI NO. 12

USPS 162-860

KENANSVILLE, NC 28349

MARCH 25, 1982

16 PAGES THIS WEEK

10 CENTS PLUS TAX

### Duplin's Industrial Waste Trucks Are 10 Years Old

## Industrial Waste Service To Seek New Trucks

The Duplin County industrial waste pick-up service needs to replace its 10-year-old trucks. David Underhill, county sanitation director, told the board of commissioners last week when they met.

The service, which may be unique in the state, is handled by the county sanitation department and landfill. Its industrial customers paid for the equipment. They also pay for the scheduled pick-up service.

Underhill asked the board to set up a meeting of officials and customers to discuss equipment needs. County Manager Ralph Cottle, industrial development director John Gurganus and Underhill were directed to organize such a meeting.

Underhill reported some trucks have traveled 240,000 miles and are in questionable condition. He said, "I don't know how much longer these can go. There's a lot of strain

in twisting and turning into the compactors."

When the program began 10 years ago, each participating business bought a 42-cubic-yard container and compactor. The businesses bought two Ford tractor-trucks and two extra containers so the trucks could replace a full container with an empty one at each stop.

Each stop or "pull" as the pick-ups are called, cost \$32 when the service started, dropped to \$27 later, but by last December rose to \$40.21 for each of 177 pulls.

In 1972, when the program began, fuel cost 24 cents a gallon; during the last quarter it cost \$1.09275 a gallon. Labor for the opening quarter cost \$1,242; labor last quarter cost \$3,824. Included in the last quarter cost was \$1,845 in repairs.

Both trucks, together, cost \$50,500. Replacement vehicles are expected to cost about \$50,000 apiece.

Among users of the service are J.P. Stevens Co., Imperial Spinning Co. and Wilson's of Wallace; National Spinning Co. of Warsaw and Beulaville; Guilford Mills and Reeves Bros. of Kenansville; Quinn Wholesale Co. and Warsaw Sewing Co. of Warsaw; and Cates Pickle Co. of Faison.

The board approved formation of the Albertson Township Water and Sewer District on the motion of Allen Nethercutt, seconded by D.J. Fussell. County Attorney R.J. Lanier said the board would have to publish notice of the district three times. The fledgling district would have to obtain permission of the board to hold a bond referendum.

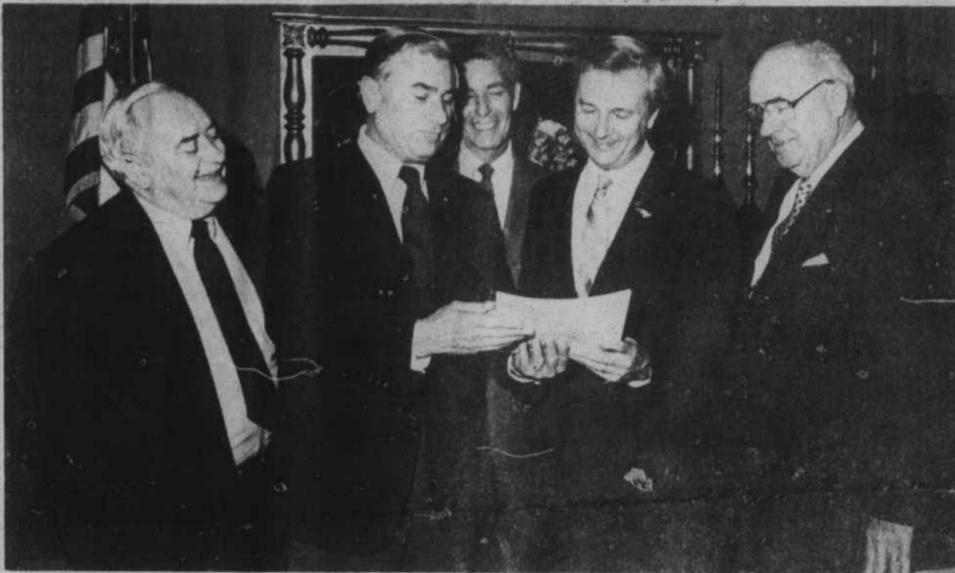
No one appeared at the required revenue sharing hearing. The county expects to receive \$853,056 in revenue sharing this fiscal year. It received \$930,000 last year.

The board agreed to lease office space to the state highway patrol for \$9,600 a year. The three-year lease covers space in a building adjacent to E.E. Smith school on the edge of Kenansville. The county furnished heat, electricity, water and janitorial services, which cost about \$3,630 a year.

The board authorized county extension Chairman Lois Britt to hire a temporary secretary on part-time basis to replace an employee taking maternity leave.

Fussell and Commissioner Calvin Coolidge Turner voted against the motion after learning the state would refuse to pay the temporary worker. The county pays 69 percent and the state 31 percent of the position's salary.

Duplin expected another 10,000 pounds of cheese to give away Friday. It offered 11,800 pounds in the first giveaway and has about 1,500 pounds on hand.



RALEIGH - Governor Hunt receives a personal copy of "C.S.S. Neuse: A Question of Iron and Time," a book describing the salvage of the Confederate ram now displayed in Kinston, from Rep. Daniel Lilley (D-Lenoir County) and Sen. Harold W. Hardison (D-Lenoir County).

Looking on are Richard Sawyer (far left), administrator of the Historic Sites Section of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, and Eugene Brown (center), site manager of the Caswell-Neuse State Historic Site in Kinston.

## Senses Tell You That Spring Is On The Way

Along a two-lane road in the countryside, you can taste, feel, see, smell and hear spring coming.

Heralds of the awaited season are sprinkled beside U.S. 117 as it winds through small towns and farmland: teenagers romping with a pony on a grassy field, construction crews working into the afternoon on the Interstate-40 connector, the almost sweet stench of fertilizer and visions of bright yellow daffodils or paler forsythia.

Although Wallace, Rose Hill, Magnolia, Warsaw and Faison were not burdened with fierce winters, the people who live and work there nonetheless welcome freshly tilled soil and new buds on trees.

"Good gracious alive, it's time to plant," says Johnny Monk, who has spent all of his 76 years learning and farming in Duplin County.

With a friend's help, Monk was checking beds of pepper plants last week next to his house near Warsaw. In some spots, rows of tiny plants are peeping up from the moist soil under a plastic canopy supported by tree limbs.

In other places, the earth is barren — some of the seeds planted in January did not sprout.

The successful inch-high plants will be transplanted in a few weeks to a larger field, where they should grow to 4-5 inches, says Monk, dressed in a denim jacket and faded farmer's cap to guard against the morning's drizzle.

Monk knows spring will be along soon when tree buds seem to be reaching for every raindrop and ray of sunshine.

The next sure-fire sign is green grass, he says. "Then we know nature's ripe to get stuff in the ground."

For veteran travelers of the two-lane highway, another harbinger of the season is a fluorescent orange triangle tacked to the back of a 15-mph tractor. But the slow-moving machine is likely to turn off at a nearby farm, allowing the impatient driver to pass on.

All along the highway, farmers are preparing soil for tobacco, corn, grain or soybeans. Some fields are dark, with soil overturned and ready for planting.

On the porch of a home near Faison, a man holds a small child on his lap while boys in T-shirts toss softballs on the front lawn. Spring onions push up through the dry, winter grass. Their scent comes through the car window on a zephyr of cool air.

On a farm just south of Rose Hill, black smoke twirls like a tornado from a red-

orange fire burning off last year's crop. The smoke and floating ash sting the eyes and tickle the noses of passing drivers. A woman wands the flames, wiping her eyes with a small white cloth.

To Judy Bryan, who works at the Duplin winery in Rose Hill, the warm air means beach weather is near. She points to tiny blossoms on a

grape vine as evidence of spring's approach. But it reminds her also of fall, when the vine will turn brown again.

Like freight cars on the railroad tracks lugging so much of the highway's route, the seasons too rumble unceasingly through this landscape.

Welcome, spring.

## School System Requests More Funds From County

A budget request of \$3,143,297 from county funds was approved by the Duplin County Board of Education last week.

The request amounts to \$672,013 more than the school system received from the county last year when \$2,471,194 was appropriated as the local share of the budget.

The proposed budget will be presented to the county commissioners at their April 5 meeting. The school board will appear before the commissioners to explain and defend their budget on April 21.

On change, an increase in the proposed vocational education teacher fund, was made by the board. Board member R.E. Wilkins proposed continuing the 12-month pay schedule for agriculture

teachers. The school administration had proposed reducing it to 10 months because of federal fund reductions. Wilkins' proposal added \$28,591 to the \$3,114,706 proposed by the administration.

The school budget request calls for \$2,783,022 for current expense and \$360,275 for capital outlay.

Faced with federal fund reductions of \$100,000 in vocational programs for the 1982-83 fiscal year, the board could have eliminated the extended day program and two positions in agricultural education. It refused the school administration's proposal to cut two months from the pay schedule of the six agricultural teachers but did approve cutting the pay schedule of the five extended day teachers from 12 months to 10 months.

The proposal allots \$639,000 for plant operation including fuel and utilities costs, an increase of \$149,000 from the current budget. Maintenance of plant equipment is budgeted at \$251,175, an increase of \$50,000 from the current year.

Calling for a \$60,000 increase for utilities, the proposed budget would provide \$325,000 for fuel oil and electricity. The 1981-82 budget provided \$265,000.

The board also will appeal to the county commissioners next month for a supplement to the figure for utilities because of increased electricity rates in the past year.

Cost of employee benefits is projected at \$123,402 for the next fiscal year compared with \$98,881 at present.

Some other proposed in-

creases included: \$54,000 for 2.5 assistant principal positions; \$59,000 for taking over eight clerical and media center positions now paid by the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act; and \$20,500 for one new guidance counselor for junior high school.

A new item is the \$100,000 set aside for a capital outlay fund for major renovation or construction.

The proposal also provides 5 percent salary increases plus step increases for county-paid school employees unless the legislature reduces the anticipated increases for state-paid school employees.

The system received about \$11 million from state and federal sources during the current fiscal year, principally for salaries. The state pays salaries of most of the teachers in the system.

## Liberty Cart Season To Include Rock Musical

Sounds of rock music will join those of musketry and the peddler's cart among the trees of William Rand Kenan Jr. Memorial Amphitheater when THE LIBERTY CART opens its seventh season in July.

The historical outdoor drama will open July 9, a week earlier than last year and continue through Aug. 22.

Two additional productions are scheduled for this season. The religious rock musical, "Godspell," based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew, will be presented on five Wednesday nights starting July 21.

A production for children, "Goliwhoppers" by Flora Atkin, will be presented on three Sundays at the park beside Kenansville's historic

Cool Spring.

Several professional cast members have been signed up, according to Jim Johnson, general manager. The two additional productions improve chances of retaining former cast members, he added.

"The young actors need variety to build their repertoires, and the three productions will give them more opportunity," he said.

The professional cast members, 20 actors and actresses, will perform in all three productions.

THE LIBERTY CART'S leading role of Phenix Pickett will be played for the second year by Kerry Maher, who has been associated with the production for three seasons.

The production requires a

cast of 60-70 people, of which all but the 20 professional cast members will be local residents. Some of them have appeared in all six of the preceding productions, Johnson said.

THE LIBERTY CART, by Randolph Umberger, portrays the story of Colonial and pre-Civil War eastern North Carolina through the ageless observer, peddler Pickett, who pulls his cart full of back-country needs through a century of history.

While there will be some changes in the drama's lines to improve continuity, the major change this year will be the director. Rich Boyd, who had directed the previous productions, went to Nashville, Tenn., to become associated with Grand Old Opry productions. David

Thomas, who worked with the production last year, will be the new director.

The local members of the cast who make up the chorus and the "townspeople" begin rehearsals June 10. The professional cast begins rehearsing June 21. Non-residents of the area will be housed in the old Kenansville Elementary School near the theater.

"We're operating on a \$105,000 budget," Johnson said. The production receives some state aid as well as contributions from area residents and the Kenan family foundations.

"We need \$30,000 to \$40,000 from ticket sales," Johnson said. Ticket prices will be the same as last year: \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children through 12 years of age.

the Wallace-Rose Hill High School and Chinquapin No. 2 school failed after about 20 months. The contractor tried something new, Rhodes said.

"He guaranteed replacement if it didn't work, and he's making good on that," he said. "It won't cost the county anything extra."

Rhodes said installation of a new roof costs from \$150 to \$200 per 100 square feet.

sphalt. The roofing paper under the asphalt couldn't take the strain and tore, Rhodes added. This allowed the roofs to leak. He said he had checked with state school officials who agreed with his idea of the cause.

"We are proposing in the next budget to reroof parts of four buildings," Rhodes said. He said crews are patching roofs on numerous

school buildings. The roofs of the newer school buildings don't last as long as roofs of older buildings. "Builders tell me the material they get now is not as good as it used to be," Rhodes said.

"We used to get 20 to 25 years out of the roofs on our older buildings. Now we are lucky to get 7-15 years," Rhodes said the roofs on

### MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR SHERIFF

On Thursday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Duplin County Superior Courtroom in the courthouse, the Kenansville Jaycees will present a "Meet the Candidates" evening with the candidates for Sheriff of Duplin County.



FOUR GALLONS OF BLOOD have been donated to the American Red Cross by Martha Williams, left, of Beulaville. Mrs. Williams is shown receiving a four-gallon pin on Thursday, March 4, when the

Bloodmobile was in Kenansville. Presenting the pin is Mrs. Victoria Stephens of Kenansville. Both ladies were volunteers of the Bloodmobile while it was in Kenansville.



NEW LIBRARY CARD SYSTEM - Mrs. N.B. Boney of Kenansville was issued number one, the first of the new plastic identification cards for book borrowers at the Duplin County-Dorothy Wightman Library. Mrs. Ethel Kelly, library employee, is pictured with Mrs. Boney and explained the system and its merits. Each library patron wishing to check out a book will be issued a card with their name and a number. To check out a book, the book card and the borrower's card

will be placed in the stamping machine. The borrower's number and the due date will be stamped on the card. This new system, according to Librarian Robert Williams, was purchased through a state grant. The library has two of the date-marking machines — one for the main library and one for the bookmobile. Checking out a book with this new card system will be much faster. It will also make record-keeping on loaned books easier, says Miss Williams.