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Graham House Inn Makes First Application For License

Kenansville Voters Ok Mixed Drink Sales

Voters approved a municipal liquor-by-the-drink referendum last week but rejected the on-premises sale of malt beverages.

The vote to approve mixed drink sales passed by a 135 to 113 margin, while the malt beverage sales issue was defeated by a vote of 140 to 99.

A total of 250 of the town's 461 registered voters cast ballots on Tuesday.

The vote on mixed drinks, the first in Duplin County, followed a petition to the county board of elections requesting the referendum. The petition was signed by 130 registered voters.

Kenansville already has an ABC store, as do the Duplin towns of Warsaw, Wallace and Faison. Wallace remains the only community that allows on-premise sale of malt beverages.

Businesses which obtain licenses to sell mixed drinks in Kenansville will buy liquor from the ABC store. A special \$10 per gallon tax on the liquor purchased for liquor-by-the-drink sales will be split, with the state receiving \$2.50, the county \$3.375 and the town \$4.125 for each gallon sold.

He said the sale of mixed drinks should attract business and provide additional tax income to the town.

Benny Prince, chairman of the town's Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, said at least two and possibly three restaurants in the town have the facilities to qualify

The first application for a liquor-by-the-drink license in Kenansville was to be carried to Raleigh Friday, three days after local residents voted to permit mixed drink sales.

The applicant is Dixon Hall, lessor of the Graham House Inn restaurant. "I'm hand-carrying it to the state ABC board," Hall said last week.

Hall hopes mixed drink sales can begin at his restaurant Oct. 1.

The sale of mixed drinks in Kenansville was approved last week by a vote of 135 to 113. Mayor Don Suttles said that 250 of the town's 461 registered voters cast ballots. Suttles termed the 54 percent turnout "good."

"It's what the people wanted," Suttles said of the approval. "It's hard to tell how much effect it will have, but I think it should help us."

He said the sale of mixed drinks should attract business and provide additional tax income to the town.

Benny Prince, chairman of the town's Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, said at least two and possibly three restaurants in the town have the facilities to qualify

for mixed drink licenses. But he said the Graham House Inn is the only one that plans to apply immediately.

Randy Knight, a state ABC agent in Raleigh, said the law to permit such a step became effective Feb. 1. Before that time, he said, a referendum on such sales was required.

Prince said any restaurant getting a mixed drink license must purchase its liquor from the town's ABC store and pay a special tax of \$10 per gallon. Prince said the store will be able to handle such sales with little additional expense and no additional employees even through it involves "a change in the way we handle the liquor."

The state will receive \$2.50 of the special tax, Duplin County, \$3.375, and the town, \$4.125. The town also receives 55 percent of the regular tax on liquor sold in its ABC store.

Although town voters rejected the general sale of malt beverages in last week's referendum, Hall plans to request a license to sell wine from the state ABC board.

"A quirk in the state liquor laws permits qualified restaurants in a town with an ABC store to obtain licenses



The Graham House Inn

Duplin Watershed Work To Begin Soon

Actual construction on the Limestone Creek Watershed project in eastern Duplin County may begin next month after more than 20 years of talking and planning.

"We will open bids on the first phase of the work at 10 a.m. Sept. 27 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse in Kenansville," Kenneth Futreal, soil conservationist said Friday.

"We have been assured of funding approval."

However, Futreal added, funding has been approved only for the Limestone Creek project at present. The adjacent Muddy Creek portion of the twin projects still is not funded.

"It seemed at times as if it'd never get started," he said. The conservation district will supervise the project.

"I didn't much believe it would ever get started, it's been in the works for so long," said George Cowan of Beulaville, chairman of the Duplin Watershed Improvement commissioners. "It's been 24 years since we had our first meeting on the idea in the Beulaville elementary school."

The initial project will consist of four miles of channel restoration on Limestone Creek from N.C. 24

west of Beulaville to near Hallsville where Limestone Creek empties into the Northeast Cape Fear River.

Futreal estimated the cost at \$50,000. The contractor will be allowed 107 days for the work, he added.

The total project for the creek includes 25.1 miles of channel restoration, 17.2 miles of channel excavation, a 68-acre recreational pond and 60 acres of recreational area development around the lake. The restoration will involve clearing, snagging and some excavation on the creek channel and channel excavation on 17.2 miles of laterals.

"If all goes well we'll probably be ready for construction of this phase in December or January," he said. The contractor will be allowed 470 days to complete the work.

The Limestone Creek project involves 41,000 acres of frequently flooded or waterlogged land, with drainage problems brought about largely by 250 years of logging, farming and storms.

Cost of the planned project

is estimated at more than \$2 million, including the recreational area and pond on Cabin Creek, three miles north of Beulaville.

Land treatment programs

by individual land owners are well underway. This work is vital to the project's success, Futreal said.

The second phase cost is estimated at \$600,000 to \$700,000.

"If all goes well we'll

probably be ready for con-

struction of this phase in

December or January," he

said. The contractor will be

allowed 470 days to complete

the work.

The planned land treat-

ment cost is about \$200,000

of which the government will

pay about \$130,000, Futreal

said.

The Limestone and Muddy

Creek projects originated as

one project, but were sepa-

rated as federal funding

tightened.

It covers 31,000 acres from

Beulaville and N.C. 24 south

as far as Chinquapin. Futreal

said the project is still "in

the works" despite lack of

funding at present.

Albertson Chairs Committee To Establish Scholarship In Honor Of George F. Landen

A group of Duplin County citizens has formed a committee chaired by Charles Albertson to endow a scholarship at James Sprunt Technical College in honor of George F. Landen.

Serving on the committee with Albertson are Keith Smith, Beulaville; Auline Smith, Chinquapin; Mary Andrews, Chinquapin; Patricia Kelly, Wallace; Thomasine Kennedy, Chinquapin; John Lanier, Beulaville; Hallie Albertson, Beulaville; Doris Bostic, Beulaville; and L.S. Guy, Faison.

The committee has adopted as their goal the endowment of a two-year scholarship to be awarded to an outstanding student who plans to enroll in the general

education program at JSTC. The committee will need to raise \$5,000 to reach their goal.

This effort will honor

Landen of Chinquapin who

served Duplin County as an

outstanding educator for 35

years. He returned in 1975.

Landen was principal of Chinquapin School No. 1 for

12 years. Prior to becoming

principal, he was a classroom

teacher from 1940 to 1963.

He is a graduate of Warsaw

High School and Presby-

terian College in Clinton,

S.C. Landen is an active

member of the Chinquapin

Presbyterian Church where

he serves as an elder, and he

is a member of the Chin-

quapin School Board. He is

married to the former Lu-

ise Chasten of Cairo, Ga.,

and they have one son, Jeff,

who is now teaching at the

B.F. Grady School, Albert-

son.

Albertson states that persons interested in making a contribution to the scholarship in honor of Landen should contact him or Donna Thigpen, executive director of James Sprunt Foundation at JSTC, by phoning 296-1341. He further stated that all contributions to the fund are tax deductible.

"This scholarship will honor a man who has contributed much to the education of our youth and will provide the means for a worthy student to further their education," said Albertson.

Aerial Photo Of Duplin County Fair Site By Joe Lanier

Duplin United In Fair Effort

By Ruth Wells
Publicity Chairman

Unity is the magic word relative to the upcoming Duplin County Agribusiness Fair to be held at the Kenan Memorial Auditorium Complex in Kenansville, Oct. 4th through 9th.

"There is just no way of knowing how many people throughout the county are uniting their efforts to make the fair a reality," said Roy Houston, one of the fair coordinators. "I really felt Duplin was ready for a fair, but I had no idea the whole county would unite so whole-

heartedly in this venture."

It really does make you feel proud to be a part of such a team effort. And it does seem there is a job for just about everyone.

If you are one of the few so far uninvolvolved, wouldn't you like to join us? There are many things to be done, many things, both large and small. One very small, very important item is to be sure everyone knows about the fair. Tell your neighbor! Ask him to be on the lookout for the Tabloid coming out in the local papers in about a week. The success of the fair depends largely upon the in-

terest in local persons to enter competitions, and display exhibits. There is manual labor to be done in enclosing the facility with fence and in many other ways.

The following list of committee chairpersons may be contacted to offer your time and talents as we further unite our efforts to make the first annual Duplin County Agribusiness Fair a huge success. Parking - George Garner, Kenansville; Educational Exhibits - Lois Britt, Kenansville; Commercial Exhibits - David Byrd, Kenansville; Catalog Sales -

Kenneth Lanier, Wallace; Poultry Day - Billy Thomas, Rose Hill; Entertainment - Charles Albertson, Beulaville, Yvonne Patterson, Kenansville; Treasurer - John Smith, Kenansville; Security and First-aid - Arliss Albertson, Beulaville; Publicity - Ruth Wells, Kenansville; Printing - Ike Riddick, Warsaw; Facilities - Keith Hair, Eber Watson, Bob Tart, Mae Spicer, Judy Wallace, Ray Rhinehart, David Allen Sandlin and, of course, our coordinators: Lois Britt, Roy Houston and Kay Williamson.

Meet me at the Fair!

Enrollment Declines In Duplin Schools

Duplin County schools had 8,389 students enrolled through the fifth day of the fall term which started Aug. 25.

The total was down 125 from the 8,514 enrolled at the same time last year, continuing an enrollment decline that began about 25 years ago with the movement of rural population to the nation's urban areas.

However, the kindergarten enrollment of 619 showed an increase of 42 students from the fifth class day last year.

In contrast, the first-grade enrollment of 627 students showed a decrease of 23 from last year.

Enrollment decreased from last year in grades 2 through 5 but increased in grades 6 and 7. Enrollment in the four high schools totaled 2,267 students, down 102 from the fifth day last year. Three of the high schools include grades 9-12. James Kenan, however, only includes grades 10-12. Therefore, total enrollment in the high schools is less

than the total in the four high school grades.

East Duplin High School had 769 students enrolled last week on Tuesday compared with 819 a year ago; Wallace-Rose Hill High, 702 compared with 741 last year; James Kenan, 512 compared with 529; and North Duplin, 284 compared with 280 last year.

Enrollment in the four high school grades totaled 2,481 students compared with 2,545 a year ago. Grade 12, with 550 students, lost 30

from last year; grade 11 with 592 gained 11; grade 10 with 668 lost 49; and grade 9 with 672 gained 4.

The eighth-grade enrollment of 594 students was down 50 from a year earlier and the seventh-grade total of 685 was down 12 from a year ago.

The sixth-grade gained 45 students with 720 enrolled and 675 a year ago.

Enrollments of other grades were: second, 628 and 650 a year ago; third, 637 and 651; fourth, 642 and 684;

