



Awards To Outstanding 4-H Members

The annual Duplin County Commissioners Winner's Circle 4-H banquet was held last week at the Country Squire. In order for a county 4-H'er to attend the banquet, he or she must have won an award during the year. Former Duplin 4-H member and Kenan Scholar from James Kenan High School, Greg Swain was the guest speaker. Commissioners' awards were presented to four Duplin 4-H'ers by Duplin Commissioner Dovie Penney. The selection

of the four most outstanding 4-H'ers is done on a point system, Penney pointed out. Pictured above, left to right, County Commissioner Dovie Penney stands with the four award winners, Roxanne Pearsall of Wallace, Andrea Kenan of Wallace, Amy West of Warsaw, Shannon Flowers of Warsaw and guest speaker Greg Swain.

Faison Sets Annexation Hearing

The Faison town board reviewed an annexation report at their regular meeting last week and set April 3 as the public hearing date, moving the Winifred St. project toward completion.

According to town attorney Garrett Ludlum, approximately three acres are included in the proposed annexation. Unlike an earlier requested annexation in the area of Winifred St., the current project is not voluntary. While some residents requested annexation in the current project, others opposed the action.

The report compiled by the town attorney stated more than 75 percent

of the proposed annexation is used as residential property. The area is also currently serviced by town fire and police protection and has available water and sewerage connections. The annexation will add only the availability of trash pick-up services. According to Ludlum, the report is necessary to meet requirements in annexation proceedings by Board action. A copy of the report and map of the area to be annexed will be posted in the town hall until the public hearing.

The commissioners unanimously agreed to give town works employee Archie Rackley Jr. a raise. Rackley is

a part-time employee working approximately 30 hours a week. Rackley was hired and working at minimum wage.

Board members approved a police department request to purchase a new walkie-talkie radio. The radio to be replaced had been repaired several times and needed additional work, board member Bill Igoe said. The cost of the radio, if traded in, would be \$663.

Commissioner Jane Hollingsworth reported on meetings with Melba Laney of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. Hollingsworth pointed out Laney's

efforts to encourage small towns to revitalize their downtown areas. Hollingsworth requested the town board assist local merchants in organizing efforts to look at downtown revitalization. She added, at a meeting earlier in the day, the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce had offered to hold joint meetings with Faison merchants and downtown property owners on revitalization. Board members requested the Mayor talk with downtown property owners and determine the interest in the project before additional efforts are organized.

Duplin School Board Sets Budget Dates

Money matters occupied last week's meeting of the Duplin County Board of Education.

The board adopted the calendar it will use to prepare its 1985-86 school system budget.

To cut down on bookkeeping problems, the board reduced the rate it will pay employees who drive their own cars on school business from 25 cents to 20.5 cents per mile. The Internal Revenue Service recently ruled that mileage payments in excess of 20.5 cents per mile must be reported as income.

The board discussed another new IRS requirement that employees who drive school system cars to and from work show \$4 per day income for use of the cars.

A \$4,500 contract for engineering work to connect the Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary school's sewer system to the town system was awarded to the L.E. Wooten Co. of Raleigh. Rose Hill is building a sewage treatment plant. The school is about three miles north of Rose Hill.

The budget calendar calls for Jane Rich, school finance officer, to present drafts of departmental budgets by Feb. 18. The school administration will hold review sessions with departments between Feb. 18 and March 25.

The final budget proposal will be presented to the school board April 9. Suggestions by the board will be incorporated by April 16. The board will present its budget request to the county commissioners April 24.

The Chinquapin Presbyterian Church will receive the first chance to purchase the plot where the Chinquapin principal's house was built. The building is no longer used and has been declared surplus property. The board has not decided whether to dispose of the land. Church records show the county school system paid \$125 for the plot, which is on a corner of the church property.

The board plans to ask the federal Environmental Protection Administration for a \$60,000 grant to remove asbestos insulation and replace it with acceptable material. It joined a class-action suit seeking damages from the Johns-Manville Co., a major asbestos supplier.

Shelby Kilpatrick, food services supervisor, reported on a required random verification of at least three percent of applications for free or reduced price lunches. The check found that 160 out of the 196 applicants checked qualified for free or reduced price lunches. Thirty were declared ineligible and six were changed from free to reduced price qualifications.

Altogether, 4,036 applications were received. She said 81 percent of the system's enrollment, or 6,400 students, eat lunch daily and 28 percent, or 2,200, eat breakfast. She said 48.4 percent of those served lunch receive it free and 9.2 percent receive lunch at reduced rates. Eighty percent of those eating breakfast receive their meals free and seven receive them at reduced rates.

Towns Fear Federal Funds Will Dry Up

The proposed demise of revenue sharing would disrupt cities' services and force property tax increases, area town officials said this past week.

Revenue sharing is a \$4.6 billion program that returns federal tax money to 40,000 local jurisdictions with virtually no restrictions on its use.

In Duplin County, Warsaw has used revenue sharing to replace police cars, garbage trucks and other capital outlay items, said Alfred Herring, town clerk. Without the money, a substantial tax increase probably would be necessary, he said.

Kenansville is using revenue-sharing money to pay for its first town-owned town hall.

Duplin County has financed school construction and major repair with revenue-sharing grants. The county is scheduled to receive \$869,000 in 1984-85. The county has appropriated \$535,000 of the money for school capital outlay.

Replacing revenue-sharing grants could force Duplin to add 16 cents per \$100 assessed valuation to the tax rate, which is now 75 cents, County Manager Ralph Cottle said.

Wallace would have to increase property taxes by 12 cents to replace

revenue sharing, said Robert Hyatt, town administrator.

The officials said the towns do not have the tax base to offset, through property tax increases, the loss of revenue-sharing funds. The towns would have to do without such items as new equipment. School systems would lose most of their construction funding, Cottle said.

Kenansville has a tax rate of 69 cents and is scheduled to receive \$27,960 revenue sharing this fiscal year. The town made a \$33,000 down payment for its new town hall last year and owes \$40,000, to be paid over a two-year period.

Its tax rate would have to increase 18.6 cents if it were to lose revenue-sharing grants and make up the loss through property taxes.

Herring said Warsaw is scheduled to receive \$75,639 in revenue-sharing grants this year. The town uses revenue-sharing money for basic capital outlay such as police cars and garbage trucks and for the recreation department, he said.

The town property tax rate now is 73 cents. It would have to go up to about \$1 to make up for the loss of the revenue sharing.

"When it first came out it was gravy, but it has migrated into operating expenses," Herring said.

Beulaville Board Makes Effort To Maintain License Service

During the February meeting, Beulaville Commissioners agreed to try to maintain the two-day-a-week service of the driver's license examiner in the town.

Town Mayor Wilbur Hussey was appointed to begin contacting officials about maintaining the service of the driver's license examiner for Beulaville citizens. Plans had been stated in earlier meetings of the Board to discontinue the service of the driver's license examiner in Beulaville and centrally locate the office in the towns of Kenansville and Wallace five days a week.

The board passed a commercial sewer ordinance setting rates at \$10 per 1,000 gallons. The rate for commercial businesses came as a result of Alexander Judge's request to dump sewage collected by his tank-cleaning service at the Beulaville town treatment plant. The rates were passed on a four-to-one vote with Commissioner Rabon Maready opposing.

T.I. Chasten was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Beulaville Planning and Zoning Board. Chasten was approved on a four-to-one vote with S.A. Blizzard opposed. Chasten will fill the vacancy left after Quincy Green resigned.

Copies of the proposed extra-territorial jurisdiction regulations were presented to the board. The town board and Planning and Zoning Board are scheduled to discuss the regulations during a February 12 meeting.



Officers Installed For Kenansville Area Chamber Of Commerce

The Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual membership dinner Feb. 5 at the Country Squire. The featured guest speaker was Al Callaway, director of the Division of Business Assistance of the North Carolina Department of Commerce. New Chamber officers and executive board members were

installed during the meeting. Pictured above, outgoing Chamber of Commerce president Charles Sharpe, guest speaker Al Callaway, and newly-installed Chamber officers Gray Morgan, president and Katie Brown, treasurer. Not pictured, Emily Killelte, vice-president.



Chamber Recognizes New Executive Board

The Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual membership dinner Feb. 5 at the Country Squire and recognized the new officers and executive board members. Pictured above are members of the

newly-installed Chamber executive board, left to right, Paul Phillips, Frank Quinn, Bert Alabaster and Charles Ingram. Not pictured is board member John Ramirez.

Burning Case Reopened After 5 Years

A probably cause hearing for Melvin Guy Williams, 42, of Beulaville on charges of fraudulently setting fire to a dwelling and conspiracy to set fire to a dwelling has been scheduled for Feb. 21 in Duplin County District Court in Kenansville.

The warrant states that Williams owned the house. Its address was Route 2, Box 12, Pink Hill, in eastern Duplin County. The warrant charges Williams set the fire on October 3, 1979, to collect insurance.

Williams' first appearance hearing was held Thursday before District Judge James N. Martin of Clinton.

He is free on \$5,000 bond.

Facing the same charges in connection with the fire is Paul Chester Osik, 27, of Kenansville, now serving a sentence on other charges in the state prison unit at Kenansville.

T.D. Batchelor of the State Bureau of Investigation arrested Williams Wednesday. He placed the charges against Osik on the same day. Bail for Osik has been set at \$20,000.

During a telephone conversation, Melvin Williams made the following statement: "I am not guilty and am sure I will be exonerated when the case comes to court."