

# Duplin Times

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## Volunteers Recognized

Duplin County Agricultural Extension Service officials and volunteers met with Rep. Wendell Murphy of Rose Hill in Raleigh at the school of agriculture and life sciences legislative dinner last week. Pictured, left to right, front row: Jimmy Sauls Jr., Warsaw, chairman of the advisory system; Mrs. Lois G. Britt, chairman, Duplin County Extension Service Rep. Murphy; Mrs. Thelma Murphy, Kenansville, community and rural

development program committee; back row - Mark Vinson, Kenansville, program participant for the home economics committee; Mrs. Ruby Brinson, Magnolia, 4-H program committee; Mrs. Ruth Wells, Kenansville, community and rural development program committee; and Woodrow Jackson, Beulaville, agricultural program committee.

## Four Houses To Fall

# Kenansville Opens Bids

Barris Construction Co. of Kinston submitted the low bid at \$27,935.50 for street work in Kenansville. The town board opened bids at its meeting last week.

The project includes 10,270 square yards of resurfacing and 560 yards of patching.

The board asked the company for a street-by-street breakdown of the cost, to determine how much Duplin County should contribute for work on Duplin Street, which lies between the courthouse and the county agricultural center. The county board has approved up to \$10,000 for work on that street.

Mary Ann Jenkins, town clerk, said the town has about \$40,000 in its Powell Bill allocation from the state for street work.

The board agreed to have four houses in the Department of Housing and Urban Development target

area of southern Kenansville demolished. Floyd Adams of McDavid Associates, the firm managing the HUD project, said the four-year-old project must be completed in June.

Nine houses were scheduled to be demolished. Notices were mailed to the owners. Four owners responded and agreed to allow the houses to be torn down. Five did not respond. One notice was sent to the wrong address, and the board agreed to wait for a response from the owner before doing anything about the house.

Houses of the four owners who did not respond will be untouched, although they may be condemned later.

Owners of houses scheduled for demolition in the target area have three choices:

- Accept payment equal to the value of the houses. They will be able to build new structures on the

property after the demolition.

- Repair the houses to bring them up to acceptable standards.

- Take no action, in which cases the town might condemn the houses. It could force the owners to pay for the demolition or reimburse the town for demolition expenses.

The board also appointed Emil Coggins to a three-year term as town Alcoholic Beverage Control board chairman by a 3-2 vote to succeed Bennie Prince. Commissioners Ronnie Bostic, Earl Hatcher and Jimmie Newkirk voted for the appointment. Commissioners Mark Vinson and Betty Long voted against it.

Five or six parking spaces will be eliminated at N.C. 11 and Bessley Street near the Duplin-Sampson Mental Health Department because parked vehicles block motorists' view of the intersection.

# Car Lot Building Burns

Investigators last week were still trying to find the cause of a fire that gutted the former Brewer Motor & Equipment Co. building on U.S. 117 in Wallace. The fire was discovered by Wallace Police Officer Steve Murray.

Forty-five volunteer firefighters of the Wallace and Rose Hill fire departments brought the blaze under control in about 45 minutes, said Wallace Fire Chief Thomas Townsend. The heat ruptured some pipes on liquid petroleum gas tanks, causing a problem for fire-fighters for a short time, he added.

Townsend said that he could not place a value on the loss. While the

exterior walls are standing, the interior is extensively damaged. Townsend said the State Bureau of Investigation investigated the fire by he had no report from it.

Brewer Motor Co., operated by Craven Brewer of Warsaw, went out of business Feb. 11 after nine years. Townsend said some office equipment remained to be moved. Otherwise, he said, just about everything had been removed from the structure before the fire.

The building was about 15 years old, Townsend said.

The building was owned by Brewer Motor & Equipment Co., according to Bill Branch, city executive for Branch Banking & Trust Co.

in Wallace.

BB&T and N. Carl Wolfe Jr. of Burgaw, who hold mortgages on the building, acquired insurance for the building one day before Brewer Motor's insurance coverage on the building expired, Branch said. Branch said a third investor holds a mortgage on the building.

The firm had been a franchised International Harvester Co. and Chrysler Corp. dealer since 1976. The company closed "due to continuing losses" and the fact that the company's major farm equipment supplier, International Harvester's Agricultural Division, was recently sold, according to a company press release last month.

# New Offices Gives Patrol Station Three Times Space Of Old

The District Highway Patrol and the Drivers License Examiner located in Kenansville have been operating in new offices for three months.

The old location of the two divisions of the North Carolina Department of Transportation next to the Kenansville Employment Security Commission, was a third of the size of its new location on NC 24 East. The two departments are located in the old Kenansville Production Credit Association building.

Office space for the license

examiner and representatives of the Division of Motor Vehicles of the Department of Transportation has been increased from one room to six, said Highway Patrol Sgt. W.M. Autry. The license examiner occupies three rooms, two for testing and a waiting area. The remaining three rooms are offices for the insurance hearing officer, process servicer and license hearing officer.

The Highway Patrol officers occupy six offices. The district officer has 13 patrolmen based in Kenansville. Each of the two departments

has separate entrances and waiting areas. And, the old location was leased; Autry pointed out the new building is owned by the Department of Transportation.

"The extra room in the new building helps us function more efficiently and effectively," Highway Patrol Sgt. W.M. Autry said. "In addition we are more convenient to the people we serve in our new location. We also have better parking and less traffic congestion than in the old location."

# Con Games Subject Of AARP Meeting

"Fraud and Other Con Games," a public service program for persons interested in learning about the most common swindles and fraudulent schemes, will be presented by the Duplin County chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons

on March 21 at 1 p.m. in the Senior Citizens Center in Kenansville.

This will be a luncheon meeting and members must notify the Kenansville office, 296-1511 by Monday, March 18, in order to reserve their ticket.

The program is a slide/tape

presentation that examines con games and swindles and presents tips on how to avoid them. The program is part of a series of criminal justice programs available from the AARP. All interested community residents are invited to attend.

# Duplin Has First Pick For Architect

The Duplin County commissioners tentatively chose an architect Wednesday for the proposed expansion of the county's social services building in Kenansville.

The tentative choice is Ballard, McKim and Sawyer Architects of Wilmington. The commissioners have estimated the cost of the expansion at \$500,000. With the renovation, the commissioners want to keep the colonial-style appearance of the building.

The commissioners also voted 3-2 against establishing a 911 emergency telephone system for the county. Commissioners Bill Costin and Dovie Penney voted for the system.

If the system had been approved, it could have been put into effect

only in the Kenansville, Faison and Wallace areas. Telephone equipment is not available in the rest of the county to allow the system to go into effect.

As he has done before, Emergency Services Coordinator Hiram Brinson recommended that the system be put into effect.

Determined to find someone to rent a farm owned by the county, the commissioners directed county Accountant Russell Tucker to continue advertising the land. The farm was acquired by the county for a landfill, but the land is not needed yet.

The farm has 10 acres of grapes and nearly 57 acres of cleared crop lands. Tucker told the commissioners that previous advertisements

have failed to find a renter.

The commissioners took no action on a request by a state engineer to clean up the Northeast Cape Fear River in Duplin County.

Keith Oates, an environmental engineer with the N.C. Division of Health Services, told the commissioners that the river needs to be cleared of logs in several places. The county, Oates said, has the knowledge and the equipment to do the job.

Commissioner D.J. Fussell objected to using county money for the project, saying it was the state's responsibility. But Oates said, counties will have to spend money to protect their natural resources.

The commissioners held a secret session to discuss personnel.

# Duplin Education Board Policy Urges Homework

One to 1½ hours four nights a week is recommended for high school students.

The Duplin County Board of Education has adopted a policy that encourages teachers to give students homework.

The new policy, approved last week, suggests certain amounts of homework time for students.

For example, students in kindergarten and first grade should spend 10 to 15 minutes three or four days a week on homework, the policy says. One to 1½ hours four nights a week

is recommended for high school students.

The policy, which will go into effect in the next school year, was developed by a committee of teachers, parents and students. Its purpose is to promote achievement, understanding and communication among teachers, parents and students, according to the policy.

In other action, the school board:

- Endorsed efforts by James Sprunt Technical College to become a community college. The endorsement came at the request of Carl Price, the college's president.

- Decided not to hold a teachers' work day last week. Instead, the day will be used to make up for classes that were canceled Jan. 29 because of icy roads. As planned already, Friday was a vacation day for students and faculty.

- Changed its April meeting schedule. Rather than meeting April 2 and 9, the board will meet April 9 and 16. The meetings will be at 7:30 p.m. on both days.

- Decided to swear in the Countywide Advisory Committee at 7 p.m. April 23 at E.E. Smith School in Kenansville.

# I-40, Other Highway Jobs Get State Board's Blessing

Small steps were made last week on construction of Interstate 40 when the state Board of Transportation approved requests for engineering for two segments of the highway.

The segments are a 6.9-mile stretch from U.S. 117 to north of Secondary Road 1918 east of Magnolia, and a 2.4-mile stretch from about 0.3 miles south of S.R. 1105 to U.S. 117 south of Warsaw.

Work on each segment will cost about \$50,000.

The board also approved three other Duplin County projects.

It endorsed preliminary right of way acquisition plans for work on a bridge on N.C. 24 over the Northeast Cape Fear River and for work on a bridge over Muddy Creek on S.R. 1964 west of Chinquapin.

An additional \$15,000 was ear-

marked for preliminary engineering, right of way and utilities for the bridge on N.C. 41 over Island Creek southeast of Greenevers, which is east of Wallace. An appropriation of \$52,000 already has been approved for the work.

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Each of the items approved Friday had been recommended by the Department of Transportation staff.

# Sixth Arrest In Corn Thefts

A sixth man was arrested and charged with stealing more than \$8,000 worth of corn from a Mount Olive milling company and \$1,893.09 worth of soybeans from a Mount Olive-area farm, according to the Duplin County Sheriff's Department.

Thomas Moore, 25, of Faison was arrested Sunday and charged with six counts of felonious larceny, said Chief Deputy Sheriff Glenn Jernigan. Moore surrendered at Jernigan's home. He was released on \$4,000 bond.

Jernigan said thieves took trucks to a farm where the milling company leased a silo and to a farm leased by a farmer, loaded the grain and drove away. The thefts occurred between early November and late January.

Five other men have been arrested in the case, Jernigan said. Deputies have recovered 335 bushels. He was assisted in the investigation by Deputy Rodney Thigpen and John Payne of the State Bureau of Investigation.



Francesca Adler

Miss North Carolina 1984

## The Spirit And The Sparkle

Miss North Carolina 1984 Francesca Adler will be the mistress of ceremonies for the 1985 Miss Duplin County and Little Miss Duplin County pageant this Saturday night at the East Duplin Fine Arts Building in Beulaville. The pageant begins at 8 p.m. and is presented by the Duplin County Pageant Association. The theme for the 1985 pageant is "The Spirit and The Sparkle." A total of 12 contestants will be in the pageant, five vying for the Miss Duplin County title and seven for Little Miss Duplin County. Along with talent presentations from the contestants will be entertainment by Miss North Carolina Francesca Adler. She is pictured above and Francesca resides in Fayetteville where she had been employed in marketing and public relations until winning the title of Miss North Carolina.