

Duplin Times



PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXVIII NO. 16

USPS 162-860

KENANSVILLE, NC 28349

APRIL 18, 1985

16 PAGES THIS WEEK

10 CENTS PLUS TAX



Faison Merchants And Downtown Property Owners Organize

The downtown merchants and property owners in Faison have met twice this month in order to organize a group to spearhead a local revitalization project. Merchants and downtown property owners are calling the group the Faison Revitalization Committee and hope their efforts will lead to increased trade and

downtown beautification. Pictured above is a view of one side of the main downtown business section. According to Faison Mayor Francis McColman, the downtown section has about 30 store fronts, most of which are occupied.

Faison Organizes Revitalization Committee

Merchants and downtown property owners in Faison are organizing a Faison Revitalization Committee.

Volunteers to begin the Committee's organization came at a meeting of the local merchants and property owners held April 9. The meeting featured guest speaker Melba Laney of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development with a slide presentation on the possibilities for small town revitalization.

"I'm really here as an advisor," Melba Laney said. "I can point you in the right direction, but it's really up to the town."

"The first step for the town would be to organize," she said. "The town has to start somewhere; it has to decide what needs to be done. And, there needs to be a group in charge."

"In order not to get discouraged, the group has to realize it will take long term work," Laney said.

In order to include both property owners and merchants into a group to begin determining the needs of the town, business people selected the title Faison Revitalization Committee. The organization will be the only one of its type in the town because no Chamber of Commerce or Merchants Association exist in Faison. The Faison Revitalization Committee set their meeting date, beginning April 16, every third Tuesday night of the month.

The town of Faison has 30 store fronts in the downtown section of the city. And, according to Faison Mayor Francis McColman, only four are unoccupied, and some of the downtown store front buildings are used

by other local businesses as storage space. In all, the town of Faison has approximately 50 privilege licenses issued to local businesses, McColman said.

In an effort to contact businesses with news of the meeting, town officials personally delivered letters to local merchants and downtown property owners.

Volunteering to contact other merchants or downtown property owners not present for the April 9 meeting were Julie Lane of the Faison Pharmacy and Anna Graham of Southern Bank & Trust.

"Every project that has come forth in this town has shown good community support," Faison resident and businesswoman Nan Fesperman said. "And, I don't think this project will be any different."

Warsaw Puts Grant Money Where Request Is

The town recently applied for a Community Development Block Grant of \$750,000.

Saying that a small local appropriation would improve the town's chance of getting a Community Development Block Grant, the Warsaw Town Board has set up a matching fund of \$25,000.

The town recently applied for a Community Development Block Grant of \$750,000 to rehabilitate houses, drainage and paving on Garfield and George streets near the southern city limits west of U.S. 117.

Half of the grant, if approved, will be used for drainage and paving.

"I'm kind'a in favor of this because \$25,000 is not much to put up for \$375,000 for drainage and

paving," Mayor Sam Godwin said at last week's board meeting.

The matching fund will come from money the town received from National Spinning Co. for an Urban Development Action Grant. The town loaned the \$25,000 UDAG grant to the company. The federal grant program allows towns to retain loan payments for their own use.

In other business, the board discussed that it faces a possible \$36,000 bill from McDavid Associates plus a possible \$5,000 bill for an archeological study as a result of a recently approved \$900,000 UDAG grant. The town plans to loan the grant to Carroll's Foods of Warsaw and Goldsboro Milling Co. of Goldsboro as part of the financing package for an \$18 million turkey processing

plant the company wants to build in northern Duplin County.

The town had asked for \$936,000, but the grant was cut to \$900,000 and all \$900,000 has been earmarked for the turkey plant. The archeological study is required in the regulations governing UDAG, according to board members.

The town had planned to pay administrative costs of the loan with the difference between its grant request and the amount loaned to the company.

The board refused to rezone a tract on Hill Street from industrial to R-6, a residential classification. The R-6 zone would have allowed a mobile home park.

Property owners in the area objected to the rezoning.

Merchants Want Wallace Street Moved

Relocating a street could lure a shopping center to Wallace, according to a Wallace businessman.

A public hearing on the proposed relocation of Graham Street will be held by the town Board of Commissioners at 7 p.m. May 21.

Thursday night the board set the hearing at the request of Graham Phillips, a lawyer representing Joe Bryant, a Wallace businessman. A portion of Graham Street divides property owned by Bryant on the west side of U.S. 117.

Bryant told the board that if the street is moved to the edge of the property, a South Carolina firm might establish a shopping center on the tract.

Some of the property involved in the street relocation is owned by Dot's Grill.

The board will hold a special meeting following the May 21 hearing to decide on the street relocation question.

Following a public hearing Thursday night, the board decided to have McDavid Associates of Kenansville, community development consultants, submit an application for a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant.

If it is approved, the town would use \$600,000 for housing rehabilitation and \$150,000 for street, water system and drainage improvements along Brice, Dixon and Poplar streets in the northern part of town west of U.S. 117.

The board agreed to have the town lay tile and cover 424 feet of a drainage ditch near the Wallace medical center now under construction on the southern edge of town.

William Buckley, who represented the medical center building committee, said the center would pay for the tile. Cost of the material is estimated at about \$6,500.

Other improvements valued at \$13,850 were requested by Buckley. The board will act on these during its 1985-86 fiscal year budget considerations. The improvements include extension of a six-inch water line 140 feet to the center, paving the street by the center and installation of a 900-gallon septic tank.

The town would have to construct a more costly lift station to connect the center with the town sewer system.

The board awarded a contract for street resurfacing to Cumberland Paving Co. on a bid of \$55,014.20.

Farmers Line Up To Register Leaf Leases

As Monday's deadline approached for tobacco leases and designations, many tobacco farmers throughout the area spent time in lines.

"We didn't know how much to charge or pay" for leases, said Marvin Fountain of Fountaintown in eastern Duplin County, explaining his appearance in the long line at the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office in Kenansville last week.

"We still don't know," Fountain said.

Fountain referred to the continuing uncertainty over price support and the assessment to finance the no-net-cost-to-taxpayers tobacco price support program.

Designations and leases are recorded in county ASCS offices and the deadline was Monday.

Under the tobacco marketing program, farmers designate their tobacco production to auction warehouses of their choice for sale. The designation program ensures farm-

ers of a time and place to sell without extensive haggling and waiting in long lines.

The lease-transfer program allows growers to lease production quotas from owners who do not want to grow the crop.

Farmers who failed to designate their tobacco to warehouses before last Monday will be unable to sell tobacco when the markets open.

Farmers throughout eastern North Carolina crowded county farm program offices last week to lease tobacco and to designate markets.

"It's been slow getting arrangements for leasing," said James Coley of Faison. "I just came today to designate."

Coley said there is tobacco in his area "that's still not rented. The rent is about half the price of last year."

Coley and Fountain agreed most farmers leasing tobacco are paying from 30 to 35 cents a pound this year in their areas compared with 60 to 70 cents a pound last year. "The 25

cents a pound assessment's knocked it down," Coley added.

Area ASCS officials said the number of leases is exceeding the number of designations. They were concerned about the designation situation.

State ASCS officials, however, reported that the number of leases in the state appears to be lower than last year.

"Under the current law, 1987 is the first year we won't have the lease-and-transfer system, and I think growers and allotment holders are getting ready for that," John Cooper, state ASCS director said.

Cooper said a large number of farms are being combined which will reduce the number of farmers growing tobacco.

David English, Duplin ASCS director, said his office was jammed all day. "We haven't been able to make a count lately. We expect about 1,600 designations and about 2,200 leases by the time it's over," he added.

Brock Awarded Scholarship

Russell Leon Brock of Route 1, Beulaville, has been awarded the Duplin County Farm Bureau scholarship. This is a one-time scholarship in the amount of \$500 and is awarded to a deserving individual attending college in the field of agriculture or home economics.

The applications are mailed to all surrounding high schools. Once the applications are received from the schools, they are carefully considered by the scholarship committee. The committee then recommends to the Board of Directors of the Duplin County Farm Bureau the individual they feel is the best qualified and most deserving. After



Russell Brock

approval by the Board, the individual is notified and the scholarship funds are presented at an upcoming Board meeting.

Brock was also the nominee of the DCFB as their recommendation to the N.C. Farm Bureau scholarship committee for consideration of the R. Flake Shaw memorial scholarship. This scholarship is presented to 24 students in the amount of \$1,000 when attending a college in the field of agriculture or home economics. Russell will be considered for this by the committee in Raleigh.

Russell is the son of Garland and Fannie Brock and is presently active in FFA, Dobson Chapel Baptist Church and the running of the family's farm.

Duplin Education Board Takes Up Budget Requests

The Duplin County Board of Education will be asked to decide on budget requests totaling \$3,715,069 at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in a special meeting at the school system headquarters building in Kenansville.

The board received its first look at the administrative staff's 1985-86 budget proposals Tuesday night of last week.

The school administration is asking for \$3,295,755 for current expenses and \$419,314 for basic capital outlays for the 1985-86 fiscal year.

Construction plans and proposals for a school activities transportation system will be added next week.

The current expense request is \$612,350 more than the \$2,683,405 budget for the present fiscal year — an increase of 22.8 percent. The 1983-84 current expense budget was \$2,446,117.

Increases are requested for salaries, utilities and fuel expenses.

The budget proposal projects income of \$2,791,272 from county appropriations, \$150,000 from bonds and forfeitures from the courts, \$25,000 in interest, \$200,000 from carry-over funds and \$129,483 from miscellaneous sources.

Basic capital outlay includes maintenance and equipment funds. Last year the system received \$382,000 and in 1983-84, \$225,000 for this outlay.

The system has a capital reserve for new construction of more than \$520,000 from funds set aside in the past two fiscal years.

School administrators say the county needs a transportation plan for extra-curricular activities such as sports. Old school buses have been sold to individual schools to transport teams to extra-curricular

events. Because of the realignment of the county's sports conference, travel distances have increased and the old buses are inadequate, administrators say.

The board also agreed to allow the Army to use showers in the E.E. Smith School in Kenansville between 4 and 6 p.m. April 22 to May 24 while troops are on field exercises in the area.

A sale of surplus school supplies is scheduled at 10 a.m. April 27 in the maintenance shop south of Kenansville.

The board approved the 1985-86 school calendar. Teachers will return to work Aug. 15. Classes will start Aug. 26. The last day of classes for students will be June 6, 1986. The last day for teachers will be June 13. Students working to harvest tobacco will be excused from classes during the first two weeks.



Kenansville Area Chamber Of Commerce Welcomes Deno's

Deno's Pizza opened in January and prepares take-out orders of pizza and subs. The restaurant, located next to West Auto Parts in downtown Kenansville, is owned by Rudene Kennedy, Chamber of Commerce Executive

Board member Frank Quinn and President Grey Morgan welcome Deno's as a new area business. Pictured, left to right, Frank Quinn, Grey Morgan, Deno's employees Pam Rhodes and Ann Weis.