

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXVIII NO. 39 USPS 162-860 KENANSVILLE, NC 28349 SEPTEMBER 26, 1985 16 PAGES THIS WEEK 10 CENTS PLUS TAX

Duplin Elections Draw 51 Candidates

Duplin County contains 10 incorporated municipalities, which have 27 town board and mayoral seats open in the November election.

All Duplin County towns elect their officials on a nonpartisan basis and by plurality count. That means, Election Supervisor Carolyn Murphy said, they will conduct no primary elections next month. The county Board of Elections conducts the town elections.

By Friday's noon deadline, 51 candidates filed for offices in 10 Duplin County towns.

Nineteen candidates filed between noon Wednesday and the deadline.

By noon Wednesday, 32 candidates had filed for the various positions. The filing deadline for town offices for the November election was noon Friday.

The 1,410 Wallace voters are guaranteed at least a contest for

mayor with Mayor Earl W. Whitaker opposed by a former mayor, Melvin Cording. Two board seats are open and only the two incumbents have filed. They are J. Luther Powell and David E. Jordan.

Kenansville's 508 voters also are guaranteed a choice for mayor with Town Commissioner Jimmie D. Newkirk and newcomer Bennie L. Prince seeking the post. Only one candidate has filed so far for the two

board seats open. He is Earl Hatcher, an incumbent.

The 855 registered Rose Hill voters also will have a choice for mayor with Mayor Ben L. Harrell opposed by Perry Whaley. Three board seats are open, two for four-year terms, and one for a two-year term. Incumbents Felton R. Rackley and Gregory D. Miller have filed. Miller now holds the two-year term. He was appointed to fill an unexpired term.

The Town Board seats are open in Teachey, which has 125 voters. Incumbents Henry "Zeke" Wells Jr. and W.O. "Bill" Montford have filed for re-election.

No incumbent had filed for re-election by noon Wednesday in Magnolia, where three board seats are open. The town has 306 voters. Three newcomers have filed for the posts. They are Ilene Guy, Ruth Evans and Clarence W. Whaley.

The Warsaw mayor's seat will be sought by Thomas D. Johnson and Benjamin Eason. Mayor Sam Godwin had not filed by Wednesday. The town has 1,499 voters. A contest has been assured for the Town Board with three candidates filing for two seats. Incumbents W.E. Foster and W. John Weatherly are seeking re-election. Also filing is Celestine Nickelson.

Greenevers, with 270 voters, has three board seats open. Incumbent Earl H. Murphy and George F. Henry and Clifton Williams have filed.

In Beulaville, with 706 voters, Mayor Wilbur Hussey Jr. has filed for re-election. Kenneth Smith and incumbent Elvis L. Sumner have filed for Town Board seats.

Faison Mayor N.F. McColman has filed for re-election. The town has 377 voters. Filing for the three Town Board seats are Robert David Kennedy and incumbents Melvin Rogers and William J. Igoe. Igoe is a former mayor.

Calyso elects all of its Town Board members to two-year terms. No one had filed for the board seats by Wednesday. Mayor Eugene S. Emmer has filed for re-election.

Kenansville voters can choose among three candidates for mayor. Late filers were Donald E. Suttles, the incumbent, for mayor, and Ronald K. Bostic, an incumbent for Town Board. Other candidates for mayor are Jimmy D. Newkirk and Bennie L. Prince. Earl Hatcher, an incumbent, previously filed for one of the two open Town Board seats.

Calyso voters will elect a mayor and five Town Board members to two-year terms. Late filers include Norwood G. Barfield for mayor to

oppose incumbent Mayor Eugene S. Emmer. Running for Town Board seats are David Brock, Leslie "Ike" Nunn, Roy D. Davis, Libby Lewis Boykin, M.J. Lambert Jr., Jerry R. Turner, William Rose and Milford Turner.

Five late-filing candidates brought the field to eight in the contest for three Magnolia Town Board seats. Late filers are Sherwood Ezzell, Preston Hall, Millard Williams, John D. Quinn and Hubert Lee Howard. Previously filing were Ilene Guy, Ruth Evans and Clarence W. Whaley.

Three candidates are seeking two four-year terms on the Rose Hill Town Board. They are Gary L. Boney, George S. "Scotty" Murray and Felton Rackley. Gregory D. Miller remains unopposed for completion of a four-year term.

Jerry Frank Bullard III is a late filer for the Wallace Town Board. J. Luther Powell and David E. Jordan previously filed for the two open seats.

Late filer Charles Johnson Sheffield Jr. brings to four the number of candidates for the two board seats open in Warsaw. Previously filing were W.E. Foster, W. John Weatherly and Celestine Nickelson.

Candidates are running unopposed for offices in Beulaville, Faison, Greenevers and Teachey.

School Population May Stop Falling

Officials say an increased number of kindergartners this year might mean an eventual end to declining school enrollments.

School population in Duplin County has declined from more than 10,000 students 30 to 40 years ago to 8,230 as of last week. The county's population declined steadily from 1950 until stabilizing in the 1970s.

As of last week, school enrollment this year was 53 fewer than last year. Monday of last week was the 10th day of school and enrollment on that day is used to figure state aid.

"The enrollment is well above what was projected for us by the state and we won't lose any state teaching positions," Associate Superintendent Gary Sanderson said on Wednesday.

The state had projected an enrollment of 8,191 for Duplin last year.

The kindergarten enrollment is the most significant sign of forthcoming stability, Sanderson said.

The 10th-day kindergarten enrollment was 582 compared with 584 last year. "We've had two or three more children enrolled since Monday, so that puts us on a par with last year," he said.

"It's an encouraging sign for us," Sanderson said.

The 10th-day kindergarten enrollment was 52 more than the 12th-grade enrollment of 529.

The 659 first-graders this year is 75 greater than last year's kindergarten enrollment of 584. Sanderson had no explanation for the growth. The number of this year's first-graders is 23 more than the new kindergartners.

The Wallace-Rose Hill area continues to be the fastest-growing area of the county, he said. Population and enrollment seem to have stabilized in the North Duplin area. Sanderson said an exact breakdown of enrollment by districts will be available this fall.

"There is some indication from

our secondary principals that some high school students are still working in the tobacco harvest," Sanderson said. The tobacco harvest is at least three weeks late in much of the county.

While the number of kindergartners provides a direct comparison with pupils, comparisons between years in other grades are blurred by retentions, promotions and dropouts.

Enrollment in the last year's 11th grade was 585 while enrollment in this year's 12th grade is 529 students, 56 fewer. But, the current 529 seniors outnumber last year's seniors by 14.

Enrollment in other grades, with the 10th-day figure listed first and last year's figure second, follow: First: 659,671; Second: 638,662; Third: 651,605; Fourth: 572,604; Fifth: 600,619; Sixth: 621,643; Seventh: 655,680; Eighth: 677, 710; Ninth: 751,718; 10th: 692,583; 11th: 500,585.

Duplin Students Volunteer For Educational Benefit

Students from all county schools have volunteered to "show the kind of talent we have in our community" and at the same time help raise money for the Duplin County Educa-

tion Foundation to be turned into scholarships and educational programming activities, said Austin Carter, Duplin schools director of support services.

provide concessions, design and construct sets, sell tickets and print programs.

Applications by students of all ages are currently being reviewed by the committee of cultural arts instructors from Duplin schools. The idea, Austin said, is to produce an original musical celebrating the life of man from birth onward. And, the goal is to raise \$15,000. The production is entitled Generation Celebration and is slated for November 16 in Kenan Memorial Auditorium in Kenansville.

According to Carter, \$10,000 of the proceeds from the production will be placed in a Duplin Education Foundation Endowment to help continue the programming currently established by the organization.

The Generation Celebration is an opportunity Duplin school students have never been offered in the past, Carter pointed out. The production is expected to cast as many as 150 Duplin students of all ages and from different schools as musicians, actors, singers and dancers.

Such activities include summer computer camps, scholarships and the academic excellence recognition program. Funds over the \$10,000 point will be funneled back to the county schools for cultural arts programming.

"The Foundation sees this production as more than just a fundraising vehicle," Carter said. "For one thing, the production is an opportunity for the young people to show the kind of talent we have available in our community. And, it offers the community a chance to show their support for the efforts of the young people." In addition to the student cast, an equal number of adult volunteers will be working to

The Generation Celebration is the first public fundraising activity sponsored by the Duplin Education Foundation. Austin pointed out the Duplin Education Foundation was the second such organization established in the state. The group was chartered in late 1983 and became active in 1984 raising funds through private donations.

County Students Key To Educational Assessment Programs

The Duplin County Board of Education will be conducting a complete assessment of students' needs, interests and employment opportunities during the 1985-86 school year. The program assessment comes in the light of new federal and state legislation which affects vocational programming and levels of funding.

Members of the Foundation will begin ticket sales Oct. 1, Carter said. Tickets are available by contacting Bill Hennessee of Faison, Ed Holt of Warsaw, Carey Wrenn of Kenansville, Buford Hutchins of Beulaville, Linda Murphy of Rose Hill and Harriette Farrior of Wallace. A limit of 2,000 tickets are available for the production.

Part of the assessment will be a review of the long-range curriculum plan for vocational education which the Board adopted in June of 1984. According to Robert Tart, vocational director/business manager, the major goals of the original plan will probably remain intact. It appears that the main effect on the 1984 plan will be to speed up its implementation. The major recommendations were to increase courses that prepare students for careers that are in higher demand in the labor market, to decrease program offerings that have low student appeal and job placement opportunities, to increase career guidance in the schools, and to require all high school students to complete one unit in vocational education prior to graduation.

The graduation requirement is being implemented beginning with this year's freshman class.

According to Tart, programs that are likely to receive emphasis in the redirection are business and office education, marketing education,

industrial arts, health occupations and career guidance. The original plan provides continued support for agricultural education due to the importance of agriculture in Duplin County. It also provides continued support for home economics education.

Programs that are likely to be diminished are trade and industrial education courses for which students indicate a minimum interest or need. The degree to which changes will occur is unclear at this time.

Other vocational curriculum items that will demand the Board's attention this year are the development of a new delivery system for vocational services to the handicapped and disadvantaged, the implementation of a career development plan for prevocational students prior to entering high school, and new program planning and funding guidelines.

Duplin County's vocational education program is extensive with course offerings in business, marketing, health occupations, home economics, agriculture, industrial arts, carpentry, masonry, auto mechanics, drafting, and career explorations. For the 1985-86 school year, the program has an enrollment of 4,261 students and is administered by 67 teachers, counselors, and coordinators in the four school districts.

1985
Duplin County
FAIR
Sept. 30-Oct. 5

[Scenes from 1983-84 Duplin County Fairs.]

