

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL



VOL. XXXVIII NO. 47

USPS 162-860

KENANSVILLE, NC 28349

NOVEMBER 21, 1985

16 PAGES THIS WEEK

10 CENTS PLUS TAX



Groundbreaking For Southland Estate Winery

Duplin Wine Cellars Board of Directors, including, left to right, Larry Massengill, Dale Parker, D.J. Fussell, Lisa Lathe, David Fussell, Hazel Holland, Dr. Jackson Rigney, Dennis Lofton and Burl Williamson, are shown during ground-breaking for the Johnston County Winery last Saturday. Stockholders and guests gathered on the 23-acre site of Duplin Wine Cellars' newest project, Southland Estate Winery, Saturday for groundbreaking ceremonies. The new winery is located adjacent to I-95 near Selma in Johnston County. The new facility, Southland Estate Winery, is to be a

tourist attraction, a working winery, a vineyard, even a cotton field. The Wine Cellars' company offices and sales and display rooms will be located in a 12,000 square foot building sitting atop a knoll across a lake from I-95 — a very beautiful setting. The building will be a southern colonial mansion with tall columns at the entrance, or porch. A recent survey revealed 2,500 autos pass the site daily. Plans are to have the construction completed in May of 1986 and the winery in operation for the grape crop by September.

Kenansville Chamber Sponsors Recognition Project

The Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce finalized plans last week to begin selecting a Business of the Month in January of 1986. The regular November meeting of the Chamber was also used to complete plans for the annual Twelve Days of Christmas celebration in Kenansville. According to Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce President Grey Morgan, the Business of the Month will be selected beginning with the oldest. The Business of the Month will be awarded a certificate from the Chamber and be featured in the DUPLIN TIMES/DUPLIN TODAY newspapers. Area businesses will be receiving an information request form to be completed and returned to the Chamber, Morgan said. The form is to be used in selection of the Business of the Month. All area businesses, both Chamber members and non-members, are included in the Business of the Month project. The Twelve Days of Christmas in Historic Kenansville begins Saturday, Dec. 14. Brochures with details of the event are being distributed this week.

Some of the events of the Twelve Days of Christmas celebration will include an open house at Liberty Hall and the Cowan Museum featuring the North Carolina 3rd Battalion of Civil War soldiers; story night at Dorothy Wightman - Duplin County Library; the sounds of Christmas featuring visiting artists from five different technical college campuses; a live nativity pageant, a performance of the James Kenan District Band and Chorus; Merchants' nights with Santa Claus; a community covered-dish supper and local entertainment by dance students of Tina Long; a community Christmas Eve church service; and lighting of the community Christmas tree, caroling and a bonfire. According to Morgan, the Chamber is in the process of scheduling special guests to appear as hosts during the Twelve Days of Christmas. The hosts will be announced at a later date, but are expected to include a variety of local personalities as well as television personalities from all across the state. The Twelve Days of Christmas is sponsored annually by the Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Wallace Plans Recreation Center

A Wilmington firm, McKim & Creed Engineers, was authorized last week to draw a floor plan and prepare cost estimates for a Wallace recreation center. The town board acted during its regular November meeting. Mitch Pergerson, the recreation director, got four proposals for the work. The McKim & Creed bid was the lowest at \$2,000. The project fund drive had

brought in \$35,051 by Oct. 31, he said. Pergerson said people want to know what sort of structure and what cost they are being asked to support. Profits from the merchants and farmers exposition being planned were to be added to the fund. In other business, the board appointed David Rackley Jr. to the recreation board to replace Tommy Johnson, who resigned. The board determined that three

employees needed to have town vehicles at their homes during off hours because of the nature of their work. The board withdrew authorization for three other vehicles to be driven home after work hours, but the town will pay the income tax the employees involved have incurred from such vehicle use. A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. Dec. 12 in the town hall on rezoning some property on Railroad

Street from agricultural-residential to highway business. Sheffield's Tobacco Warehouse stands on one part of the tract. Wendell Teachey owns a building on another part. The structures do not comply with the current zoning. At the time they were built, the property was zoned industrial. The present zoning bars new commercial and retail establishments.

Magnolia Chief Told To Take Oath

Magnolia Police Chief Sherwood Ezzell should go ahead and take the oath of office as a town commissioner at the board's Dec. 15 meeting, according to the town's lawyer. Town Attorney Garrett Ludlum has advised Ezzell to take the oath and await an advisory opinion from the state attorney general before deciding whether to keep both jobs or drop one of them. Ezzell, chief of police in Magnolia for several years, won a seat on the Town Board of Commissioners Nov. 5.

Questions surfaced as to whether a town department head can simultaneously hold a position on the Town Board. The uncertainty involves towns of less than 5,000 population, which are governed by less stringent conflict-of-interest rules than larger cities. Two state laws muddy the situation, Ludlum said. He has asked the attorney general for an advisory opinion. Regardless of the advisory opinion, Ezzell could take the seat and still hold his chief's position. However, he could be subject to court challenge on the matter. If the attorney general advised

N.C. Secretary Of Agriculture Graham Meets Duplin Fair Volunteers

Southern foods may be becoming delicacies of the world. Last week

at the Duplin County Fair appreciation dinner, North Carolina

Secretary of Agriculture Jim Graham said his office had received an order

from London, England, for 5,000 turkey tails and 5,000 metric tons of pig feet to be shipped to Africa.



"One of the things our office is doing is developing a market promotion program for North Carolina products," Jim Graham said. "There is no need to produce products if you can't sell them." As part of the promotion program the North Carolina Department of Agriculture held a trade show last month for state products in Charlotte. Duplin was represented by House of Raeford, Carroll's Foods, the Duplin Wine Cellars, H.L. Sanderson Produce, and others. While the promotion program begins with development of local markets, Graham said, worldwide exposure of North Carolina products is the next step. Graham pointed out that agriculture is North Carolina's largest industry. The state income last year from agriculture was \$3.7 billion and of the total \$70 million was made in Duplin. He added, agriculture and related industry employs 20 percent of the state workforce. The state department of agriculture also estimates the total farm income will drop \$150-\$160 million this year. Relaying a message from Jean Carroll of the Department of Agriculture county fair division, Graham told local fair volunteers that Duplin had received the state's highest county fair grade. The fourth annual Duplin County Fair was held September 29 - October 5 in Kenansville. Fair officials estimated an attendance of 15,000 people. "A lot of people contributed to the success of this year's fair," Duplin County Agribusiness President Ruth Wells said. "Just looking around the room tonight, I see a lady who sat home every Sunday afternoon so her husband could help young people train livestock for the fair. And, she is just one example of those who helped make the fair a success."

Community Center Gets Approval From Duplin Commissioners

Plans and specifications for the Rockfish community center were approved Monday by the Duplin County Board of Commissioners. The board's action begins the process of putting the project out for bids by contractors. Bids are scheduled to be opened in 30 days. Plans submitted by Floyd Adams of McDavid Associates of Kenansville call for a 40- by 75-foot brick veneer structure on a 15-acre tract by Secondary Road 1101 near the Beatrice Meats plant west of Wallace. The center is being financed by a \$150,000 federal Community Development Block Grant. Ledell Wallace, chairman of the community building project, said plans eventually call for two basketball courts, a playground for small children, two tennis courts, a swimming pool and a softball field. In other business, School Superintendent L.S. Guy asked the County Commissioners to increase their allocation for the renovation of James Keenan High School. The board had approved a previous

request for \$1,055,000, but on Monday Guy said \$1.5 million was needed. The commissioners have turned \$703,500 over to the school system for the renovation, leaving a balance of \$351,500. Guy said architects now estimate the project will cost \$1.5 million. He also asked for the \$351,500 to be turned over to the school system. The board repeated its assurance the rest of the original amount will be forthcoming when the money is received. "We have committed \$1,055,000," Commissioners Chairman Calvin Turner said. "We'll make every effort to do a full job at James Keenan," Commissioner W.J. Costin said. The board approved buying a radio costing \$1,534 for the Wallace Rescue Squad. The county will pay half the cost and the Neuse River Council of Governments the remainder. Ambulance fee collections increased sharply in the last fiscal year, Finance Officer Russell Tucker told the board.

Duplin Fair Welcomes Jim Graham
North Carolina Secretary of Agriculture Jim Graham was the featured speaker at the annual dinner for Duplin County Fair volunteers last week in Kenansville. Graham is pictured above with Duplin Agribusiness Council President Ruth Wells.