



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON
AREA EXTENSION TURF SPECIALIST Bruce Williams and other employees of the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service office can contact databases, fellow agents and specialists at N.C. State University through a new statewide computer network.

Local Extension Agents Tap Statewide Computer Network

Participation in a new statewide computer network, recently completed by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service is increasing the amount of information available to the Brunswick County extension office.

The network, one of only two like it in the country—the other is in Indiana—ties together individual county agents and state level specialists and administrators in an elaborate electronic network, said Brunswick County Extension Director Milton Coleman.

"From terminals on each desk in our office," Coleman said, "we can communicate and exchange information with any other extension agent in the state or specialist on the North Carolina State University (NCSU) campus."

"In addition, the computer system makes available to use large volumes of information contained in state and national data bases. This opens up exciting possibilities for us in improving our services to the people of this county."

Development of the network began in fall 1990 and was completed last October.

Coleman said he and other agents are making good use of the network. Examples of its use includes electronic mail and speedier availability of analysis results from the NCSU testing lab. After tornadoes struck several areas of the state in November, agents accessed valuable recovery information that had been developed for Florida and Louisiana for victims of Hurricane Andrew.

"We will now be able to instantly access farm commodity market reports, and other valuable reports farmers need, as they are released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture," said Coleman.

"We're just barely scratching the surface of the potential that this electronic system has for helping us provide improved educational services to this county."

He expressed appreciation to the county for support in paying for local installation of the system.

Steps Set To Improve School Air But More Effort Is Said Needed

BY SUSAN USHER

Calling the litany of work scheduled to help fix an air quality problem at Lincoln Primary School a "Baid-Aid," Leland resident Jean Speight gave \$985.08 of her kindergarten son's medical bills to the Brunswick County Board of Education Monday night.

"I expect payment before you move into your new office," she announced.

The board was meeting at Lincoln Primary School in Leland, which has had a much-publicized problem with children's headaches and allergy symptoms being linked to poor indoor air quality.

Later, Speight said she didn't know if the air quality problems had caused her son Michael's medical problems, but she knows he won't get well unless the school's environment is improved. She was one of several speakers Monday who wanted more done to ensure a safe school, asking the board to re-think its spending priorities and put air quality ahead of new high school gym floors, gym lighting and a proposed new central office at the county complex.

Since enrolling in school her son has been to the doctor six times and has had complaints ranging from allergy symptoms to pneumonia and, most recently, acute bronchitis.

Second grade teacher Beth Crawford, who was among those to first make note of the problems and push for their correction, thanked the board for its help and then asked for "a couple of more favors."

These would include additional testing of indoor air quality, testing for exposure to other toxins such as formaldehyde through cleaning supplies, pesticides and other materials used in the school. She also suggest-

"I expect payment before you move into your new office."

—Jean Speight, Leland Resident

ed outdoor air sampling to see if the school is taking in contaminants that may be coming from local factories.

"Any exposure to any chemicals is unnecessary," she said, urging the board to ensure that such problems are eliminated in future construction and to help Brunswick County Schools become a leader in establishing indoor air quality standards for schools.

She said that while some of the symptoms have all but disappeared with the removal of carpet from her room and replacement of an air filter, her students still have problems with burning and glassy eyes, and that there appears to be a correlation between symptom outbreaks and rainy weather.

To find out what was causing the problems, an industrial hygiene consultant with the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources conducted an indoor air quality survey. William Service's Nov. 13 report identified several problems, including moderately high level of contaminants from dust and mildew in air filters, carpets that had not been cleaned properly, a leaking filter pan, and water-damaged ceiling tiles and insulation in the air handling system ductwork.

In response to his suggestions and staff/parental pressure, the school system is taking steps to address the problems at Lincoln Primary and to look into similar problems that may

exist at other schools.

Among other things, Superintendent Johnston said that Robert Pyle, a professor at North Carolina A & T State University in Greensboro, plans to meet with him and Turner on Jan. 6 to discuss applying for an Environmental Protection Agency for a comprehensive study of the school's indoor air quality problems.

Assistant Superintendent Bill Turner identified a number of steps that have been taken or will be taken:

■ Carpet has been removed from 10 classrooms in the second-grade wing and will be replaced with floor tiles;

■ A carpet business in Shallotte has been hired to professionally clean the remainder of the carpet in the school;

■ Custodians will take a required workshop Jan. 22 on proper use of cleaning supplies and equipment, fo-

cus on the waxing and stripping of floors, carpet care and dusting.

■ A Raleigh-based company has been hired to "fog" the ductwork with the vents closed to as to destroy any bacteria in its insulation.

■ Service will return at the end of January to conduct follow-up testing at Lincoln and to conduct tests at other schools;

■ Replacing air filters with industrial-grade washable, replaceable filters;

■ Coils are being cleaned and disinfected; and

■ An air flow problem in the third grade area has been fixed, and similar work is expected to be completed in other classrooms over the holidays. Trouble with a leaking pan in the kindergarten area cannot be corrected by replacing the pan; in that case, the unit must be replaced, which Turner said could not be done over the holidays because of shipping constraints.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Varnamtown Honors Vealey

Varnamtown Mayor Judy Galloway presents a plaque to former town clerk Paul Vealey during an open house at the town hall Sunday. Vealey volunteered as clerk from shortly after the community incorporated in September 1988 until June 1992. He currently serves on the town planning board. About 20 community residents attended the open house.

ROBERTO'S PIZZERIA
 We're Closed For The Season...
 Thanks to all our friends & customers for a terrific season. We look forward to serving you again when we reopen in February.
 Season's Greetings

Calabash MOTEL
 "Open Year Round"
 Rooms & Efficiency Apartments • Heart of Seafood Capital
(919)579-6576
 RATES: Winter: Single \$20; Double \$25; Eff. \$32
 Cable TV, coffee and phone in rooms.
 1115 River Road, Calabash, NC 28467 (1 Block Below Stoplight)

Wake up to this
Special Offer
25¢ Coffee
 At McDonald's
 Shallotte Limited Time Only

For the person who has everything...
Gift Certificate For
Massage Therapy
 \$25/half hour • \$50/hour • Barbara McFadden,
 Massage Therapist at Coastal Fitness Center
 5140 Sellers Rd., Shallotte • 754-2772

May the miracle of Christmas be with you...
 Many thanks to all our friends and patrons for your friendship and support.
 Bobby & Carolyn
B.M. LONG SURVEYING
 Bus. Hwy. 17 N., Shallotte • 754-6300



Merçi, Gracias, Gratzia, Danke Schon, Spaceba
 However you say it,
 a world of thanks to all of you.
BRUNSWICK TRAVEL INC.
 Cruise Headquarters
 CALL 754-7484
 East Gate Square, Shallotte • 1-800-852-2736

Come See Our
Taylor WATERSTOVE®
 Visit Showroom in Elizabethtown

Ron Taylor
 1-800-545-2293
 (919)862-2576

Hwy. 701 South
Taylor Mfg. Inc.
 Elizabethtown, NC 28337

TJ's AUTO ELECTRIC
 ALTERNATORS STARTERS
 VOLTAGE REGULATORS GENERATORS
 REPAIR—REBUILT—EXCHANGED
AUTOMOTIVE WIRING
754-7656
 Royal Oak Road & Hwy. 17 N., Shallotte

Freezin's Greetings Great Taste Shows
 With only 15 calories per ounce, you can enjoy all the rich taste of sugar free Diet Colombo for only half the calories of regular frozen yogurt. No fat. No cholesterol. Taste it to believe it.

BUY ONE LARGE SUGAR-FREE DIET COLOMBO AND GET A SMALL ONE FREE

Not valid with any other promotional offer.
 Limit one per customer.
 Coupon redeemable only at:
 Express Stop, Shallotte & Southport locations

SOUTHEASTERN ALLERGY ASSOCIATES
 is pleased to announce new and expanded hours at the SHALLOTTE and SOUTHPORT offices for
AUSTIN T. HYDE, M.D.
 SOUTHPORT—on Friday mornings at 804 N. Howe Street
457-0305
 SHALLOTTE—all day Tuesday at the Brunswick Islands Medical Center
579-1929
 Appointments also available with Dr. Hyde, Dr. Donald MacQueen or Dr. Patricia Gerber at the main office in Wilmington at 2321 Delaney Avenue
763-1661

SEASON'S GREETINGS

May God's love and joy fill your heart and home this Christmas season.

BRUNSWICK FUNERAL SERVICE
 Shallotte, NC • (919) 754-6363 • Whiteville, NC • (919) 642-2889