

Wise, Paschall communities join forces on revitalization efforts

The Wise and Paschall communities have come together as a partnership to revitalize their communities by upgrading the infrastructure, preserving housing and public improvements. The leadership has been provided by the Wise-Paschall Ruritan Club and the Warren County Training School/North Warren High School Alumni & Friends Association Inc.

The Wise-Paschall Ruritan Club was organized to engage in community service. The club owns the five-acre Wise School campus, which includes a 1904 brick building and 1920's wood frame building. Their goal is to preserve and use both buildings for community programs.

Ruritan's purpose is to create a better understanding among people and through volunteer community service make America's communities better places in which to live and work. Unlike most civic service organizations, Ruritan rarely has national program. Rather, each club surveys

its own community's needs then works to meet some of those needs.

The Warren County Training School/North Warren High School Alumni & Friends Association owns the more than six-acre campus called the Warren County Training School on Paschall Station Road that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Alumni Association's mission is to preserve the campus and its rich heritage for educational, cultural and community programs.

The school is a "Rosenwald School," the name informally applied to over 5,000 schools, shops and teachers' homes in the United States that were built primarily for the education of African-Americans in the early 20th century. The name originated with Julius Rosenwald, a prominent Jewish philanthropist who became part-owner and president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, and founder of The Rosenwald Fund. The goal of the Association

is to create a national Julius Rosenwald Cultural and Empowerment Center.

The partnership is exploring the possibility of securing Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) federal funds through the N.C. Department of Commerce Community Revitalization Program, to fund the improvements. The CDBG program would require that the application be made by Warren County.

Volunteers will be surveying homeowners and residents of both communities to better determine their needs. To supplement the surveys, residents will also have the opportunity to voice their needs at a public hearing in the community. This meeting will be held at the Hawtree Volunteer Fire Department in Wise on Monday, Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

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