

**Foes of fill plan rally  
Landfill would be on Stokes-Forsyth line**

By Wesley Young  
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WALKERTOWN

A landfill foe says he was encouraged by last weekend's turnout at a rally to increase opposition to the proposed landfill on the Stokes-Forsyth county line.

Landfill opponents auctioned off cakes and desserts and offered hot dogs to people in Walkertown and the surrounding area May 13.

Judging from a sign-up sheet and the size of the crowd, Jason Horrell said, at least 200 hundred people dropped by Walkertown Middle School for the rally. People could learn more about the landfill and why the group, "Fight the Forsyth/Stokes Dump," is opposed to it.

"We think it was fairly successful," said Horrell, the group's treasurer. "We are finding that it takes a long time to get the word out. People live right next to the site and don't even know about it. People came in and asked questions, and we had people available to answer them."

The Forsyth County Board of Commissioners is scheduled to discuss the landfill proposal at its May 22 meeting.

The landfill would be a demolition landfill, which would receive materials from construction sites and demolition work. Proposed by the City-County Utilities Division, its advocates say that wooded buffers deep enough to block most noise would surround it.

They say that a traffic study shows that U.S. 311 - the main road leading to the landfill site - has traffic counts low enough to allow the additional truck traffic that the landfill would bring.

Landfill opponents dispute the traffic study. Last month, the Walkertown Town Council cited traffic concerns in unanimously opposing the landfill. Although she did not attend the rally, council member Sarah Welch said that her worries remain strong.

"I'm very concerned," Welch said. "We are more concerned because of our roads."

But Welch didn't say whether she would attend the county commissioners' May 22 meeting and try to carry her opposition further.

Council member Ralph Landreth said that the town has made its point.

"I think it was well-taken, and at this stage I don't know how much further we can go," Landreth said, adding that he thinks that some council members may attend the commissioners' meeting.

"They did a good job of engineering the landfill," Landreth said. "The traffic situation is what [the council's] concern is. If they could come up with a better way or a better route, or load it on a freight train, that would solve it, but they probably looked at that."

Opponents say that traffic is just one concern. "No one wants to live near a dump or a landfill, so there is going to be a penalty to property owners living within a large radius," Horrell said. "We think the most important issue is traffic."

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