

Medical facilities head county wish list

Perquimans County's greatest need at present is improved medical facilities. At least that was the consensus of those persons answering a survey designed to update the county's Coastal Area Management Act Land Use Plan.

Of the 2,500 surveys sent out, 408 were returned before the March deadline, a 16 percent response according to Dan Tew, community assistance planner.

Other improvements needed in the county according to the questionnaire (listed

chronologically according to need) are: employment opportunities, which ranked second after medical facilities; educational facilities, which was third; industrial development, fourth; law enforcement, fifth; community facilities,

sixth; cultural activities, seventh; recreation, eighth; land use planning, ninth; and environmental considerations, ranked tenth.

69.4 percent said they would support a statewide bond referendum for school facilities, should the General

Assembly decide to include one in the November general election. 9.8 percent said they would not support such a referendum.

47 percent of those completing the survey indicated that they would like to see a substantial increase in county

growth; 28 percent indicated a small increase, and 12 percent would like to see the county remain the same size.

Expanded tourism in the county was favored by 62 percent of those surveyed; 23 percent were not in favor of attracting more tourists.

And although most indicated favor toward expansion, they at the same time gave the county's rural way of life a plus.

A majority of Perquimans county citizens said they felt that they have an adequate opportunity to participate in local government and community affairs, a question which netted a favorable response of 55 percent; 28 percent disagreed.

85 percent of those responding felt that the appearance of the county needs to be improved, with 80 percent indicating that historical assets should be preserved.

Only 38 percent felt that Perquimans County should remain agriculturally oriented, with 73 percent indicating that more industry is needed to supplement the existing agricultural base.

A narrow 20 percent were satisfied with present shopping facilities in the county, with 60 percent in disagreement.

A whopping 85 percent were in favor of the four-laning of U.S. 17, a move they indicated would mean better jobs, an increase in tourism, and a boost to the local economy. Only 5 percent were opposed to the expansion of U.S. 17.

Environmental problems facing the county which netted the most attention were algae bloom in the Perquimans River and its tributaries, chemical and fertilizer run-off into the river, and the fact that the number of fish is declining in area waters.

Road conditions and recreational opportunities received the most mention when the survey asked for specific improvements needed in one's own neighborhood, street, or community.

Of the questionnaires returned, 33 percent were from Hertford, 20 percent were from the New Hope and Bethel areas each, 18 percent were from Parkville, and 12.5 percent returned were from Belvidere.

70 percent of those answering the survey had obtained a high school diploma, 12 percent had earned a college degree, and 16 percent had completed either grammar school or junior high.

Most of those answering the survey were between the 26 and 45 years of age.

Tew said the next step was to use the information gleaned from the questionnaires to check policy statements for the county's updated CAMA plan.

And although the survey was designed to gain public input in drawing up the plan, Tew emphasized the fact information obtained from the questionnaires would be used only as a check.

"The survey does not reflect the attitude of the county," said Tew, "just those who answered."

Under CAMA regulations, the county is required to upgrade the plan every five years and its purpose is to identify possible problems and issues that will confront the area within those five years.

The plan must also reflect present land use in the county and project an overall picture of desired land use in 1985.

Perquimans County's initial land use plan was drawn up in 1975, following the state's adoption of CAMA in 1974.

CAMA was designed primarily to protect the coastal region from poorly planned development that could possibly be damaging to the eco-system.



Politicking time in Perquimans county

As the Democratic Primary approaches, more and more hopefuls are making their way to Perquimans County in order to squeeze the flesh and

get in some last minute campaigning. Among the candidates politicking in downtown Hertford last week were U.S. Congress hopeful

Joe Hollowell, (top left); incumbent candidate for the U.S. Congress Walter B. Jones, (top right); Ed Ren-

frow, (lower left) who is running for State Auditor; and Jim Long, who is in the race for N.C. Insurance Com-

missioner. One of Long's opponents, John Ingram, incumbent candidate for the office of Insurance Com-

missioner, also stopped in Perquimans County, as did Bill Chestnut, candidate for State Auditor.



School land purchase being finalized

Perquimans County Board of Education attorney John Matthews is in the process of acquiring deed to the Urquhart property, bringing an end to a five-year struggle to acquire the 18 acres of land adjacent to the county high school.

Three separate tracts comprise the purchase, which will cost the county \$69,500.

The land was originally sought for expansion of parking and athletic facilities but since that time, priority needs at the school may have changed, said school board superintendent Pat Harrell, and improvements to the property may be delayed.

In the interim, the school board decided at a meeting last Tuesday to rent some of the property to farmers, he said.

Another matter saw the board move to seek further accreditation for its schools.

"The board recognized the value of accreditation and directed the administration to go ahead and proceed with the accreditation process for both the state and the Southern Association," Harrell said.

The Perquimans schools had been accredited by the state in the past but new procedures require that a comprehensive plan showing goals and objectives be drawn up, Harrell said.

"For example, language arts, a good program meets certain standards. Our goal

would be those standards. We would set out with a curriculum plan as to what to do to meet those standards," Harrell said.

There are certain basic skills that every student should be able to master, he said. "For instance, we'd like students to be competent in basic math skills, certainly basic computation," Harrell said.

To make sure students are learning those skills, checkpoints will be initiated at various levels of advancement in their school careers, he said.

The county schools have never before belonged to the Southern Association.

Other matters of discussion included the summer migrant program, to be conducted at Hertford Grammar this year.

The migrant program will include both enrichment and remediation courses, and will be open to the children of agricultural and fisheries related workers.

Another vacation program, the summer feeding program, will be in operation at Central Grammar School.

Those persons who meet income eligibility requirements will receive a free hot lunch at the school cafeteria.

In an unrelated matter, Harrell announced that the annual testing program came off without a hitch in the county schools.

There were few absences, and teachers and principals worked very hard to make the testing a success, he said.

Board members praised the performances of Perquimans High School students who traveled to Greenville to participate in a math contest. A five member team of advanced math students from the high school placed eighth

in competition with students from all over the state.

In other action, the board:

- accepted a previously announced \$6,870 energy conservation grant to be used for improvements to school buildings;

- was told that the Perquimans County Library building had been deeded over to the county

commissioners in years past (clarification of ownership had been sought for the former school property);

- accepted bids from two companies of more than \$6,000 each for various office furnishings to be used in the high school addition;

- moved to rebid for furnishings for the library por-

tion of the project;

- approved a change order in the addition project of some \$10,000 to finance electrical work in the administrative area;

- and set special board meetings on April 24 to discuss the budget for the 1980-'81 fiscal year, and on April 28 for personnel evaluations (executive session).

Social services budget to swell

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners lent its tentative approval to a \$218,872 social services budget for the coming fiscal year at a meeting last Tuesday.

The budget, up more than \$20,000 over the present year's expenditures, includes a 10 percent across-the-board pay increase for social service employees.

Increases were requested in Aid to Families with Dependent Children for \$10,880, Medicaid, \$9,777, and administration, \$8,603, (includes salary increases).

Other spending areas, however, were trimmed back.

The county has no control over its share of AFDC and Medicaid. But the salary increases reportedly created some apprehension among board members.

State representatives

Charles Evans and Vernon James appeared at the board meeting, and told members that June 5 will be the deadline for submitting local legislation for consideration by the state legislature.

The two said they anticipate a short session without many new bills to be considered.

Ellen Bowen, county librarian, reported to the commissioners on new programs offered by the library.

One such new program is Starry Nights, a free feature film series that begins tomorrow night (Friday) at 8 p.m. at Perquimans High School with the showing of "Larry."

Other films to be shown include: THE BLUE ANGELS, GASLIGHT, BRIAN'S SONG, GREAT EXPECTATIONS, NIGHT

MUST FALL, AND ANIMAL FARM.

In other business, a subdivision plat presented by Tuck Webb of Webb-Hurdle Construction was granted final approval.

The subdivision will include 15 lots fronting State Road 1300 (the New Hope Road).

Webb told the commissioners that his firm had intended to build homes on some of the lots and put them on the market, but with current economic conditions, plans are uncertain.

Mrs. M.B. Taylor appeared before the commissioners to detail the upcoming conference on leadership development, scheduled May 24 at the ARPDC building.

Accomplished professionals will lead workshops on developing leadership skills at the all day conference.

Man cleared of murder

A Chesapeake man was found not guilty of murder charges stemming from the Nov. 28 shotgun slaying of a Perquimans County resident in a two day trial last week.

Carlton Eugene Copeland, 42, admitted under oath that he shot Sammy Lucien Langley of Rt. 1 Hertford on Happy Home Church Road in Chowan County. Copeland said, however, that Langley,

who was married to Copeland's ex-wife, had threatened to kill him, and his attorney, W.T. Culpepper, III, argued that the shooting was in self-defense.

The jury deliberated only 45 minutes before finding Copeland not guilty of a second degree murder charge.

According to testimony, Copeland came to Chowan

Police chief, suspect tangle

Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt responded to a call about a theft at the Cherokee Restaurant and ended up brawling in the parking lot Thursday morning as the suspect was detected in the laundromat next door.

According to Merritt, Ms. Sandra Trueblood opened the business that morning and went to the ladies room. As she was returning, she saw a man leave the restaurant.

She thought nothing of it, until she noticed that money was missing from the cash register when she was getting change for another customer.

She called the police, and identified a customer in their laundromat as being the man she had seen leaving the restaurant.

As Merritt was attempting to handcuff the suspect, he attempted to break away, Merritt said, striking the law enforcement officer on the chest and arms.

A crowd gathered as Merritt subdued the suspect, and recovered 18 one dollar bills he believed to have been stolen from the restaurant.

Wilbert Lee Jones, 18, was arrested and charged with larceny, assault on an officer, and resisting arrest.

He was released from the Albemarle District Jail on \$200 bond and is expected to be tried on April 23 in Perquimans County District Court.

The Hertford Police Department is also investigating the Sunday theft of a 1975 Chevrolet 4-door automobile registered to Mamie Hunter Peterson of 118 Wynne Fork Courts. The automobile was later recovered in Winfall.

Investigating officers say they have a suspect and an arrest may be pending in the case.

Another matter under investigation is a break-in at Jimmy's Barbecue discovered Saturday morning.

Some person or persons broke out a pane of glass and entered the establishment, removing a tip cup that held an undetermined amount of money, according to investigating officer Robert Morris.