

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Fuel assistance checks expected to shrink this year

Perquimans county residents who got fuel assistance checks last winter will probably find that this year's check is going to be a lot smaller.

County social services director Paul Gregory reported to the board of commissioners Monday night that the checks would probably range from \$30 to \$75, depending on various factors.

Gregory attended a meeting on fuel assistance this past Friday and learned that the county will get some \$80,000.

County checks will be smaller than in some areas of the state because of a zone arrangement based on severity of the winter.

In the mountain region, for instance, the maximum check will be \$330, Gregory said.

Another reason for smaller checks is that the state will assist everyone who is eligible for the program this year. Last winter, applicants were turned away after funds were exhausted.

Gregory stressed that the program is not designed to provide all of a recipient's fuel needs, but is merely a supplement.

The county will get \$6,800 to administer the program, and Gregory said that figure would be enough if social services is allowed to charge time spent on energy assistance to existing programs. He also said that the social services staff will probably have to work

on "a couple of" Saturdays to get the program completed.

Gregory said that each of the anticipated 1,000 applications will take from 20 to 30 minutes to fill out, and appeals could take two to three hours.

Those persons receiving Supplemental Security Income, Aid to Families with dependent children or food stamps will be processed automatically.

Social services hopes to begin

processing other applicants by Dec. 1, Gregory said.

Checks are expected to be mailed directly to recipients by Jan. 15, he said. Time limitations prevented some sort of vendor arrangement to insure that the money, derived from the windfall profits tax, goes for fuel, but Gregory said he hopes that next year's program will include vendor agreements.

In other action, the commissioners: agreed to purchase some 11 loads of

rock at \$150 per load from Charles H. Ward to put on the road to the historic Newbold-White House;

decided to protest a bill for some \$5,775 for the county's share of two years of utilities at the ARPDC building;

passed a resolution in support of a 10 bed addition at Chowan Hospital, and;

took no action on a request from the Albemarle Migrant Council for support of a law making crew leaders responsible for various needs of migrant workers.



### Odd entrance

Joe Williams makes an unusual entrance to remove an item from his overturned car. The accident occurred at about 3

p.m. last Tuesday on Center Hill-Hertford Road (S.R. 1110). Williams was attempting to pass his brother's car

when an oncoming vehicle forced him back into his lane. He skidded into a ditch

and his car overturned, causing about \$600 in damages.

Until Dec. 1

## Town to delay rate hike

The Hertford Town Council has decided to delay the 15 percent electrical rate increase until the Dec. 1 billing because of Virginia Electric and Power Company's prediction that fossil fuel charges for the month of October will increase markedly.

The council took action last week to increase electrical rates 15 percent in an effort to generate funds to cover the some \$43,206 deficit in last year's general fund and to inflate a nearly depleted cash flow. The increase was

to come into effect with the Nov. 1 billing.

According to Hertford Mayor and Town Manager Bill Cox, Vepco predicts that while the fossil fuel charges will soar to \$13.92 per 1000 kilowatt hours used during October, the charge for usage will go back down considerably in November.

"Having found this out (the increase in the fossil fuel charge) prompted the town council to hold off on the increase until Dec. 1, because Vepco predicts that the cost will come

down," said Cox, who added, "It's a tremendous fossil fuel charge, and that's why we're delaying the increase."

The trend in Vepco's fossil fuel charge to the town reflects a marked increase over the last two months: in August the fossil fuel charge was \$6.57 per 1000 kwh and in September it was \$12.30 per 1000 kwh.

According to Clayton Gentry, Vepco's District Manager, the increase in the fossil fuel charge is directly related to the amount of

nuclear power and coal utilized by the utility company.

"The more nuclear and coal and the less oil we use lowers the possibility of the fossil fuel charge clause being used," said Gentry.

He explained the fossil fuel charge as an additional charge the Federal Power Commission allows all utility companies to utilize based on a consumer trend. "For municipalities, we estimate the average usage and adjust that cost to the actual usage later," he said.

## Rec program boosted again

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners had to move their meeting over to the courtroom Monday night as some 55 persons turned out in a show of support for the recreation department.

At least a dozen persons spoke on behalf of recreation, attributing the program with everything from teaching children constructive use of time to improving race relations.

A similar group had appeared before the financially-strapped Hertford Town Council on Oct. 6 and had been told that much of the future of recreation would be up to the county.

"It bothers me a lot that when you get in a financial bind the first thing you come up with is to do away with recreation," said Wayne Ashley, a banker and a midget league football coach.

The recreation program is presently funded on a 50-50 basis by the town and county.

Many of those who testified on the program's behalf are community leaders. Elementary school principal Bill Tice argued that while the commissioners have no legal obligation to provide a recreation program, they do have a moral obligation.

Former major league pitching star Jimmy Hunter was also among the recreation endorsers.

"If we don't provide something for (the young people) there's gonna be some trouble down the line," said Hunter. "If you've got some extra money you've got to take it and give it to the younger people."

High School football coach Pat Morgan expressed his support for the program, as did girls' athletics coach Carolyn Rogers.

Another football coach, Sid Eley of Perquimans Union, strongly endorsed

the recreation department, but said that because he is a town resident he must pay for the program through both town and county taxes. Eley felt that the county should pay the cost of the program.

Hertford resident Herbert Nixon was the only speaker expressing opposition to a county takeover. Nixon argued that the program should be staffed by volunteers, noting that the fire departments and the county rescue squad are volunteer operated.

"I was asked by quite a number of elderly people and some not so elderly people to clear up a misconception," said Nixon. "At the town council meeting it was said that a bunch of old folks are trying to knock recreation in the head. That's entirely false."

Nixon's plea for volunteerism was rebutted by those who argued that a tremendous number of persons already support recreation through volunteer efforts but that the organizational work must be done by a paid professional.

Hertford resident Billy White said that he was responsible for getting the group to the meeting, even though budget-making time is several months down the road.

"I told them not to stand on the street corners and talk about how we want a recreation program," said White.

"We've got all these young people playing together, the black and the white, there's no need to skip over it. That's the only way it's going to work — by getting together and playing together and living together."

Mrs. Willie Harvey got the last word in on recreation. "The kids are all our tomorrow," she said. "Don't write the program out. If we fall back now, we won't come ahead anymore."

## ARPDC elects officers; search for director is still underway

Raleigh Carver, Pasquotank County Commissioner, was elected chairman of the Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission at the regular monthly meeting held in Hertford last Tuesday.

Carver fills the position of outgoing chairman Donald Bryan. Also approved as ARPDC officers for the 1981 year were Hertford Mayor Bill Cox as vice chairman and C.M. Stokes of Washington County as secretary-treasurer.

The newly-elected chairman an-

nounced his intentions of eliminating the by-laws committee and his plans to establish a chairman's committee to assist him in an advisory capacity.

Although no executive director has yet been selected to fill the position left vacant by Robery Whitley who resigned in June, acting ARPDC director Ray McClees said this week that a personnel committee was expected to begin interviews immediately and continue until Nov. 20, the date of ARPDC's next monthly meeting.

"They will probably make a recommendation to the commission at that time, (Nov. 20) and if the commission is pleased, I imagine they'll proceed with the hiring procedures," said McClees, who added that he didn't think the position would be filled before Jan. 1.

Other business at last week's meeting included the endorsement of a \$264,000 Comprehensive Employment and Training Act program at the request of the Roanoke Skills Training Center.

Although the project's approval on the

state level was pending as of press time, and the availability of federal funds is still uncertain, ARPDC's approval was deemed necessary in order to proceed with the application procedure.

If funded, the project would teach work skills to some 160 low-income people through a cooperative work-study program offered in conjunction with College of the Albemarle.

The commission also moved to finance Chowan Hospital's request for 10 hospital beds.

## Counseling program outlined at Union

The Perquimans County School Board heard an outline of counseling services available at Perquimans Union School at the regular monthly meeting Monday.

Union School counselor Lueta Sellers told board members that while the program was initially geared toward individual counseling when it began in January of 1980, this school year has seen it expand to include not only individual counseling, but group and classroom work as well.

She described the program as preventive in nature, geared toward reducing suspensions, classroom disruptions, and promoting healthy resolutions of conflict.

A student at Perquimans Union may be referred to Ms. Sellers for individual counseling by parents, guardians, teachers, school administrators or by himself seek the service. She told the

board that students referred to her were always told who referred them, why they were referred, and what counseling is all about.

Whether or not the student wants to accept the counseling service is up to him. "You cannot force counseling on anybody," said Ms. Sellers.

Confidentiality is kept in all cases except in those instances which Ms. Sellers said she deemed "dangerous."

"If I think a student is potentially dangerous to themselves or others, then I feel I must notify their parents or some appropriate persons," said Ms. Sellers.

Classroom work in counseling is available at Perquimans Union upon the teacher's request, according to Ms. Sellers. Possible topics suitable for classroom work include: communication skills, assertiveness training, dealing

with stress, understanding others, and improving self concept.

She told that board that she planned to hold a session which would involve interested parents, guardians, and community members on effective parenting later on this year. The session would focus on communication, creative and constructive methods of discipline, and deal with gender-bias.

"It is important to realize that any gender-bias communicated unconsciously to children may box them in," said Ms. Sellers. "The problem is, they may not fit into that particular box."

In summarizing her program and philosophy of counseling, Ms. Sellers read a note to the board from the survivor of a concentration camp.

The note read: "I am a survivor of a

concentration camp. My eyes saw what no man should witness:

"Gas chambers built by learned engineers. Children poisoned by educated physicians. Infants killed by trained nurses. Women and babies shot and burned by high school and college graduates."

"So, I am suspicious of education. My request is: Help your students become human. Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths, educated Eichmanns."

"Reading, writing, arithmetic are important only if they serve to make our children more humane."

Ms. Sellers said, "This is where I'm coming from. I want to help to make our students more humane."

In other business, the board moved to



### Plucking fun

Andy Damiani plucks away at his stand-up bass while doing a rousing version of "Route 66" during the Band Boosters Variety Show Saturday night. The crowd

was a good deal smaller than at last year's show but Damiani still appears to be having a lot of fun.

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