

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Committee of 100 holds annual meeting

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

Helen Turner, program manager of the Portsmouth Partnership, was the guest speaker at last week's Perquimans County Committee of 100 annual banquet held at Angler's Cove Restaurant.

Mrs. Turner, a native of Smithfield, Va. and a graduate of Old Dominion University, is the only paid employee of the Portsmouth Partnership, an organization established to enhance the city and its reputation.

According to Mrs. Turner, during the period of 1980-81 the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors decided it was time to do something to enhance their community. "People had perceived a negative image of Portsmouth," she said. "The board decided to do something to improve that image."

Mrs. Turner said that the founding group raised money to improve economic development in the community and to promote Portsmouth as a nice place to live. The team consisted of 75 volunteers, and they raised \$1.36 million. The organization began in 1984. It is a coalition of businessmen, professionals, private citizens and municipal governments.

Mrs. Turner told the group that it was important to "advertise and promote," if you wanted to insure success and growth. She stated that the Partnership had been very successful in acquiring growth for her community.

The Perquimans County Committee of 100 is made up of individuals and businesses interested in developing economic improvement in the county. Individuals interested in becoming affiliated with that group should contact Hal Byrum, president, at Don Juan Manufacturing.



## Winter Solitude

The riverfront in Hertford proves to be one of the quietest places around on a cold winter's day for those interested in getting away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. (Photos by Nancy Smith.)



## Morris resigns from Hertford Police Dept.

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

HERTFORD—The Hertford Town Council accepted the resignation of the town's assistant police chief Monday night during the board's February meeting.

Captain Robert Morris of the Hertford Police Department rendered his resignation of that position effective February 28, 1986 to accept the responsibilities of chief of the Kitty Hawk Police Department.

Morris joined the Hertford Police Department in August of 1978. He was promoted to his present rank on November 3, 1981.

The board went on record expressing their regret at the department's loss, and wished Morris success in his new surroundings.

Morris stated that he would serve at the board's pleasure until the effective resignation date.

The board heard a request from County Fire Marshal Charlie Skinner to take action to alleviate the problem of large trash items being placed on the town's sidewalks and streets during the course of week-ends for Monday pick-up by the town.

Skinner voiced his concerns of such items as major household appliances, mattresses and tires creating obstacles for passers-by, and thus creating a potential detriment to public safety.

He submitted 12 photographs to the board, taken at various locations throughout the town on Sunday, February 2, depicting mattresses, large appliances, and various other items of trash from households and businesses piled on the curbing and sidewalks.

Skinner commended various organizations for their clean-up efforts, but noted that unless the town takes some type of action the problem will be an ongoing one.

Skinner pointed out that there is an ordinance on the town's books prohibiting spitting on the sidewalk, but there is nothing to stop people from putting "junk" on the streets.

Skinner stated that "one of the best things we have to offer is an attractive town." He proposed that the council adopt an ordinance forbidding the placement of trash or garbage on the streets on Saturday and Sunday.

Councilman T. Erie Haste, Jr. spoke out in favor of an ordinance or covenant that would help alleviate the problem of unsightly trash piled up within the municipality during the week-end.



MORRIS

The town currently operates a trash truck Monday through Friday, and on Saturday until 12:00 noon. The service of picking up large items, such as appliances, is one that is available in few cities throughout the area.

After a period of discussion, the board requested that Town Attorney Walter G. Edwards look into present regulations and develop an ordinance prior to the board's next meeting.

In other business the board discussed the need for a community watch program and a reward program to help curtail the recent rash of robberies that have occurred within the municipality.

The council approved a motion that will allow the town manager to post an offering for a reward of up to \$100.00 for the arrest and conviction of any individual(s) for any crime committed in the municipality. Rewards for larger amounts of money must receive the consent of the board.

The board also discussed with Captain Morris the need for a community watch program as a means to help deter crime.

Morris pointed out that the program could be successful if the town's residents would get involved and not allow interest to dissolve.

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox requested that this publication ask for citizen response to the community watch program idea. Anyone interested in participating in a town organized watch program is encouraged to contact Cox, or any member of the town's board or police department.

In other action taken, the board approved a motion requiring the use of vaults in Cedarwood Cemetery.

## ASCS farm sign-up begins March 3

"County ASCS Offices will begin accepting applications for the 1986 Wheat and Feed Grain Program on March 3," Tommy Riddick, County Executive Director, Perquimans County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said. Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block recently announced a 25 percent acreage reduction program for wheat and a 20 percent reduction for feed grains.

In addition to price support loans and deficiency payments, farmers who sign up and comply with the acreage reduction program requirements will be eligible for land diversion payments

on an acreage equal to 2-1/2 percent of the crop acreage base. "Farmers may request 100 percent of their land diversion payments and 40 percent of their projected deficiency payments when they sign up."

Land diversion payment rates are \$1.10 per bushel for wheat, \$0.73 for corn, \$0.65 for sorghum, \$0.57 for barley, and \$0.36 per bushel for oats. The 10 percent additional paid diversion option for winter wheat producers is \$2.00 per bushel.

Program participants will be eligible to earn deficiency payments on the acres planted within the permitted. "Those

who plant at least 50 percent of the permitted acreage to the program crop and plant the remaining permitted acreage to a non-program crop, other than soybeans or extra long staple cotton, will be eligible to receive deficiency payments on 92 percent of the permitted acreage."

Estimated per bushel deficiency payment rates are: wheat, \$1.83; corn, \$1.03; sorghum, \$0.98; barley, \$0.95 and oats, \$0.45.

Winter wheat producers who reduce the acreage planted to wheat so that it does not exceed 65 percent of the farm's wheat base will be eligible to receive di-

version payments of \$2.00 per bushel on an acreage equivalent to 10 percent of the wheat base.

Seventy-five percent of the advance deficiency payments will be paid in cash during sign-up, and the remaining 25 percent will be paid as payment-in-kind beginning April 30.

## Dunn takes post as agency director

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

One of Perquimans County's newest citizens has undertaken the directorship of an almost new agency.

Talmage Dunn, who moved here with his family five months ago, has been appointed director of Perquimans-Chowan Partners With Youth (PWY).

The program, which was established locally last February, is designed to match adult volunteers with troubled youth in a one-on-one situation to provide positive relationships and goals.

Dunn, who took over as director of the program in January, is a former math and computer teacher in the Virginia Beach School System. He holds a degree in psychology from Old Dominion University. Dunn stated that he moved to Perquimans County, after years of visiting in the community, because he and his family were seeking a slower paced life than the one that they led in Virginia Beach. An avid outdoorsman, Dunn said that he had been coming here for years to hunt and fish, and that Perqui-

mans County just seemed like the best place to come.

He had hoped to secure a job with the county's school system, but after that didn't work out he became interested in the PWY program.

Partners With Youth came into being following the establishment of the Governor's One-On-One Program in 1981. The local program matches youth between the ages of eight and 18 with adult volunteers, and is similar to the Big-Brother, Big Sister program. Youth that have had contact with the court system comprise 90-percent of those served under the state regulated program. The other ten percent of those served can be referred by parents, teachers, churches, or other concerned individuals or groups.

Funding for the program is secured through state matching grant monies and community donations. Currently the agency has matched four youth with adult volunteers, and has four other young people on a waiting list to be matched.

According to Dunn there is a need for adult volunteers, especially male volunteers, to insure the continued success of the program. Dunn also added that the program is always in need of additional funds.

Dunn resides in the White Hat community with his wife, Janet, and their children, Amy and Justin.

For more information on the PWY program contact Dunn at 482-3939.



DUNN

## County resident witnessed space shuttle explosion

By SUSAN HARRIS

On Thursday, January 28th, the entire nation was shocked by the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger. Television cameras captured the tragic moment and over the next few days repeatedly broadcasted the drama.

Emily Harrell of Perquimans County doesn't need the television newscasts to remember that fateful day. She witnessed the explosion.

Harrell was visiting her brother and sister-in-law at Cocoa Village, Florida, near Melbourne, on the day that the shuttle was scheduled for lift-off.

She said she and her hosts began watching television reports early in the day when newscasters announced that ice on the shuttle had caused a delay in the take-off. "You could see the icicles on the shuttle on television," she said.

The launch was delayed, but NASA officials began the countdown and the astronauts prepared for their flight, the first mission carrying a civilian passenger.

Mrs. Harrell said her

brother and his wife had witnessed many shuttle take-offs, and that she herself had watched an unmanned shuttle go into orbit.

As the launch time drew near, Mrs. Harrell, her brother, and his wife moved outside to watch the take-off.

Just after lift-off, Mrs. Harrell said her brother repeated several times, "Something is wrong." It was at about that time that the shuttle exploded.

"You just can't believe how awesome it was," Mrs. Harrell said. "You couldn't say a thing. You just stood there. You can't describe it."

She went on, "You could see the debris falling. It was showering down. You knew there was no way those people could have survived."

Mrs. Harrell lost a son-in-law in a 1959 airplane crash in Germany. She said suddenly that filled her memory, as she compared the two events. "I had goose bumps," she said.

At that point the trio returned to the house to turn on the news and see what had happened.

Mrs. Harrell said that the

next day there were literally hundreds of boats out looking for shuttle parts. The area became so congested, the search teams had some areas cleared of civilian traffic.

The newscasters were warning people not to touch any shuttle debris found on the beaches because they could be highly toxic, Mrs. Harrell recalled. But, she said, there were some people who seemed to be looking for souvenirs. In areas where debris had been found, beaches were being closed to the public.

Mrs. Harrell said it was hard to describe her feelings about having witnessed the terrible tragedy.

NASA officials and investigative teams are still searching for pieces of the shuttle and answers to the mystery of the explosion. Several theories have been suggested, but no positive answers have surfaced.

Until some answers are found, the shuttle program is temporarily on hold.