

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 53, No.21

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, May 22, 1986

25 CENTS



County dedicates Winfall Water Plant

By NANCY T. SMITH
On Monday, May 19, hours of planning and work came to fruition as the Winfall Water Treatment Plant was dedicated.

Plant manager, Wayne Winslow, opened the ceremonies with an invocation.

Perquimans County officially accepted the new Winfall Water Treatment Plant on Monday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Home Extension Service provided refreshments to those touring the new plant (top). Participating in the ribbon cutting ceremonies were: (Bottom Photo, left to right) Randy Keaton; W.R. Chappell; Wayne Winslow; "Welly" White; Marvin Howell with FmHA; Lester Simpson; Hubert Hollis of FmHA; Carson Brinkley, FmHA Community Programs Chief; Melvin Howell, FmHA County Supervisor; Don Norman, FmHA District Representative; and Thomas Nixon. (Photos by Tim Bryant.)

Chairman of the County Commissioners, W.W. "Welly" White, Jr. welcomed those assembled for the occasion. He recognized Mr. F.A. McGoogan who got the water system started. He recognized members of the Chamber of Commerce and County Commissioners present. Mr. White stated that without the financial support of FmHA, the facility may not have been completed. The \$1,270,000 structure was financed by a \$560,000 grant and a \$230,000 clean water grant. The remainder of the construction price, \$480,000, was made up by a loan from FmHA. Mr. White further stated that he looked forward to working with FmHA on the renovation-construction project at Perquimans County High School.

Mr. White then recognized Mr. Russ Chappell the Water Department Supervisor and thanked the Home Extension Department for preparing refreshments for the occasion. Mr. White then turned the program over to Mr. Carson Brinkley, Chief of Community Programs for FmHA. Mr. Brinkley told the group that the water plant is a good example of rural development. It was not so long ago that a shallow well was the only source of water that a rural family could depend on. Water systems such as the one installed at Winfall were reserved for the larger communities. He pointed out that it is now the exception, rather than the norm, to find a shallow well to be a family's only source of water. Mr. Brinkley credited Mr. Don Norman, District Director for FmHA, for putting in many hours to get systems like the one in Winfall in many rural communities.

Officials from FmHA and Perquimans County officials joined in a ribbon cutting ceremony with Mr. "Welly" White doing the honors of cutting the ribbon and opening the Water Treatment Facility.

Refreshments and a tour of the plant rounded out the morning's activities.



Roads for the Future meeting set for Tuesday

Residents of the Albemarle Area will have the opportunity next Tuesday to discuss their feelings regarding highway needs in the district.

The meeting, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 27 at the COA Lecture Auditorium will also feature D.O.T. Board Member Earl Rountree from Gates County.

Jake Alexander, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Transportation will be in Elizabeth City to head a discussion on highway needs and the Governor's Roads to the Future program.

Public input is essential to proper planning for the future. All community leaders and citizens are encouraged to attend this meeting.

County Commissioners hear budget increase requests

By JANE B. WILLIAMS
Perquimans County Commissioners faced a large task when they sat down at the budget table last night to begin preparation of the Fiscal Year 1986-87 County Budget.

Budget requests from the county's volunteer fire departments and social services department submitted on Monday would require more than \$66,000 in additional county funding over last year's budget.

Danny Gregory, chief of Inter-County Volunteer Fire Department, led a delegation of county fire chiefs and officers in a request for an additional \$1,000 per department for the upcoming fiscal year. Gregory pointed out that each department currently receives \$4,000 from the county, and indicated that the additional money would help to defray the increasing costs involved in operating a fire station.

Gregory expressed the concern of the departments over inadequate funds to make replacement of equipment possible. Departments in the county rely heavily on fund-raising activities

and donations throughout the year to finance their budgets, some of which are more than four times the amount allotted to the department by the county.

The departments in Perquimans County are manned solely by volunteers, who in addition to their regular jobs, put in numerous hours of fire training and actual firefighting during the year. Aside from those responsibilities, the volunteers also must conduct regular fund-raising activities to insure that their department will generate enough funds to stay in operation.

Gregory told the commissioners that the fire departments would support them in the initiation of a county-wide fire tax proposal. Revenues acquired by such a tax would aid in keeping the county's fire departments solvent.

County Manager Randy Keaton described to the board two methods of creating tax revenue for fire service. Keaton stated that a fire tax could be incorporated into the county's ad valorem tax, and monies then would be dispersed to the departments.

Keaton stated that this type of action could be approved through a county-wide referendum. He also told the board that the county could request approval of a fire service fee by the North Carolina General Assembly that would tax only improved real estate in the county, thus exempting farm land.

Gregory told the board that the departments had survived "years and years by raising money, but it's getting harder." He pointed out that there is a lot of old equipment in the county departments that will eventually need replacing, and he added that there needed to be some long range plans for that replacement.

Board Chairman W.W. (Welly) White, Jr. told the group that the board would take the request for additional funds into consideration during their budget meetings. White did warn, however, that the budget for fiscal year 1986-87 "is going to be tight."

The budget rendered by the county's social services director, Paul Gregory, constituted a \$60,930 request for additional funding this year. The county's share of the total budget before subtracting revenues from state and federal sources totals \$920,287. That department's total projection of operating costs for fiscal year 86-87 is in excess of \$4-million. Perquimans County's share of that expense totals \$404,158. The remainder of the budget is financed through federal and state funds.

The highest categories of expense faced by that department are the AFDC Program (Aid for families with dependant children) at \$600,955; Medicaid at \$2,083,096; Food Stamps at \$699,487; and department administration and overhead at \$397,057. All of those programs receive county, state and federal funding with the exception of the food stamp program, which is totally funded by the federal government.

Gregory told the board that the budget could be cut, but added that he was certain, if cuts were made he would be back before the board to ask for additional appropriations during the year.

In defense of the program Gregory stated that if the office closed it would hurt the economy

of the county considerably. He queried, "If this office closed tomorrow, how long would it take Perquimans County to get back on its feet after losing \$4-million?"

The board members told Gregory that his requests would be taken into consideration during

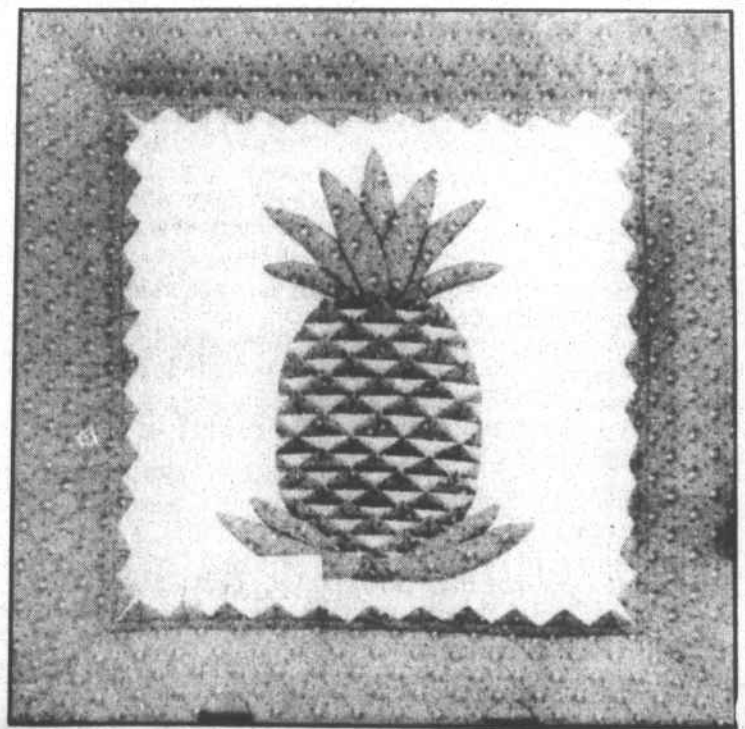
their budget meetings.

In other business the board: -approved a request from The Open Door for the donation of an old county typewriter to the organization; -approved tax refund for Richard Bleil; -approved a request for two

new typewriters by the Tax Office; -voted to make an offer of \$5,000 for a well at the new water plant that was not previously accepted by the county; -agreed to pay Peters and White \$2,318.50 to finish out their contract.

Extension Week Observed

Perquimans Homemakers displayed their works last Friday on the courthouse lawn in commemoration of extension week. (Top) An example of quilting; (Below) Fashion belts, quilting, Armenian needle lace and weaving with macrame' were some of the crafts exhibited during the celebration. (Photos by Nancy Smith.)



Woman recovering following assault

An attempted rape last week in the Bethel area left an 85-year-old woman in satisfactory condition in Chowan Hospital. She had been beaten and stabbed during the incident.

Information obtained by the Daily Advance from Perquimans County Sheriff Julian Broughton shows that the assailant apparently cut telephone lines leading to the mobile home of the victim and turned the power off at the pole. The assailant entered the victim's home shortly before midnight. The mobile home of the victim is located a mile off U.S. Highway 17 in Bethel Community.

Left unconscious after the attack, the victim regained consciousness and went across the road to her brother's home seeking help.

The sheriff's department received the call for help at 12:05 a.m. An officer arriving on the scene found the cut telephone

line and the electrical power cut off.

No conclusive evidence was uncovered by bloodhounds brought to the scene but fingerprints have been lifted from the woman's home.

Repeated attempts to obtain updated information from the Sheriff's Department by this newspaper were unsuccessful. Dwight Ransome of the State Bureau of Investigation, who is helping with the case, could not be reached by press time.

The condition of the victim has kept her from making identification of the assailant or giving a description. At last report, the victim was in the progressive care unit at Chowan Hospital.

Residents are advised to call their local law enforcement agency if they see anything suspicious. They are advised to keep their doors locked, and don't open their doors late at night.

