



# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 Cents

## Briefs Trash: It's a dirty word Perquimans County

### Workshop slated

A gifts and wills workshop will be held at the Hertford United Methodist Church on Sunday, Jan. 13, beginning at 6 p.m. with a covered dish dinner. The Reverend Douglas L. Byrd, executive director of the United Methodist Foundation will be on hand to conduct the workshop from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

You will learn some important things about your will, such as how to provide adequately for your family; how to maximize benefits to heirs and other beneficiaries; how to minimize taxes and other costs; and how to avoid pitfalls with your will. You will also receive some helpful information and valuable materials which will be useful in estate planning and learn some creative ways of giving, many of which can benefit the donor as well as the charitable cause.

Anyone interested in attending this workshop should call the Hertford United Methodist Church office at 426-5467 by noon Friday.

### Group plans trip

A bus and van will be leaving Elizabeth City on Tuesday, Jan. 22 to go to the annual March for Life in Washington, DC. The purpose of the March is to protest the Jan. 22, 1973 Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion on demand. The marchers will ask Congress to restore legal protection to unborn children and stop tax funding of abortion. For more information call Mimi Weeks at 426-7653 or Linus Riehle at 330-4782.

### Cancer fundraiser set

The Perquimans County Chapter of the American Cancer Society will hold their annual pancake and homemade sausage fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 26. The all-you-can-eat feast will be served three times during the day: 7-10 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m., and 5-7 p.m. Take-out plates will be available. Entertainment will be provided during the evening serving session. Centura Bank donated a \$50 savings bond to be given as a door prize.

Tickets for the meal, which will be prepared by county Ruritans, are \$3.50. They are available at Centura Bank, Hertford Savings & Loan, and The Perquimans Weekly.

### Shareholders to meet

The Annual Shareholders meeting of the Perquimans Credit Union will be held Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Albemarle Regional Building and Development Building.

### School menus

The menu for Perquimans County Schools for Jan. 14-18, is as follows:

Monday- Breakfast- eggs with toast or cereal, fruit or juice and milk. Lunch- Pizza or fish sandwich, potato wedges, greens, green limas, mixed fruit and milk.

Tuesday- Breakfast- jelly donut or cereal, fruit or juice and milk. Lunch- Fried chicken with a hot roll or hot ham and cheese on a bun, French fries, green peas, apple sticks, fruit and milk.

Wednesday- Breakfast-cinnamon raisin biscuit or cereal, fruit or juice and milk. Lunch- Cheeseburger or meatball sub, shoestring fries, corn, baked beans, orange wedges, and milk.

Thursday- Breakfast-waffle or cereal, fruit or juice and milk. Lunch- Chicken pot pie with a hot roll or pork chopette on a bun, sweet potatoes, broccoli, peaches, fruit juice and milk.

Friday- TEACHERS WORK-DAY!

Trash is a dirty word in Perquimans County as county commissioners begin in earnest to wrestle with the growing problem of solid waste disposal and complying with SB-111.

The state has mandated that the county reduce the volume of solid waste taken to the landfill by 1993. In order to comply with the legislation, the county will construct convenience centers in the county and will initiate a tipping fee at the tri-county landfill.

Numbers are the biggest problem facing the county at the outset: How many convenience centers are needed? How many can the county realistically afford to build? How many people will voluntarily separate their solid waste?

County manager Paul Gregory told commissioners Monday that the time has come to consider the

location of the first convenience center. "It will be crucial...in determining all the sites," he said.

"These centers, once set up, will run somewhere from \$42,000-50,000 per year per site" to operate, Gregory told the board. The trade-off, Gregory said, is that once the convenience centers are all operational, the green dumpsters presently sitting in approximately 15 locations around the county will be removed, and therefore the expense of upkeep and pick up from those sites will not have to come from county coffers.

Gregory suggested that the commissioners consider constructing the first convenience center somewhere along U.S. Highway 17. He said that the road bisects the county and most residents travel that particular road more than any other in the county.

He also said that the commission-

ers may want to consider setting up some sites in conjunction with Gates and/or Chowan counties near areas where the counties meet. "It may be feasible to operate one together," Gregory said.

Commissioner Mack Nixon said that before making any decisions, the commissioners should study maps of present dumpster sites and identify the most-populated areas in the county. "I think to make some intelligent decisions, we're going to need some background information on it," Nixon said.

Commissioner Leo Higgins agreed, and added that he would also like to know the location of property owned by the county.

Board vice chairman Thomas Nixon is not sure county residents will cooperate in the effort. He said it took a long time to get people to stop dumping trash in the woods

and to use the green dumpsters.

Cost is another issue that concerns Nixon. "How many of them (convenience centers) can we afford?" he queried during the discussion.

"I think the bigger question is, 'How many sites can we NOT afford?'" Nixon responded. Nixon added that even with the large number of dumpster sites in the county now, there are still roadside dumps. Nixon also said he feels that there should be a dumping fee at the tri-county landfill implemented immediately. He stated that residents and businesses from Pasquotank County have begun using Perquimans dump sites and the landfill since Pasquotank began charging to dump. This just increases the local problem, Nixon said.

Community involvement and making citizens aware of the poten-

tial costs to the county, and subsequently the taxpayers, if the state's mandates are not met are the keys to unlocking the waste management cycle, the commissioners agreed.

Gregory estimated that 50 to 70 percent of the county population will recycle to some degree. "Every little bit helps with the total," he said.

Nixon said county governments need to pressure legislators to put deposits on bottles, cans and other recyclable materials to encourage recycling. There also must be a market for recyclables, he added.

"Until they start working towards it (deposits and markets), we can't do much," he said.

Gregory will provide the demographic information requested by the commissioners. A decision on the location of the first convenience center should be reached soon.

## Work begins on Blanchard building renovations

Work has finally begun on the controversial renovation of the Blanchard building adjacent to the courthouse proper.

A.L. Chesson, who was awarded the \$400,000-plus bid last month, began work Monday, a week before the start date agreed upon by Chesson and the commissioners. Workmen started with interior dismantling on what is expected to be an eight-month project.

When completed, the building will house the county's second courtroom, the commissioner's room, and the sheriff's, dispatch, and building inspection departments. Included in the project is the addition of an elevator to allow handicapped access to the second-floor courtroom facility.

Chesson requested that the county consider allowing him to purchase builder's risk insurance through the county's self-insurance fund. County manager Paul Gregory told commissioners Monday that many counties are agreeing to purchase insurance for construction projects provided that the contractor pays the premium. Gregory said that the insurance could be purchased by county at a much cheaper rate than that the contractor will pay.

Commissioner Mack Nixon said that the county should consider the possible future liability to the county of allowing Chesson to go through the county's insurer.



Photo by Nancy Ruyden-Clark

Jack Hurdle (left) and Ray Winslow watch as crews from A.L. Chesson begin inside renovations on the Blanchard building.

Nixon said that if anyone was hurt on the premises during construction, the county could ultimately be forced to sue itself, in effect, for damages. Nixon, who is himself a building contractor, said that

while it is common in the industry to request insurance through a county government on a public project, he felt that the liability to the county would be too great. He further stated that all contractors

include the cost of builder's risk insurance in their project bids.

County attorney John Matthews agreed that Nixon had a valid point. The commissioners rejected the request.

## State program helps citizens buy homes

First-time home buyers in North Carolina can obtain \$46 million in below-market-rate mortgages as a result of a tax-exempt bond issue sold Dec. 7 by the N.C. Housing Finance Agency.

The loans were made possible because mortgage revenue bonds survived the congressional budget ax in November and were extended for one more year. During the budget negotiations, all 13 of North Carolina's senators and congressmen signed delegation letters supporting the program, which has helped almost 25,000 North Carolina families with low and moderate incomes.

With an interest rate of 8.15 percent, the new mortgages will be about 1.35 percentage points below the current market rate. They will be available statewide beginning Jan. 9, from 40 lending institutions and their branches. Centura Bank and First Wachovia Mortgage Corporation both have N.C. Housing funds to lend, according to company spokespersons.

Don Jennings, vice president at Centura Bank in Elizabeth City, and Carolyn Winslow, loan originator at First Wachovia, said their institutions have money available to prospective home buyers in Perquimans County.

"The new bond issue will provide 30-year, fixed rate, FHA-insured mortgages for approximately 835 first-time home buyers," said William T. Boyd, chairman of the N.C. Housing Finance Agency. "The 8.15 percent rate will enable a family taking out a \$70,000 mortgage to save more than \$800 a year over the cost of a market-rate mortgage."

In addition, the agency's mortgage certificate program (MCC) continues to be available through most mortgage lenders. MCCs reduce the cost of buying a home by allowing a federal tax credit for part of the mortgage interest amount. The program is based on the same federal legislation as the bond loans.

The low-interest loans can be used to finance new or previously owned single-family detached homes, townhouses or condominiums. The loans can also be used to purchase new doublewide manufactured homes that meet FHA insurance standards and are land-home transactions.

The N.C. Housing Finance Agency is a self-supporting state agency created by the General Assembly. Since 1973, it has issued \$1.88 billion in tax-exempt bonds and tax credits, producing more than 44,000 affordable homes and apartments.

The agency operates tax-exempt bond programs, federal housing subsidy programs, federal tax credit programs and the state's housing trust fund. It pays its salaries an operating expenses from its earnings, and also uses earnings to help local governments and nonprofit organizations produce better housing for low-income citizens.



Photo by Susan Harris

Minnie B. Taylor (left) and Elizabeth Chappell (right) congratulate Leo Higgins on being named Volunteer of the Month for the Meals on Wheels program.

## Higgins cited for service to meals program

Leo Higgins has been named volunteer of the month for December for his outstanding service to the local home delivered meals program in Perquimans County.

Higgins has been volunteering for the home delivered meals for over one year. He delivers meals once or twice a week, depending on the need. Higgins feels the home delivered meals program is one of the best and most needed programs in this area.

The program is designed to main-

tain or improve the health of elderly citizens by providing nutritious meals. It makes it possible for many older county citizens to continue living in their own homes. For some of the elderly, the program makes it possible for earlier discharge from hospitals, nursing homes, or other residential facilities.

Without volunteer support, this program would not be possible. Many of the recipients would not have that hot noon meal. Volun-

teers are needed Monday through Friday. It only takes an hour each time volunteers deliver meals. Volunteers can opt to deliver each week, twice a week, or even once per month.

Anyone interested in volunteering for this valuable service should contact Minnie B. Taylor, site manager, at 426-8369, or Elizabeth Chappell, home delivered meals coordinator, Albemarle Commission, at 426-5733.

## Chamber plans annual banquet

The Annual Banquet of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce will be held at Angler's Cove Restaurant on Monday, Jan. 21, beginning with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. (non-alcoholic) and dinner at 7:30 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Horace Davis, Director of Development and Community Relations for Carolina Power & Light Company. His topic will be "Giving It Your Best."

In both his professional life and his personal life, Davis demonstrates how he cares for other people. As a member of the Carolina Power & Light Company Speakers Bureaus, he speaks frequently of what each of us gains personally when we take time to be involved and care about our local communities. He also speaks on ways that we reaffirm our commitment to excellence and quality.

Davis has held leadership positions in the Garner Chamber of Commerce, the N.C. Cancer Society, the Garner Economic Development Corporation and numerous other organizations. He has served as Governor of N.C. District East Civitan. Garner Civic organizations have honored him with such awards as Civitan of the Year, Outstanding Chamber Member, and Outstanding Citizen. The N.C. Division of the American Cancer Society named him Volunteer of the Year in 1989.

Also on the agenda will be recognition of the 1990 Directors and the 1991 Directors. The Charles M. Harrell Jr., Business Person of the Year Award, given by Harrell's family, will also be presented.

Tickets for the banquet may be purchased at the Chamber office or reserved by calling the phone at 426-5657.