

Holshouser Proclaims Senior Citizen's Month *ECU Dorm Rates*

Gov. Jim Holshouser has proclaimed May as Senior Citizen's Month in North Carolina.

Perhaps it is ironic that May, a spring month, has been designated as Senior Citizen's Month—a time to express renewed concern for that share of the nation's population in the "autumn of their lives." At the same time, May is appropriately symbolic of the growing recognition of the valuable contributions that elderly and retired persons are being encouraged to make to their communities.

The Governor's Coordinating Council on Aging, part of the N. C. Department of Human Resources, has been working since its formation in 1965 to improve the quality of life for the 414,000 North Carolinians over 65. This figure represents 8.2 percent of the Tar Heel population.

The Council on Aging is somewhat unusual in state government because it delivers no actual services but acts as an advocate or supporter of programs and services to improve the quality of life for senior citizens.

According to J. Eddie Brown, the agency's executive director, the purpose of the Council is "to pull together all programs in the state that aid older people, to disseminate to the people all information on what is available to them, to step in and help local communities set up senior citizen projects, and to make grants to these projects from money that comes to us under state and federal legislation."

Over \$233,000 in federal funds have been made available to 10 North Carolina counties to establish programs known as RSVP-Retired Senior Volunteer Programs. Another \$149,000 is pending to set up four additional RSVP programs.

Brown said RSVP has two purposes: 1) to provide opportunities for retired persons 60 and over to use their experience, skills, talents and abilities for community service; to have the satisfaction of helping others and being recognized for taking part in and contributing to community life. 2) To recruit for public and

private non-profit agencies the volunteer help they badly need.

Studies have shown that older persons who remain active live longer, are happier and lead more fulfilled lives. RSVP provides one way for older people to have a meaningful role in the community after retirement.

The Council on Aging also encourages local communities to establish senior citizens clubs, of which there are 900 involving over 35,000 people.

Providing opportunities for the retired and elderly to be active and make a meaningful contribution is one way a community can help overcome one of the greatest problems confronting the senior citizen—that of being isolated from what is going on around him.

In addition to isolation, our elderly population faces three other major problems—transportation, malnutrition and unmet health needs, Brown noted. The Council on Aging is currently working with a nutritionist from the State Board of Health in laying the groundwork for a nutrition program for the

elderly. However, implementation of the program on a local level is contingent on funding from Congress should pending appropriations be approved.

Several other agencies within the Department of Human Resources are concerned with helping the elderly live a healthful and meaningful life. Last year, the Department of Social Services (DSS) provided an average payment of \$77.92 in old age assistance to 30,859 older citizens.

DSS licenses and supervises care in approximately 840 rest homes in North Carolina to see that the residents are provided good care.

The 100 county departments of social services offer many services to the elderly, ranging from transportation to and from the doctor's office to finding someone to repair a leaking roof.

Most of these services are geared to helping an older person live in his own home as long as he is able.

The DSS works constantly with mental hospitals to arrange for elderly patients who no longer need psychiatric care to return to their communities, either to a rest home, nursing home or to their own home.

The State Board of Health is responsible for licensing nursing homes, which currently care for approximately 11,600 patients, 90 percent of whom are elderly. It also certifies nursing homes as eligible to receive medicare and medicaid funds. Payment of medicaid funds to certified homes is made through the DSS.

Many local health departments provide services of particular benefit to the elderly, such as multiphasic screening clinics (early detection of diseases), cancer screening, public health nursing and home health services.

For additional information about services to the aging in your community, call your county council on aging, your county department of social services or your county health department.

Are Going Up

Dormitory room rental rates at East Carolina University will be increased \$37.50 per academic year effective in September.

The new rates approved by the ECU Board of Trustees will be \$352.50 for the academic year of three quarters, a figure recommended by Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs C.G. Moore because of increased utilities and labor costs. Moore said that in view of the increased rates for electricity and water charged by Greenville Utilities and higher labor costs the rental increase is necessary to meet debt services and operating expense and to maintain a reserve fund for these items.

Dormitory rental rates for the summer session of two items will be increased from \$105 to \$117.50.

Despite the increases, Moore said the ECU dormitory rentals will remain less than all other comparable institutions in the

state-supported system with the exception of N.C. State University in Raleigh.

Moore reported a continuing decline in dormitory occupancy and said the rental increase was necessary to stay near the "break-even" point. Most ECU dormitory construction was financed by self-liquidating bonds.

Moore said the city of Greenville offers more off-campus housing for ECU students "than any place I know."

ECU trustees also approved resolutions presented by Moore to vest the board's committee on Budget and Buildings with responsibility for maintaining a master plan for physical development of East Carolina University, to select architects or engineers for buildings or improvements requiring such professional services and approval of building sites. Authorized the committee on property to

act for the board in approving all proposals involving acquisition or disposition of any interest in real property but providing that if such proposal involves an interest in real property valued at \$50,000 or more the matter must be recommended by the committee to the full board for approval and forwarding to the Board of Governors.

The trustees authorized the Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs to act on behalf of the board of trustees to approve building plans and specifications and to certify final acceptance of complete buildings and projects.

LOTS OF FISH

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Senior Citizens Take Tour

A group of Senior Citizens through out Perquimans County went on an educational tour to Norfolk, Friday, May 18.

They toured the Gardens-By-The-Sea the Norfolk City Park, and the Norfolk Scope. The senior citizens enjoyed touring the gardens by the sea while riding on the trackless trains and the canal boats to see the 175 acres of major blooming flowers such as roses, and many of the azalea that are still in bloom. They also

enjoy the tour of the Scope by Policeman Stevens, who served as guide.

They left Hertford at 9:30 a.m. and returned at 5:10 p.m. They traveled by bus.

Rev. Willie Vaughan was the driver. The senior citizens who went on the tour were as follows: Mrs. Neppie Cox, Mrs. Annie Tillett, Mrs. R.B. Gibbs, Mrs. Minnie Gregory, Mr. Gregory, Mrs. Nancy Felton, Mrs. Hurdle, Mrs. Alberta Eason, Mrs. Charlie Ford Hoffer, Mrs. Eula Riddick, Mrs. Eliza S.

Perry, Mrs. Nannie White, Mrs. Mary Bell Skinner, Mrs. Margaret Felton, Mrs. Eula Manley, Mrs. Pecora Reid, Mrs. Mary White. These senior citizens were accompanied by Mrs. M.B. Taylor, Home Economics Extension Agent and Mrs. Marie Bryant, EIC Worker.

The presidents of Perquimans County Senior Citizens Clubs are Mrs. E.V. Billups, Bay Branch, Mrs. R.B. Gibbs, Hertford, Mrs. Mattie Whidbee, Pools Grove.

Welcome Senior Citizens

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OUR MERCHANDISE IS MARKED DOWN WITH OUTSTANDING BUYS THROUGHOUT THE STORE.

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