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Water system billing to begin

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

Phase I of the Perquimans County water system is nearing completion and residents in the Bethel, New Hope, and Belvidere sections of the county are using the new water.

Phase I is expected to be completed according to County Commissioner Chairman Lester Simpson, within the next 60 days and will include some additional water lines in outlying sections of the county.

The second phase of the project will begin when the first phase is finished. Simpson said that it will include additional water lines where feasible and funding for Phase II is still being sought.

Melvin E. Howell, FmHA County Supervisor who has served as an advisor during the project, said he considers Phase I to be 90-95 percent complete and added, "I don't see any problem in funding Phase II. It's just a matter of time." He explained that grants, loans, and other resources will be tapped for the project's continuation.

The total cost for the water system project came to \$3,700,000. Sources for those funds were \$1,870,000 in FmHA bonds which have been sold and purchased by FmHA at five per-

cent, a \$1,500,000 loan, and \$330,000 in State Clean Water Bonds.

The local FmHA office has assisted in the project by providing a survey and map plotting of county users and collection of sign-on fees. In addition, the office has helped in organizing and supervising the project often obtaining information from Chowan County, the first in the state to initiate its own county water system.

Now that the local system has begun operation, officials are ready to begin billing. Howell said, "It appears that it will work as planned. I don't foresee any tax money having to be used."

The Perquimans County Tax Department will be handling billing for the system, a new permanent responsibility. Keith Haskett, Tax Supervisor, explained that billing will take place four weeks of the month, with one section being billed each week. An IBM Systems 32 computer has been added to handle the water billing for other county uses.

The scale for payment is: first 2,000 gallons — \$7 per thousand (the minimum bill), next 3,000 gallons — \$1.50 per thousand, and all over 5,000 gallons — \$1 per thousand.

Haskett explained that the average customer will probably use between 5,000 and 7,000 gallons of water each month making the average bill around \$10-\$11. He estimates 1700 consumers will be included in the first billing.

The initial billing will go out in July for the remaining amount of deposit. The sign-on fee was \$25 of which consumers paid a \$10 deposit, therefore they will be receiving a bill for the \$15 balance.

The first bill for usage will be sent in August. Meter reading begins next week with a second reading to be taken a month later. Therefore, residents will be using the water free of charge from the time of cut-on to the first reading. All county residents who signed up for water and have a meter will be billed. If consumers have changed their minds, they will still receive a bill for the minimum fee even if no water has been used. However, anyone who has a meter taken out and decides later that service is wanted, will have to pay the same as a new turn-on customer, \$250.

Plans are also to charge a renter's deposit of \$25. The reasoning, Howell explained, is due to the possibility of renters leaving town without paying

their water bill. Also, he added, other utilities require such a deposit.

The water system includes three wells, one each in Bethel, New Hope, and Belvidere; and a water treatment plant at Bethel which removes iron, hardness and some sulfur from the water. All of these have been completed with cost of the wells totaling \$41,760 and total cost for the three tanks being \$240,000.

The system is tapped on to the existing systems for the towns of Hertford and Winfall, and Chowan and Gates counties, for emergency reasons. However, the two town systems will continue to remain separate handling their own supply and billing.

The project, started in January, 1977, was originally planned for completion by the spring of this year. A few changes and unanticipated orders set that date back some, however, officials consider the time range for the system to "still be good." No problems have been occurred, and upon completion of the system and inspection by engineers, the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners must then accept the project, action considered only a formality.



NEW ADDITION — Shown is one of several new additions throughout the county in connection with the new water system which has started operation. The tank above is at the Bethel location along with the treatment plant. Two similar tanks and three wells are also included in the project. (Staff photo by Kathy M. Newbern)

FmHA announces new standards

New insulation standards for housing in rural areas financed by the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) will be put into effect according to an announcement by Melvin E. Howell, County Supervisor.

Implementation of the standards, first scheduled for March 15, had been held up during federal court consideration of a suit by the National Association of Home Builders challenging the new code. After FmHA prepared additional environmental material and a further hearing on the proposal was held, U.S. District Judge Goerge L. Hart Jr., dissolved a preliminary injunction. While certain aspects of the lawsuit remain to be resolved, the new insulation standards can now be implemented.

The new thermal standards are

designed to provide for heavier insulation and other measures to make FmHA-financed housing less costly to heat or cool, and to conserve energy. They will apply to newly-built homes and apartments being purchased or repaired with FmHA loans. Better weatherizing through more effective insulation, storm doors and windows and other techniques will help families reduce high fuel and energy expenses that jeopardize their ability to afford adequate housing. Housing loans administered by FmHA, a U.S. Department of Agriculture Agency, serve all rural areas including towns of up to 10,000, and designated towns of 10,000 to 20,000 that are not in Standard Metropolitan Statistical (SMSA) Areas and have a shortage of mortgage credit for families of low and moderate income.

Woman injured in local shooting

Barbara Simmons, 32, of Grandy, N.C. remains in critical condition in Norfolk General Hospital as the result of a shooting incident Sunday afternoon in Hertford.

Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt identified the man charged in the shooting as Cleon Tillett Harvey, 46, also of Grandy. Merritt explained that Patrolman Robert L. Harvey arrested Cleon Harvey at 106 W. Grubb Street, Hertford, the residence of Mrs. Ora Hendrix, where the shooting occurred around 5:30 p.m.

Cleon Harvey was charged with

assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and inflicting serious bodily injuries.

Merritt said Cleon Harvey was arrested at the scene with a .32-calibre pistol in his possession from which three shots had been fired. One round struck the Simmons woman in the side of the head and was removed Monday at Norfolk General Hospital.

Merritt said, according to witnesses, Cleon Harvey came to Hertford looking for the Simmons woman and found her in a car with two men. Witnesses told the local

police that Cleon Harvey fired a 12-gauge double-barrel shotgun at the car, one blast missed and the other hit the back window. Also found in the alleged suspect's car was a 16-gauge shotgun putting the number of confiscated weapons at three.

Witnesses further explained that the Simmons woman fled to the nearby house and rushed into the kitchen, pushing Mrs. Hendrix aside. Cleon Harvey allegedly followed the Simmons woman into the kitchen. Three shots were heard.

Patrolman Harvey was in the immediate area and arrested Cleon

Harvey coming out of the house.

Chief Merritt said the suspect made a statement and that the two men are still being questioned.

Harvey remains in Tri-County Jail under \$10,000 bond.

Merritt reported that additional charges were brought against Cleon Harvey by John Lee Bishop, brother-in-law of the victim, and driver of the car Harvey allegedly shot at. Those warrants charged Harvey with assault by pointing a gun and malicious damage to personal property.

Schools begin summer programs

Monday marked the beginning of several summer programs offered by Perquimans County Schools according to Superintendent Pat Harrell.

At that time the summer migrant program got underway at Hertford

Grammar School. That program is open to children whose parents are engaged in agriculture, fisheries or related occupations. Harrell said about 50 students are involved in summer instruction in that program in the areas of math, physical education, reading, and music & art.

A remedial instruction program also began Monday at the Perquimans High Central Skills Lab under the direction of Alice Winslow and two aides. That program is a continuation of regular school term instruction and is designed for

students needing remedial instruction in mathematics and language arts.

Another remedial program for the summer began at Perquimans Union School for 7th and 8th grade students. That program last three hours daily for five weeks accumulating 75 hours of instruction. Emma Lawrence heads that program which is funded with monies from the Community Based Alternatives program.

Funds from the same source are also being used this summer for a vocational education program at Perquimans High School. Unlike most of the other summer programs, the vocational instruction is for additional enrichment, not remedial in nature. Instructor is Alonzo Joyner.

Library grant increased

The North Carolina State Library will award \$17,089 to the Pettigrew Regional Library for its Perquimans County "Serving the Unserved" project. This amount is \$1500 more than originally awarded to the project and will enable it to run until June 30, 1979.

The announcement came in a letter to Pettigrew Library Director Jay Wozny from North Carolina Assistant State Librarian Marian Leith.

The Perquimans project will emphasize outreach visits by library staff to rural families explaining library services available to them. Plans have also been made to establish eight "mini-libraries" at stores throughout the county. These libraries will consist of about 200

paperback titles each and will contain a variety of books suitable for all age groups. Other services included in the project include homebound library service, library programs to area rest homes, and in-library story hours.

County Librarian Wayne Henritze and Jay Wozny expressed their appreciation for the grant increase and plan to offer this service throughout the four-county Pettigrew Region if the project is successful in Perquimans County.

Life loss estimated

The N.C. State Motor Club has estimated that 17 persons will lose their lives in traffic accidents on N.C. highways over the long Fourth of July holiday weekend. "Historically the July Fourth holiday has been one of tragedy on our highways," motor club president Ruth R. Threath said, "but we are hopeful this year will be safer."

The state will count its toll over a 102-hour period from 6 p.m. Friday, June 30, to midnight Tuesday, July 4. Last year 17 fatalities occurred during a 78-hour holiday period while 19 died in 1976, motor vehicle records indicate.



RAPIDLY PROGRESSING — Above, workers at the site of the ARPDC-Perquimans County office building, bring the roadside mar-

quee near completion. Bob Whitley, ARPDC's Executive Director, said the architect met this week with contractors and sub-contractors on the

project. He foresees the moving date into the new facility to be about two months off. (Staff photo by Kathy M. Newbern)



CONVENTION DISCUSSION — Joe Nowell (left) and Bill Cox, two of Perquimans County's delegates to the State Democratic Convention, appear to be in deep discussion during the Saturday business session. Perquimans' seven delegates and

five alternates heard from Governor Jim Hunt, keynote speaker, and other top state Democrats during the weekend convention presided over by Thad Eure, Secretary of State. (Photo courtesy of Bessie Culpepper, The Daily Advance)