

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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ARPDC elects officers, passes resolutions



NEW OFFICERS — Newly elected officers of ARPDC are shown discussing plans for the upcoming year. They are (l. to r.) Raleigh Carver, vice-chairman; Larry Davenport, treasurer; and Donald Bryan, chairman. (Staff photo by Kathy M. Newbern)

By TONY JORDAN

Members of the Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission held their monthly meeting last Thursday to elect officers for the upcoming year at the Soundview Restaurant in Washington County. Along with the election there were two resolutions that could have a considerable amount of importance on the ten counties and 12 municipalities that ARPDC serves.

Representing Hertford and Perquimans County were Mayor Bill Cox; out-going ARPDC treasurer Lester Simpson, and Mrs. M.B. Taylor. Three new officers were selected by the 34 board members present. They were Donald Bryan of Dare County as chairman, Raleigh Carver of Pasquotank County as vice-chairman, and treasurer, Larry Davenport of Washington County. The nominating committee placed Mayor Cox's name up for the

vice-chairmanship, but Cox remarked, "I would like to remove my name from nomination and give my support to Raleigh Carver, a very competent, qualified candidate. I feel it would be in the best interest of the commission."

The main topic of conversation was a resolution supporting dialysis kidney machines for the area. At present, Perquimans County residents, as well as others in Region R, in need of the equipment must travel to Norfolk, Va. for treatment. Those present agreed that the units are needed, but objections arose when Camden County was designated as the site for the location of these machines.

Russell Langley of Dare Co. expressed his sentiments for the machines to be placed adjacent to the Albemarle Hospital. Langley told the gathering that Elizabeth City could best serve the hub of the population. He also reminded everyone that he felt this way and

'doesn't particularly like the people from Elizabeth City.'

E.V. Wilkins of Washington Co. felt that a study was needed to determine where the units would benefit more people. His concern was with the idea of installing the machines near Chowan Hospital in Edenton. After some discussion on the issue Camden representative, Macon Johnson, said, "We just want to get something in the area. Camden will support anywhere."

Carver suggested that naming a site at this time was premature. Others felt that it was not for ARPDC to decide. The doctors, who would be using the facilities, were the ones to make the final decision.

Following several motions and amendments, ARPDC went on record supporting bringing the machines into the area with the location to be determined later.

The other resolution affecting Region R was passed overwhelmingly. It stated that the Virginia Electric Power Company's 17.8 percent rise in cost to eastern North Carolina residents was higher than any in the state and only because the area is

basically rural. For this reason ARPDC opposes VEPCO's increase.

In other business, The North Carolina Department of Human Resources will fund the solid waste planning for the cities of Elizabeth City and Edenton and the counties of Washington, Currituck, and Pasquotank. The funds are in the neighborhood of \$26,000. ARPDC also supported a grant continuation of \$830,000 for the Nags Head-Outer Banks Health Center.

Guest speaker for the evening was Dale Jones, Representative from the Economic Development Administration in Raleigh. Jones told the members that they had to work together and have faith. 'Agencies have to have faith in the people who elected them...Both the local and federal people have to have faith in the people I'm talking to.' He added that he liked the way the area was progressing and that it showed in their enthusiasm.

There was a memorial for Melvin E. Bunch of Edenton. Bunch, who passed away in the past week, was remembered for his role in controlling crime and law enforcement in the area.

Public appeal is made for Newbold-White House project

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

Perquimans County has less than one week to come up with just over \$14,000 if the completion of the Newbold-White House in the fall of 1979 is to become a reality.

That news came Monday afternoon from R.L. Stevenson, Finance Chairman for the Perquimans County Restoration Association, who is heading the local campaign to raise \$25,000 making the project eligible for that same

amount in matching state funds.

Stevenson explained that a total of \$10,785 of the needed \$25,000 has been raised in the 30-day campaign that is scheduled to end on Nov. 1. He added that over half of that money has come from out-of-county sources. He said, "Without the greater support from the local community, we will not achieve our goal."

Stevenson explained that the association is sending out a last appeal to the local residents to come

up with the needed contributions by the Nov. 1 deadline. He said, that in past fund-raising efforts, the local citizens have been very responsive, but added that the support now seems to be lagging. He attributed this lack of concern in part to the fact that the project has had several set-backs. But he added that these have not been the fault of the local organization, but rather due to needed approval and "red tape."

The projected completion date for the project, is realistic, Stevenson

said, provided the local funds can be raised making the project eligible for the two \$12,500 matching grants from the state legislature.

Concerning the Newbold-White House and its future, Stevenson concluded, "It's a goal we cannot afford not to achieve. I feel we've got to achieve the goal of raising the money for the matching funds."

Stevenson added that the association is continuing to accept donations at P.O. Box 318, Hertford, NC 27944.



GARDEN WINNER — Mrs. Odell Hurdle of Rt. 1, Belvidere, displays the plaque presented to her and her husband at Friday night's First Annual Banquet for the Albemarle Area Vegetable Garden Production and Conservation Association. The couple took first place in the large garden division for the fall season. (Staff photo)

Chamber to circulate petition

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce has announced plans to organize a local petition-signing campaign in cooperation with other counties in the Albemarle area to protest recent VEPCO rate increases.

The campaign is being spearheaded by Richard S. Coiner, president of the Washington Chamber of Commerce who has tagged the effort, "Operation Overcharge."

The purpose of the campaign, Coiner said, is "to fight for better

electric rates and to halt VEPCO in its attempts at future rate increases." He added that following a recent meeting of chambers in the area, the decision to consider the possibility of bringing another power supplier into the area to supplant VEPCO, was made.

The petition effort is involving 22 counties and has a goal of 25,000 signatures. These petitions, initiated by the chambers involved, will be presented to Governor Jim Hunt to

encourage the Utilities Commission to rescind the 17.8 percent rate increase granted to VEPCO which became effective Sept. 1.

Coiner said the movement is aiming at a Nov. 15 deadline to have all the petitions signed and returned with a trip planned in late November to deliver these personally to the governor. Plans are to include representatives from all over the 22-county area in making this personal appeal.

The Perquimans County Chamber

of Commerce, like the others involved, has been asked for a \$100 donation in the petition effort which it has approved. The local group will now begin circulating the petition for Perquimans County consumers to consider.

Local residents are affected by the wholesale power rates VEPCO charges to the Town of Hertford and the Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation, which in turn, sell the electricity to its customers or member-consumers.

Banquet honors area gardeners

By PAIGE EURE

BETHEL — To most of the people in the Albemarle area, the AAVGPCA is a new thing, but to some it's a long awaited dream.

The Albemarle Area Vegetable Garden Production and Conservation Association (AAVGPCA), is a non-profit organization serving the ten counties of Region R.

The group's purpose is to encourage the development of community and family gardens as a way to cope with the high food prices and become self-sufficient; to serve as a resource of expertise and information on gardening and conservation; and, to make this knowledge available to anyone who needs it.

Since the association's formation in 1977, it has provided guidance and counseling to hundreds of individuals interested in growing good gardens.

The First Annual Banquet of the

AAVGPCA was held Friday night at Angler's Cove Restaurant here.

Mayor Bill Cox opened the banquet with a welcome.

Greetings were presented by Dr. Vance Hamilton, District Program Leader for Community Development, N.C. State University.

The guest speaker for the evening was W.W. Reid, Extension Area Horticulture Specialist, Tidewater Research Station, Plymouth, N.C.

Reid commented on the new association by saying, "It's a very good way to get the people involved." The main topic of his talk was "Gardening and Its Immensities."

When asked if he thought gardens were increasing, Reid replied, "Yes, and the increase in gardens is because of the economic reasons, and if things go on, there will be even more."

Following the speaker's remarks, annual awards were presented.

Local juniors to take competency test

Paul Ward, director of testing for Perquimans County Schools, has announced that the competency test will be administered locally on Nov.

1 and 2. Perquimans County juniors will be joining juniors from throughout North Carolina in taking this, the first competency test. It is

anticipated that 80,000 eleventh graders in North Carolina will be participating in the testing.

This will be the first competency

test administered, passage of which is now a legal requirement for students to receive a high school diploma.

In preparation for administering the test locally, the school system has prepared and distributed packets of information for parents and students. Included are such items as sample test questions and detailed information answering questions concerning the test. The questions include, for example, how the test will affect transferring seniors, persons enrolled in adult high school diploma programs, etc.

If, following the receipt of this information, students and parents still have questions, these can be answered by the local testing coordinator.

Ward pointed out that several types of remediation programs have been established in the local school system to work with students that are unsuccessful in the test.

Local remediation programs include a CETA-funded life skills lab which works with students preparing them for the test, a Title I reading lab for all students, a Title I math lab also for all students, and a competency review lab especially for students who are not successful on the competency test.



'FUNERAL' FOR FRIENDS — While fans in New York City enjoyed a rowdy celebration supporting the Yankees' victory over the Lo

Angies Dodgers in the World Series, some local fans celebrated in a much quieter, but more sarcastic way. It is thought that there are a

few Dodger fans in Hertford that have lived through this 'terrible' experience. (Staff photo by Tony Jordan)



ONE DIES IN ACCIDENT — A late night accident in Perquimans County on Oct. 15 resulted in the death of one man, Elbert Bryan Smith, 19, of Rt. 3, Washington, N.C. Pictured above is the early model sports car, driven by Smith, that collided with a tractor-trailer truck driven by Roger Lee Stuart, 32, of Chesapeake, Va. around 11:40 p.m. The incident occurred about five

miles south of Hertford on U.S. 17. Investigating trooper Y.Z. Newberry explained that Smith was traveling north on the road when he apparently crossed the center line hitting the back of the trailer. The car Smith was driving then landed in the ditch. The driver of the truck was not injured. (Staff photo by Kathy M. Newbern)