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Town vying for excellence award

By JACK GROVE

The Town of Hertford is embarking on an ambitious program to attract industry to the town and county. The town has applied for the N.C. Community Excellence Award. The award was established by Governor Hunt to encourage localities to help themselves in attracting industry.

Once the award is granted to a community, the State Department of Commerce will direct industries wishing to locate in the state to the community best suited for its needs giving preferential treatment to the Com-

munity Excellence Award community.

To be eligible for the award, a town must demonstrate in various ways that it is ready to help itself in attracting industry. Brochures must be developed locally, listing such things as recreation opportunities, parks, housing, and available water and sewage.

The award program requires that the town develop a slide and tape presentation that can be shown to interested industries.

There are other detailed requirements, but one of the main requirements, one that all local

citizens can take part in, is a clean-up, fix-up campaign.

Mayor Bill Cox has enlisted the aid of the Perquimans County Jaycees to spearhead this fix-up, clean-up effort. Jaycees president, Thomas Riddick is chairman.

Riddick said the campaign is already underway and challenged all citizens to become involved in the effort.

Saturday, August 11 has been designated as the final day of this campaign. On that date, town trash trucks will be running to pick up trash that citizens wish removed from their property.

Transport termed inadequate

"Transportation is not keeping pace with agriculture's needs," a spokesman for the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation told a national Rural Transportation Advisory Task Force at a hearing on July 12 in Raleigh.

The newly-created panel, co-chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Transportation, is holding similar hearings throughout the country to study rural transportation needs.

D. Gray Faulkner, a vice president of Farm Bureau, pointed out that the availability, cost and quality of transportation are becoming serious limiting factors in our ability to produce and market the volume of food and fiber needed to satisfy our domestic needs and our expanding exports.

Faulkner said if our transportation system is to meet the challenge of the future, "we must identify the problem that exists and take necessary legislative and regulatory steps to alleviate such problems."

In turning to the nation's railroad system, Faulkner said regulatory reform is needed, rather than total deregulation.



BERRY PICKING — The blueberry pickers are out in force at Jesse Perry's farm. Susan Johnson of Virginia Beach picks with a smile even on a hot day. Susan and her husband Mike (on knees in background) are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Jennings at Snug Harbor. (Staff photo by JACK GROVE)

Crime watch builds support

By BONNIE D. WHITE

The Community Crime Watch continues to draw interest as shown at the meeting held Tuesday, July 10 at the Courthouse.

Block captains, town chairman and interested citizens welcomed Chief Marshall Merritt. Chief Merritt warned of a group of young white males who are referred to as "Irish Travelers".

The group is traveling in North Carolina and possibly will turn up in our area. For a fee, the young men will offer to pave driveways, etc. After receiving the money, the group flees.

Senior citizens are especially vulnerable to men of this type and are asked to contact the police department if they see or are approached by such a group.

He also warned about theft of gas. Even though we are not experiencing a shortage in our area, the price has made some turn to theft, he said.

The group was informed that a camera has been donated by Preston Divers of Divers Jewelers for use by citizens in the Crime Watch. The camera will be at the police station and is to be used for photographing at valuables not suitable for engraving. Additional engraving tools have arrived for use by the community and are at the police station.

Roy Perkins, block captain of Brown Acres explained the information that block captains should give residents contacted. He urged all captains to complete enrollment of their respective blocks and offered his assistance.

There is still a need for block captains. All interested people who wish to be a part of this worthwhile program, are urged to contact one of the town chairmen or the police department.

The next meeting of the Crime Watch is to be July 17 at the courthouse at 7 p.m.



CAMERA PRESENTED — Mayor Bill Cox is shown presenting Mr. Bryant with a camera from the Town Council in appreciation for his service to the town and county.

Bryant retires

The Extension Homemakers County Council and Executive Board gave a Retirement Reception for Mr. Richard H. Bryant, former Perquimans County Extension Chairman on Sunday, July 8, 1979 in the County Office Building.

A large number of friends throughout the area attended the reception in honor of Mr. Bryant.

The Reception Committee consisted of Mrs. C.T. Rogerson, Jr., Chairman, Mrs. F.B. Tucker, Mrs. Millard Hurdle, Mrs. Donald Madre, and they were assisted by Mrs. Paige Underwood, Home Economics Extension Agent.

Other gifts were presented by the Extension Homemakers and County Council.

Fire hydrants take on new look

The Town of Hertford has recently had the 90 fire hydrants on the water system painted. Most of the hydrants have been painted the traditional color of aluminum and red, with some painted yellow.

The National Fire Protection Association Standard No. 291 suggests that uniform marking of fire hydrants be done throughout the United States. The NFPA standard suggests that all the barrels of the hydrants be painted yellow with the caps color-coded to indicate water flow capability for fire pumps.

Hydrants in Hertford that are painted yellow are for quick visibility by responding fire units. The yellow hydrants with green caps indicate that the hydrant is on an eight inch or larger water main providing ample water supply for 750 gallon per minute pumps. Red caps indicate a smaller size main and water flow.

A cross sampling of hydrants for water pressure, flow capacity, and accessibility is conducted by the local fire department and periodically checked by an inspector with the Insurance Service Office for insurance rating purposes.

The local fire department tries to make sure that hydrants are not obstructed by bushes, fences, utility service equipment and vehicles.

N.C. General Statute 20-152 prohibits the parking of vehicles within 15 feet on either side of fire hydrants. Most curbs are also painted yellow in front of hydrants to indicate to vehicle operators that a fire hydrant is located nearby.

George Townsend painted the fire hydrants for the town.



STOLEN ARTICLE — Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt recovers an electric animal prod from the trunk of a car operated by Michael Shawn Crew. The prod was stolen from the

Whedbee Livestock Co. Crew was arrested Tuesday, July 10 and charged with five counts of breaking and entry and larceny. (Staff photo by JACK GROVE)

County to receive road allocations

The N.C. Board of Transportation, at its monthly meeting Friday, approved \$24 million for secondary road improvements during the next 12 months.

In allocating the money, the board appropriated these funds for each county, based on a formula prescribed by the General Assembly. According to this formula, each county received a percentage of the total funds available, determined by the unpaved miles of secondary roads in the county in relation to the mileage of unpaved secondary roads in the state.

In January of this

year, the board had allocated \$15 million in highway bond funds as a result of the 1977 bond issue for secondary road improvements, making a total of \$39 million for projects for 1979-80.

Board members met this spring with the 100 county boards of commissioners in public meetings across the state to review and approve projects to utilize these funds.

Work began on these projects earlier this year with funds from the bond issue and will continue with the monies approved Friday.

Transportation Secretary Tom Bradshaw

commended the Perquimans County Commissioners and Chairman J.W. "Joe" Nowell, Jr. for their role in developing the plan as representatives of the citizens of the county.

According to Bradshaw, as of January 1, 1979, the county has 174 miles of paved secondary roads. The number of unpaved miles is 83 while the total unpaved state-maintained secondary system contains 19,673 miles of roads. Perquimans County's share of secondary road monies is \$60,873 from the bond funds. The latest allocation is approximately \$102,500.

Chamber meets July 9

The regular monthly meeting of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce was held on July 9.

Mary Ruth Smith read a letter from the newly organized Eastern N.C. Chamber of Commerce inviting a delegate from the Perquimans C of C to attend a luncheon meeting July 18.

Mayor Bill Cox presented a report on the Highway 17 group that is working toward the four-laning of the highway

from the Virginia border to the S.C. border.

He reported that a rally is to be held July 17 in New Bern and another is planned for this area in August. Cox urged the chamber members to support this effort and to try to attend the rally for this area.

The chamber passed a resolution to purchase a Birthday Calendar with listing of future chamber meetings for \$4.25.

Mary Ruth Smith read a letter of resignation

from the former Chamber president, Thomas Johnson. A letter of appreciation is to be sent to Johnson. Smith, former vice president, has assumed the duties of president.

It was reported that Betty Hare will continue to work on the questionnaire for solicitors in the county.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Henry Carney and Mr. Bibb volunteered to be membership chairmen.



WRECKAGE — This is the remains of a car driven by Dennis M. Abbott involved in an accident Sunday night. Abbott is in the intensive care unit of Albemarle Hospital. (Staff photo by JACK GROVE)

Car and pick-up collide

Two vehicles were involved in an accident on U.S. 17 1.6 miles south of Hertford at 8:35 p.m.

Sunday. A car driven by Dennis M. Abbott, 22, of Henderson, N.C. and Virginia Beach, Va. col-

lided head-on with a pick-up truck driven by Dallas D. Davis, 46, of Elizabeth City. Davis' wife, Geraldine, was a passenger in his vehicle.

The Highway Patrol reported that Abbott's northbound car was left of the center line at the point of impact.

Board hears health expert

The Perquimans County Commissioners met in regular session Monday at 8 p.m. All commissioners were present.

Ila Gray White, the county's delegate to the Eastern Carolina Health Systems Agency introduced Roy Selby of that agency. Selby is from Greenville.

Selby outlined for the commissioners how his agency works, its purpose and its goals. He explained that the agency deals in federal dollars. In health matters directly relating to the county, Selby pointed out that Perquimans is understaff-

ed in doctors and dentists on a per capita basis. He also mentioned the high rate of infant mortality in the Albemarle Region, sixth highest in the U.S.

Tom Harwell of Rivers and Associates discussed Phase II of the county's water system with the commissioners.

A letter was read from the Town of Winfall which asked that the town be covered under the sub-division regulations of the County Planning Board. The commissioners passed a resolution in favor of this request.

The Davises and Abbott were admitted to the Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City. Abbott sustained multiple fractures and severe internal injuries. Dallas Davis suffered multiple fractures and lacerations. Both are in intensive care. Mrs. Davis suffered a broken left wrist and lacerations.

Responding to the accident scene in addition to the Highway Patrol were the Perquimans and Chowan Rescue Squads, the Perquimans and Chowan Sheriff Departments and the Hertford Fire Department.