

## Plat approval knot is loosened slightly

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners and the county planning board worked toward simplifying the confusing process by which a subdivision plat is approved at a special meeting Monday night.

Two hours of discussion between the two boards centered primarily on what constitutes a subdivision and the availability of county water to newly subdivided property.

While expressing sympathy for the property owner who has to go through the expensive, time consuming process of plat approval for the sale of one lot, the commissioners reaffirmed that a subdivision is any division of a piece of property beyond the sale of the first lot.

The sole exception is that a parent may deed a piece of property to his child.

The problem was best illustrated by planning board chairman John Coston, who cited an example of a man who had sold a single lot for \$700 and had spent more than \$200 in getting his plat ready for approval.

There was, however, another side to the argument. County attorney John Matthews said that the child gift clause already puts a loophole

in the law, in that a parent can deed the property over to his child, who can then do anything he wants to with it, including sell it for his parent.

By excusing single lot sales from the ordinance, a property owner could sell lots one at a time until he had created a subdivision without following any of the rules.

"If it's any good we've got to stick by it (the definition)," said commissioner Lester Simpson.

The question of availability of county water was less easily resolved.

The subdivision ordinance states that if county water is available, the developer must hook on to the system.

Planning board members said they need a more exact definition of when water is available.

"This leaves us in a bad position," Coston said. "We've lost two developments that should have had water put to them because of a regulation we can't interpret."

Commissioner Marshall Caddy argued that connecting to the system should be optional, and available where the developer owns property adjacent to a line.

"He would be responsible, if he wanted to hook on, for developing and putting in a

line to the point where the county water line joins his property," Caddy said.

The ordinance requires, however, that the developer hook on to the system when it is available.

A popular definition of availability among the commissioners has been that if the developer's property or road right of way joins a water line, water is available.

Planning board members argued that one man might own a road to his property that is three miles long and have to run a water line the entire distance. Another developer might be 300 feet from a county line but with no property adjoining it.

The 300 hundred foot requirement was suggested as one used by other county water systems. Commissioner Waldo Winslow, though, said that Chowan County has no distance requirement, yet has not had any problem with interpretation of its ordinance.

The commissioners will consider the matter further before making a decision on availability. In the meantime, commissioner Lester Simpson has been appointed to determine where water is available by working through the commissioners.



Coffee and politics

Speaker of the House Carl Stewart, Jr. sips coffee and matches for quarters with Hert-

ford residents at the Hertford Cafe on Friday afternoon. Stewart was in town to boost his

campaign for lieutenant governor. (Photo by MIKE MCLAUGHLIN)

## Stewart makes campaign stop

The campaign trail of Democratic Speaker of the N.C. House Carl J. Stewart, Jr. wound through Perquimans County on Friday afternoon as Stewart stopped off in Hertford to press the flesh and answer questions.

Stewart is a candidate for Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina and passed through seven Northeastern counties during the latter part of last week to promote his campaign.

In Hertford, Stewart met downtown shoppers and merchants, introduced himself to county employees at the courthouse, and even popped into the Hertford Cafe to match for quarters and coffee.

In between, Stewart squeezed in a few comments on his campaign and its

relevance to the Albemarle.

In a pointed reference to his chief opponent, the incumbent Lieutenant Governor Jimmy Greene, Stewart said that a major issue in the 1980 election will be willingness to work with the governor.

"The most often heard complaint I pick up on is that the people of North Carolina want a lieutenant governor who will cooperate with the governor. They feel they haven't had that in the last three years," Stewart said.

He said that he is a not infrequent visitor to Northeastern North Carolina and expects the area to be a strong political base for him.

If elected lieutenant governor, Stewart said he would support balanced growth policy intended to shift industrial development into

such previously undeveloped regions as the Albemarle, thus expanding tax bases to afford the improvement of schools and public services.

Stewart also said that the availability of good roads is another serious regional

problem that needs to be addressed by state government.

As for the strengths of the Northeastern region, Stewart pointed to an abundance of water and recreational development potential, the

best agricultural land in the state, and room for expanding without crowding.

"I do expect industrial activity, but I don't expect it to be disruptive of the kind of life associated with this region," Stewart said.

## Admiral to speak

Admiral Harry D. Train II, U.S. Navy, will be the guest speaker next Monday evening at the annual banquet of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce. Train is currently Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command and U.S. Atlantic Fleet, headquartered in Norfolk, Va.

The banquet will be held at Angler's Cove with a social hour at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30. Following dinner, new Chamber officers will be installed.

A native of Washington, D.C., the four star admiral

began his Navy career at the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1949.

His first tours of duty were aboard destroyers in the Pacific including combat duty during the Korean War.

In 1952, he transferred to submarines, serving on several, interspersed with tours of duty in Washington, D.C. until 1962 when he assumed command of the submarine, USS BARBEL. In 1967 he assumed command of the guided missile destroyer, USS CONYNHAM.

Admiral Train, in subsequent years, served in ever-increasing positions of responsibility, including Administrative Aide to the Secretary of the Navy; command of Cruiser Destroyer Flotilla EIGHT, and Director, Joint Staff, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff where he was promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral.

Tickets for the banquet are \$8.00 and are available at the Chamber of Commerce office in the Hertford Municipal Building.

## Zoning board is reelected

The Hertford Town Council reappointed members to the Zoning Board of Adjustments last week.

Those reappointed to the board are: E.B. Leary and Keith Haskett, both serving three year terms; John London and Washington Lyons, Jr., both serving two year terms; and Don Morris, serving a one year term.

The council will appoint two alternates at a later date.

It was determined that the Board of Adjustments will also serve as the Board of Appeals.

The Zoning Board of Adjustments has the power and duty to hear and decide appeals where it is alleged that there has been an error made by the Building Inspector or the Zoning Board concerning the Zoning Ordinance.

A fee of \$15 for each appeal, paid to the town of Hertford, is

necessary to cover administrative costs and advertising.

Members of the Zoning Board, also reappointed by the council are: Jack Kanoy and Moody Matthews, serving three year terms; and William L. Tilly and Ray Haskett, serving two year terms.

An additional one year member and two alternates will be appointed later.

## Coin argument leads to shooting

A Hertford business man was shot with his own gun by a carnival roustabout at an after hours dance club early last Wednesday morning.

Gary Baker, 38, manager of the Western Auto Store, was shot following a dispute over a small change gambling game at Clinton Riddick's Dance Hall located in his home on King Street, according to Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt.

One hour after the 1 a.m. shooting Officer Robert L. Harvey and Merritt arrested John Junior Smith, 31, of Goldsboro at the temporary carnival grounds adjacent to

Harris Shopping Center on Grubb Street.

According to Smith's account, and that of five witnesses in the dance hall, the dispute came about when Smith attempted to show Baker how a gambling game using quarters worked (the game is a more complicated version of the popular "matching").

Smith allegedly has a slight speech impediment, and Baker couldn't understand his explanation of the game.

An argument ensued, and Baker is alleged to have gone to his place of business, gotten a small calibre pistol, and

returned to the establishment.

Smith said Baker pointed the pistol between his eyes so close that the barrel-tip was touching his forehead.

A struggle followed, and exact accounts of the shooting varied slightly.

Witnesses told investigating officers that Smith took the gun away from Baker, knocked him to the floor and shot him in the back. Smith claims that the gun went off accidentally.

Doctors say that the bullet entered Baker's lower back, narrowly missing the spine, traversed around his vital organs, and exited through his

torso, Merritt said.

Baker, on the other hand, maintains that he was shot from the front, Merritt said.

Baker was taken to the Chowan Hospital where he was treated for the gunshot wound and released.

Smith was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and inflicting serious bodily injury.

Baker was charged with assault by pointing a gun.

Smith was released on \$5,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in court Nov. 21. Baker was released on personal recognizance.

## Land use plan update underway

Perquimans County has initiated steps to update its Coastal Area Management Act Land Use Plan.

Under CAMA, the county is required to upgrade the plan every five years and has been awarded a grant of some \$7,500 to get the job done this year.

According to community assistance planner Dan Tew, the purpose of the plan is to identify problems and issues that will confront the county in the next five years and to get public input on how these issues should be handled.

"It's a mirror, reflecting to the commissioners and to the state the direction residents would like to see the county take," Tew said.

"The county could use it as a guide," he said. "The commissioners could go to the land use plan for information and to look at policy."

In order to gain public participation in drawing up the plan, a citizen advisory committee will be appointed by the county commissioners, which will distribute a questionnaire, and collect data reflecting public opinion.

The committee will meet with the county planning board, and more citizen input will be gained through public hearings.

Tew, subcontracted by the county through the Abemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission, will coordinate activities leading up to the compiling of a comprehensive five year land use plan.

The plan will impact on such issues as whether or not county residents would back the four-laning of U.S. 17, whether county residents would like to see more development, and, if so, what

type and where, and other questions that might impact on the future of the county.

The plan must reflect present land use in the county and project an overall picture of desired land use in 1985.

Unlike zoning, the plan would have no teeth, but would be used primarily as a reference guide.

The county's initial land use plan was drawn up in 1975, following the state's adoption of CAMA in 1974.

CAMA was designed primarily to protect the coastal region from ill-planned development that would be damaging to its fragile eco-system.

Perquimans is one of twenty coastal counties required to prepare one of the plans and some public officials have complained about being

singled out for the extra paper work.

In addition, he said, the plan provides a process by which the citizens themselves can state what they would like to see in their communities.

Tew said the reason for drawing up the plan is so that the county can participate in the coastal management program, which qualifies it for a large number of federal grants.

In the past, Tew said, counties have often drawn up the plan because it is required, then shelved it.

The aim for 1980 is to develop a usable plan which will outline more goals and policies for the county and contain less data that is purely informational.

Completion of the plan is targeted for Aug. 31, 1980.



Scaredy cat

A frightened kitten huddles under a branch after being frightened by an automobile near Belvidere recently. The

kitten was crossing the street with its mother when a rumbling car gave it a good scare. (Photo by MIKE MCLAUGHLIN)