

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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County funds recreation, motion calls for vote

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners committed \$20,000 to the recreation department after a public hearing on the 1980-81 county budget Monday night.

Funds for the department had been left out of the budget because of a shortage of revenue sharing monies, but the Hertford Town Council agreed at the hearing to use its money for the department until more federal revenue sharing money becomes available for the county.

The department is presently financed on a 50-50 shared cost arrangement between town and county, and is administered through the town.

But town board members and residents have said they are carrying an unfair burden of the recreation budget, in what amounts to a sort of double taxation.

A motion made by Lester Simpson may change that arrangement next year.

Simpson moved that county residents be allowed to vote on whether or not they want to be taxed to finance the recreation department.

The issue would be placed on the ballot this fall, and, if approved, the county would pick up the entire tab for the recreation program.

Simpson expressed a belief that county residents would not be in favor of tax money for recreation but said he would be willing to put the matter to a vote.

"If you all are as strong for it as you say you are you'll certainly give the people a chance to vote on it," said Simpson.

Other board members said they wanted to think the matter over, though some appeared receptive.

"Let's wait until next time (to decide)," said commissioner Waldo Winslow, adding, "I think you've probably got a good idea."

A few citizens attended the meeting, and Gil Underwood pleaded the case for the recreation department, while William Nixon argued that the county could not really afford to take over the program.

Underwood said that the time is at hand to continue to improve and expand the recreation department rather than consider cutting back. Underwood said the county could pay now, with a recreation program, or later, with increased juvenile delinquency and vandalism.

Nixon, on the other hand, said there will be less money available to the county after November than there is now.

"This program is not reaching the percentage of people that would justify the county's taking this thing over," said Nixon.

The participation comment prompted Hertford Mayor Bill Cox to reel off an impressive list of figures that totaled up to

1,917 persons who had taken part in various programs and special events the recreation department offers.

But several of the commissioners argued that the entire hearing had gotten off track, and that there was no question that the program would be funded. The problem was where to take the money from.

Both the town board and the county commissioners agreed that next year, the funding arrangement for the recreation department should be decided before the last minute, and the boards should hold a joint meeting on the matter.

Schools superintendent Pat Harrell asked that school representatives be invited to the meeting.

"If you do get involved in this, I'd like for you to invite the board of education. It's important because of facilities usage," said Harrell.



The last band

Recognize any of these people? They are members of Perquimans High School's last uniformed marching

band, as they appeared in the 1952 high school annual. But next year the current high school band will begin mar-

ching, and a healthy chunk of money is still needed for uniforms and equipment. Saturday is "Band Day," a

fund-raiser carnival that will address many of these needs (Photo contributed by JANICE BOYCE).

Band day is Saturday

If you've ever wanted to throw a pie in the face of Hertford Mayor Bill Cox, your chance will come Saturday, June 14, when the Perquimans County Band Boosters sponsor the second annual Band Day at the Hertford Saddle Club Show Ring and Little League Park, Grubb Street Extended, in Hertford.

The pie auction, which will feature a host of town and county officials as targets, is just one of many games and entertainments slated for the day-long event.

Activities will begin at 10 a.m., and will include a horse show featuring 36 classes, a dunking machine, a greased pole climb, a greased pig contest, cake walks and auctions, and a disco dance contest.

A variety of musical entertainment will be featured throughout the day, including performances by the Perquimans County school bands, by Phase III, a local jazz ensemble, and by the Good Old Boys, a blue grass group. The Bagley Chapel

Young Adults Choir will sing gospel.

The Harbor Lites square dancing group will also perform.

Crafts, plants, toys, and baked goods will be on sale throughout the day.

Persons wishing to drop off toys or crafts to be sold at Band Day may do so at any of the county schools, at Pitt Hardware in Hertford, or at Peoples Bank in Hertford.

A fish fry will complete the day's activities from 4 p.m. to

7 p.m. Tickets, \$2.50, are available in advance or on the grounds.

The Perquimans County school band program needs almost \$7,000 in order to outfit the band next year.

Among the band's needs are 26 band uniforms, 21 auxiliary uniforms, 12 flags, four rifles, and a banner.

Band Day attracted nearly 2,000 participants and netted some \$8,000 last year, and organizers are hoping for an even larger turn-out on Saturday.

Break-ins plague town

Guns taken in burglary

A total of \$1,434 in guns and knives was stolen from Pitt Hardware in Hertford following a break-in early Saturday morning, according to Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt.

Twelve shotguns and nine knives, including an antique German dagger valued at approximately \$100, were taken from the store owned by

Hertford resident Billy White after entrance was gained through breaking a window on the north side of the building.

An eye-witness told police officers Eugene McLawhorn, Robert Morris, and Merritt where he thought the stolen goods had been taken, and after a warrant was obtained by the police department, Perquimans County Sheriff

Julian Broughton and Deputy Sheriff Joe Lothian went in search of the suspect.

Although the man had fled from Ronald Eure's residence in Mead's Traylor park, most of the weapons, except for one BB gun and four knives, were recovered there.

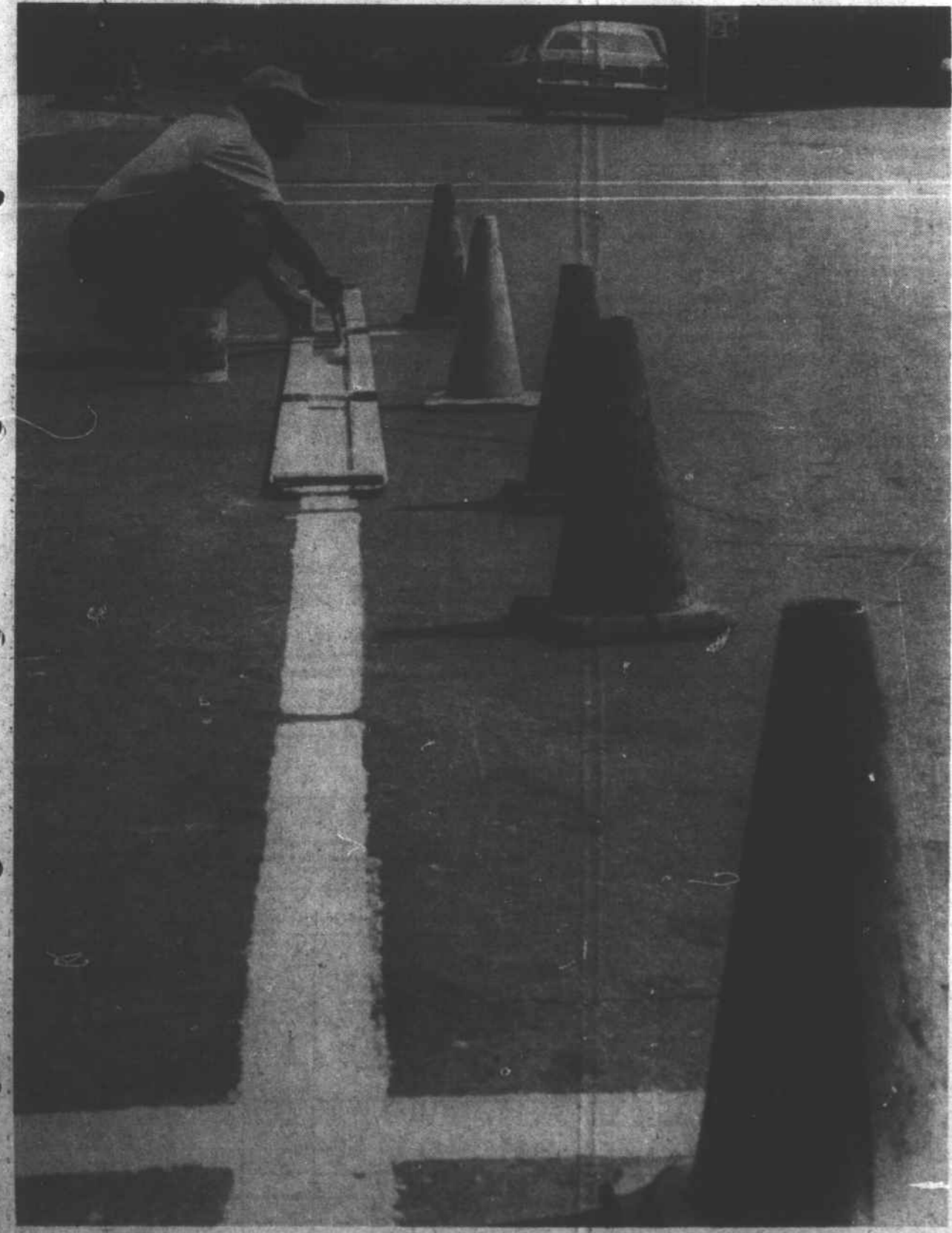
Merritt said warrants have been obtained for arrests in the case, and that he expected

the sheriff to make the arrests as soon as the suspects were located.

Another break-in was reported by the Perquimans County Recreation Department early Monday morning.

Merritt said the break-in, which occurred "sometime over the week-end," resulted

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A long parking place

Town employee Rufus Rouse paints an extra long parking space in front of the bus

station on Church Street in Hertford. The reserved spot

will insure that buses will have a place to park when

taking on or discharging passengers.

Career center scores grant

Some \$73,000 in grant monies has recently been appropriated to aid development of the proposed Tri-County Career Center.

According to Tri-County Career director Ken Stalls, the money will be used to finance the search for the approximately \$5 million needed to construct the center.

The Tri-County Career Education Center is a project designed to meet the advanced vocational and academic needs of students in Perquimans, Gates, and Chowan counties.

The money appropriated included \$20,000 from the Coastal Plains Regional Commission; \$28,304 in federal monies from the Career Education Fund; and \$25,000 from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

The recent funding carries the project into Phase II — or the search for construction money, according to Stalls.

Phase I, or the development

of a tentative curriculum, was completed in March of this year.

Stalls said the next step was to secure construction money for the center, and that site selection would immediately follow.

The Tri-County Career Center Steering Committee met in executive session last week to discuss land acquisition and possible site considerations.

"We plan to identify an area, not a specific piece of land," said Stalls.

Although Stalls said he was not at liberty to address specific areas under possible consideration for the location of the center, he did say that the committee would probably look for a 30-40 acre tract of land.

Following a meeting in Raleigh with the Division of School Planning, Stalls was advised as to what considerations should be taken

into account before site selection.

He said the division recommended that the center's location should:

- allow access to major road networks
- provide access to the county water system
- enjoy maximum visibility

The planning division also advised that the design of the center should harmonize with local architecture, blend well with the environment, and utilize a maximum use of space.

"Before any tax dollars go into this project, they (the Division of School Planning) have to approve everything," said Stalls.

The curriculum developed for the center would house about 26 different program areas in approximately 104,370 square feet.

Some of the tentative program areas to be served by the Career Center, based on

teacher recommendations, include mathematics, art, music, drama, vocational agriculture, business education, drafting, English, home economics, auto mechanics, carpentry, masonry, and welding.

In addition to the teacher recommendations of subject areas to be included, Stalls and Dr. Jack Owenby, a consultant with the Southeastern Regional Agency of Tuscaloosa, Ala., developed some supplementary programs.

These include health occupation, cosmetology, auto body and marine small engine repair, food service, and electricity-electronics.

Emphasizing that the center was not designed to compete with the local high schools, Stalls pointed out that no athletics or extra curricular activities would be offered, except for those directly related to occupational training.

Hertford seeks excellence award

Representatives of an electronic component company are expected to look at Hertford as a potential industrial site today (Thursday).

But even if they like what they see, they will not locate in Perquimans County because the company's representatives are actually judges for North Carolina's Community of Excellence award, and the scenario will be played as part of Hertford's effort to qualify for 1980 redesignation as a Community of Excellence.

"The judges will pose as a potential industry and we're supposed to play the role of luring the industry to Hertford," said Pam Whitley, economic development planner with the Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission,

who is helping the town ready itself for the judging.

Hertford was among 77 of the some 100 towns determined a Community of Excellence in 1979.

The award, established as part of Governor James B. Hunt, Jr.'s balanced growth program, is designed to aid small communities in attracting industries to their areas.

Once a town is designated a Community of Excellence, it is registered with the North Carolina Department of Commerce as an area that is prepared for and actively seeking industrial development. Industrial inquiries on the state level are then supposedly referred to the town.

Although Hertford has not received any inquiries as a result of the 1979 award,

Mayor Bill Cox said he thinks designation as a Community of Excellence is essential for attracting potential industries.

"The award keeps us in a better position to talk to industry," said Cox, who added that he feels the economy is to blame for lack of industrial interest in the area. "The

Budget okayed

Nobody was present at Monday night's budget hearing to refute the tentative budget of some \$1.7 million set for operation of the town of Hertford for the coming fiscal year.

The amount, up approximately \$200,000 over last year's budget, largely reflects

economy is bad all over — we can't expect tremendous results."

In addition to today's role-playing, the town is expected to launch another clean-up, fix-up campaign under the direction of the Perquimans County Jaycees.

"The award is a good thing because it keeps us on our toes," said Cox.

increases in utility costs. For a detailed budget analysis, see the May 29 edition of THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY. A complete copy of the budget is also available for public inspection at the town office, located in the Municipal Building on Grubb Street in Hertford.