

Holiday Island to be included in water sign-ups

The Perquimans County Water Department has been instructed to accept \$10 advance sign-up fees from Holiday Island residents that would reserve them the right to tap into the county water system.

There are currently 162 potential customers in Holiday Island, as well as a 500-site campground that would be served as a bulk user, and including them offers the potential of more than doubling the number of customers expected to be gained from Phase II water system expansion.

Bringing county water to the resort, however, would require that the waterfront community contribute the

money to run water lines to existing county lines.

Forest Myers, acting manager of the community, came before the county commissioners Monday night to ask that residents be allowed to sign up for water along with those county residents who are signing up for the Phase II expansion of the water system.

"I think they'll really be excited if we can tell them, 'Yes, you can come in and sign up,'" said Meyers.

"We want it bad. We need it bad," said Meyers. "We've got water but it's not the kind of water we can drink," he said.

Cost estimate
A rough estimate from Rivers and

Associates, the county's engineering firm, of the cost of running lines to the development has been set at \$100,000.

At present, with only one water treatment plant, the county does not have the capability to serve the extra customers. But the approval of Phase II, which includes another treatment plant, assures the county of the ability to provide enough water for the community.

The community has its own water system, but it has been plagued with poor quality water. The county line would hook with existing lines at the resort, and hook meters would be installed for each individual user.

Wayne Floyd, of Rivers and Associates, told the board that the increased pressure from county water could create some repair work in Holiday Island. "There could be some repairs once we put our pressure on their system," he said.

But the major sticking point appears to be the donation of funds from property owners to connect the resort to the county system.

Meyers, however, did not see the donation as a big problem.

"What we want to do is make sure we can get in Phase II. Then we can worry about collecting it from the property owners," he said.

In a related matter, Floyd told the board that there are three tracts of land near Winfall that may be suitable for the construction of three wells and the additional treatment plant.

"We're trying to get as close to Winfall as possible," Floyd said.

Clarification

Also pertaining to Phase II, water department head Keith Haskett sought a clarification of a statement by Floyd that appeared in the Feb. 12 edition of the PERQUIMANS WEEKLY that county residents could come in and sign-up for water by paying a \$10 fee.

Haskett had been unaware that a preliminary sign-up period would be

offered for Phase II, just as it had been for Phase I.

Floyd confirmed that there is a preliminary sign-up period. Residents who live along roads not presently served by county water may pay \$10 now, and an additional \$15 upon first billing for county water.

Those persons living on roads already served by county water must pay a tap-on fee, currently \$200. The same will apply for those persons on roads to be served by Phase II who miss a not yet set deadline for signing up.

In another matter, county social

(Continued on page 2)

Drop out rate slightly above state average

The estimated high school dropout rate in Perquimans County was 8.3 percent (or 54 students) last school year, a figure slightly above the state average of 7.8 percent.

Perquimans County School Superintendent Pat Harrell told school board members at their regular meeting Monday that because of North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt's commitment to reducing the dropout rate statewide, funds may be available for alternative education programs designed to help problem students stay in school.

In 1980, Perquimans County graduated 112 students. According to the State Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, Perquimans retained approximately 74 percent of its 1979-80 high school enrollment of 647.

Some 70,862 students graduated from North Carolina high schools in 1980, with an estimated 28,090 (or 7.8 percent) dropping out.

North Carolina dropout data declined slightly over figures compiled for school year 1978-79; approximately 72,464 students graduated in the class of '79; eight percent (or some 29,431 students) were estimated to have dropped out during the 78-79 school term.

The dropout rate was 7.9 percent during school year 1976-77; 7.5 percent in 1975-76; and 8.5 percent in 1974-75.

The Pasquotank County School System had the largest percentage of high school dropouts in the state in 1979-80, with 11.1 percent.

The school system enjoying the lowest dropout rate in the state during school year 1979-80 was Chapel Hill, with only 4.4 percent of its students quitting school prior to graduation.

Harrell told the board members that the number of dropouts in Perquimans County had been declining over the years. "We're keeping more kids in school than we were a few years ago," he said.

In other business, the board passed a formal resolution expressing support for the \$600 million school bond referendum, which is expected to come before the General Assembly sometime in April.

If the General Assembly passes the referendum, Perquimans County's share would be approximately \$1.5 million.

A parent opinion survey was approved, which is intended to be mailed out to a sampling of parents of Perquimans County school children. Harrell noted that such a survey was successfully completed in a neighboring school system, and has proven instrumental to that county's school board in decision making matters.

Tri-County Career Coordinator Ken Stalls appeared before the board and reported that the project had received written endorsements from North Carolina State Superintendent of Schools Dr. A. Craig Phillips and Joe Pell, senior assistant to Governor Hunt.

A prospectus designed to inform funding agencies of the career center had gone to press, and Stalls said that funding could "possibly become a reality within 3-6 months."

The search for monies is aimed at construction costs which are expected to total about \$5 million. If funded, the career center will provide advanced vocational and academic needs to students in Perquimans, Gates, and Chowan counties.

Stalls also reported that the Tri-County Steering Committee has been tentatively invited to go to Washington, D.C. to present the project to the American Vocational Education Association.

Because of the unique plan to "cross county borders," Stalls said the project offers "a lot of potential for saving money."

Harrell reminded the board that it would soon be time to begin preparing the budget for the 1981-82 year. The school system is required by law to present its tentative budget to the county commissioners by May 1.

Perquimans County would soon receive an indication of how much state monies could be counted on for the upcoming year, said Harrell, which would then "give us an indication of how much money we will need locally."

"I think it will be a tight year statewide, and locally," said Harrell, who enumerated several "foreseeable increases," including the cost of building maintenance, heating, and paper products.

The board moved to tour all school facilities Monday and Tuesday mornings of next week in order to determine capital outlay needs and priorities to be taken into consideration before establishing a budget.

The board also moved to purchase a range and braising pan for Perquimans Central which will cost the county \$1,202.50.

Approved the use of the Hertford Grammar School playground for girls softball practice and games, and baseball practice, so that newly-planted grass at the high school field can grow.

Learned that a girls track team may get underway at the high school under the direction of Pat Morgan.

Heard a presentation on the vocational education program available to Perquimans Union School 7th and 8th graders from Mrs. Lola Duer, Mrs. Virgie Whitehurst, and Ronald Sutton.

Learned that a 7th and 8th grade baseball and softball program may get underway at Perquimans Union School.

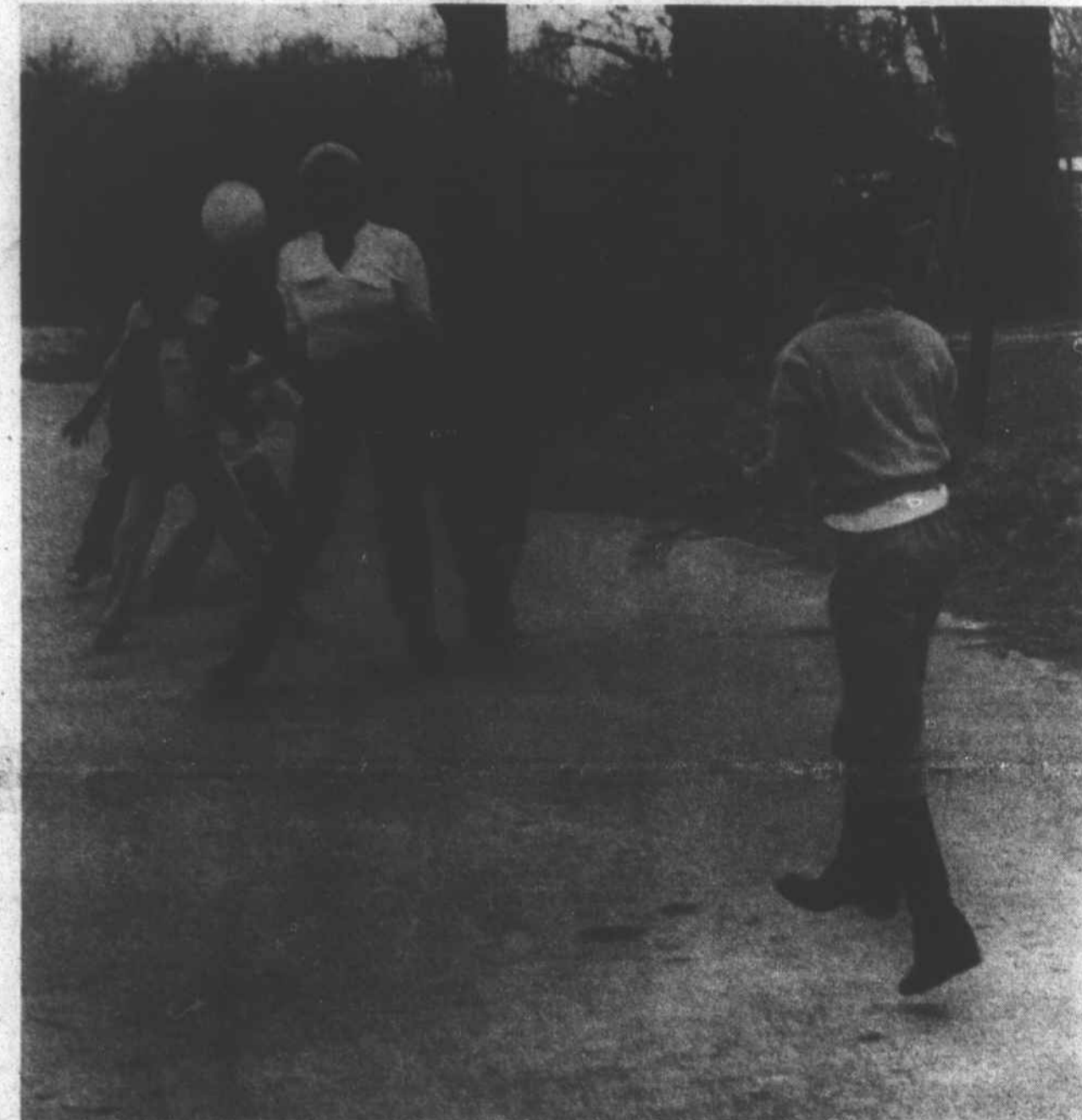
Slated a special meeting to discuss the family life education curriculum for Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. at the county office building.

Accepted an audit report on the Tri-County Career Center.

Accepted the resignation of Perquimans Union School guidance counselor Lesta Sellers and moved to employ Joseph Daniel Robertson, Jr. in her place.

Met in executive session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters.

The school board will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, March 2, at the county office building at 7 p.m.



Sunny weather fun

Recent spring-like weather prompted these Hertford youngsters to head out-

side for a late afternoon game of dodge ball on the corner of Brace and King Streets.

ARPDC director

Flowers stresses role of service

If Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission's recently-hired director were asked to define the commission's role in the 10-county region, he would probably answer, "subservience."

Don C. Flowers, Jr., who has been serving as ARPDC's head-boncho since Jan. 6, does not see the commission as a governing body.

"We are here to serve the people. We should not govern, but be governed," said Flowers in an interview Friday.

"As director, I'll do my best to do what the (ARPDC) board wants me to do and to stay out of the areas they don't want me in," he added.

Locating funds and revenues for member governments is ARPDC's primary duty, according to Flowers. "We should get as much funding as we can for the governments and people in this area," he said.

After studying back files of local newspapers, Flowers said he had come to realize that decreasing water quality and lack of industrial development are the area's major concerns, and problems he said he hoped the commission could help to solve.

When asked what changes he had made as director of ARPDC, Flowers said he had instituted weekly staff meetings, "to create an awareness of what everybody else is doing," and had established a liaison with the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service, which is housed in the same office building.

a primary concern of Flowers. "We want to convey the attitude to local governments that we work for them," he said.

Flowers did not say whether the commission would definitely re-enter the field of land-use planning, but indicated that if they were asked to, they probably would.

ARPDC was relinquished from developing Perquimans County's land use plan last spring for failing to meet federally-set completion deadlines.

The Coastal Resources Commission, under the Coastal Area Management Act, requires an updated land-use plan every five years to identify problems and issues that could confront an area.

Flowers, who has served as county manager for both Alamance and Brunswick Counties, noted that he had left both communities "financially solvent."

"I have yet to cost the taxpayers any money and I feel like that's the way a manager should be," said Flowers. "If he can't save money then he shouldn't be on the payroll."

A graduate of Atlantic Christian College, Flowers, 46, has also done graduate work at the University of Detroit and at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He is married and the father of three children. Although his wife and family are presently living in Burlington, Flowers said he hoped to move them "in the not too distant future."

He has not decided whether he'll settle in Hertford, Elizabeth City, or Edenton. Flowers replaces former ARPDC director Robert Whitley, who resigned in June.



Don Flowers, Jr.—ARPDC's new chief

Don Juan shortens work week

Because of a reduction in shirt orders, Don Juan Manufacturing Company has cut back its usual five-day work week to a four-day schedule.

According to Stuart Anderson, vice president of operations, the plant has not received its usual number of spring shirt orders from the some 7,000 stores it sells to in all 50 states.

"Many (stores) are not ordering for spring at all," said Anderson, "but are ordering now for back-to-school garments, skipping spring altogether."

Anderson attributed the lack of spring orders to "the high cost of money."

March is the target date for resuming the five-day work week, according to Anderson. "Hopefully, we'll be back on full schedule in March, but it depends on the stores' orders," said Anderson, who added that many stores have already placed their orders for fall garments, which require a June delivery.

Anderson said that it has been about two and a half years since the plant has had to adopt a reduced work schedule, and that he did not foresee a lay-off of employees.

While Hertford Mayor and Town Manager Bill Cox said that the reduced schedule at Don Juan would have an impact on the local economy, it was not as serious as "laying people off permanently or closing down."

"When 300 people miss a day then that's 300 people's pay cut in a week," said Cox, "but I think he (Anderson) is being very fair to his employees by cutting all of their hours, rather than laying off a few."

This week

The board of education announces new criteria for determining eligibility for free and reduced price lunches—see page 2

A Perquimans County man defies medical odds by overcoming potentially crippling injuries to become a self-employed wood-cutter—see page 3

County permit production contest winner Walter Brown reveals his secrets for growing a big crop—see page 24

Instituting trust in local governments is