

## County Chamber of Commerce makes plans for fall festival

By SUSAN HARRIS

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, at its regular Monday night meeting, endorsed the sponsorship of a festival to be held in early fall in an effort to promote Perquimans County.

According to Mary C. Harrell, General Chairman of the event, the theme will deal with Perquimans County's heritage and the main aim is to "have a good time and try to get the

community together."

Possible events to be held during the festival include tours to historic sites, a crafts fair, baking contests, demonstrations, farm equipment and products displays, an art show, a musical concert, a skit depicting Perquimans County's history, a parade, a street dance, a run-a-thon, a dinner and an old-fashioned bargain days sale.

The Chamber is seeking the aid of

all age groups, clubs, organizations, churches, schools and other interested parties in planning, and supporting the festival.

In a press release Mrs. Harrell stated, "The help and support of all county residents is needed to help promote Perquimans County's heritage and future."

A public meeting to be held at the courthouse has been scheduled for April 5 to discuss the festival. The

Chamber expressed a desire for representatives of all county organizations to be present and share their ideas about the event.

Eddie Miller, Chairman of the Tourism Committee, reported that the absence of overnight accommodations in Perquimans County makes attracting tourists difficult.

Miller also said the only advertised tour site in the county is the Newbold-White house, and that doesn't draw visitors into the business district.

Mary Harrell said the Chamber must advertise to let visitors know "there's more than the Newbold-White house. Hertford does have something to offer."

Several ideas for promoting the town and county were discussed. Miller is to investigate the possibilities and report back to the Chamber.

Albert Eure requested support for "Perquimans Living History Day," a

benefit for the Newbold-White house to be held on May 1.

Eure told Chamber members that the benefit will consist of a \$3 per plate barbecued chicken supper from 4-7 p.m. at the Hertford Grammar School. There will also be a drawing for a 19 inch color television to be raffled for \$1 per ticket.

Entertainment is planned at the Newbold-White house for the occasion.

## Fires destroy house, police radio station

Two separate fires in Perquimans County last week destroyed a home and some radio equipment used by the county Sheriff's Department and the Hertford Police Department.

The former fire occurred last Friday at the home of James Skinner on Harvey Point Road near Hertford.

According to Hertford Fire Chief Charlie Skinner, the fire started in the chimney of a wood stove in the kitchen of the house. The fire spread throughout the house, and according to Chief Skinner the home was a complete loss.

No one was at home at the time of

the fire. The Hertford Fire Department arrived on the scene soon after the 11:16 a.m. call. They were assisted by the Bethel Fire Department.

Chief Skinner had no estimate of the cost of the damage, but he did say that the house was not insured. Chief Skinner added that James Skinner and his family are receiving help from neighbors and Catholic Social Services in Hertford.

The other fire occurred Wednesday of last week on the grounds of Perquimans High School. According to Hertford Police Cpt. Robert Morris, a maintenance man at the school was

burning trash near the practice field at the school at mid-afternoon.

Wind blew the fire onto the field, where the flames quickly spread over the dry grass to the county-owned radio tower about 100 yards away. Radio equipment kept in a shed at the base of the tower was completely destroyed, as was the shed itself. The tower was not damaged.

According to county commissioner W.W. White, the cost of replacing the equipment will be about \$13,000. It has not yet been determined whether the county's or the school's insurance will cover the damage.



A fireman fights the blaze that destroyed the home of James Skinner on Harvey Point Road last Friday.

## Property assessments remain the same at Holiday Island

General manager says he's comfortable with \$282,134 budget

By JACK GROVE

Holiday Island property owners may see no increased assessments on their lots for the coming fiscal year.

A budget proposal approved by the community's Board of Governors provides no increases over the last year's levy.

The new budget does shift some income and expense items and must be ratified by property owners at the annual budget meeting to be held at the Holiday Island clubhouse on March 21.

The income changes affect the general fund and the road fund. Last year, lot owners paid \$155 for the general (maintenance) fund and \$7 for the road fund. This year owners would pay \$152 toward the general and \$10 toward the road funds, leaving their total payment the same.

(Company lot owners pay an additional annual fee of \$35, for electricity while residential lots buy electricity directly from the Albemarle Electrical Membership Corporation.)

General manager Forest Myers

fielded several questions at the board meeting from members.

"Mr. Myers, do you feel comfortable that you can do the things that need to be done with this budget?" one member asked.

Myers replied, "I think we can. For one thing, we didn't hire a lot of outside contractors last year as in the past. Our maintenance crew did the jobs."

He went on to say that accounts

payable were up to date and that the property owners association would not face the new fiscal year with any unpaid bills, unlike some past years.

Myers also indicated that needed capital improvements, totalling some \$40,000, had been made the past year that the community would not have to face next year.

The proposed budget envisions receipts of some \$282,134. Expenses were targeted at the same amount included, in which were line items for a reserve fund of over \$12,000 and for

"non-committed expenses" of over \$13,000.

Some expense items listed included \$14,252.64 for pools; \$32,196.04 for general maintenance; \$3,147.42 for 24-hour security, and \$13,027 for roads.

Other items approved by the board members:

•Appointed resident Joseph Segar as community animal warden to deal with a stray animal problem.

•Directed the general manager to get estimates for improving drainage

ditches which are causing erosion of road beds.

•Directed the general manager to look into group insurance for employees.

•Directed the general manager to send letters to all property owners in violation of the community's nuisance section of the restrictive covenants.

Among other things, this covers abandoned cars, refrigerators and trash accumulations. After a 90-day notice, violators could face court action.

## New trooper on duty

For those who would rather go 65 miles-an-hour than 55, a note: Perquimans County has a new State Highway patrolman on the beat.

Assisting Y.Z. Newberry and Charles Mims, the county's two present patrolmen, is Danny Parker, who was installed in the county's beat two weeks ago following completion of on-the-job training.

Parker, 24, is a native of Fayetteville, where he was a deputy with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department for three years. Working there, Parker probably has seen tougher types than he'll ever see in Perquimans County.

As a patrolman along Bragg Boulevard, the main thoroughfare between Fort Bragg and Fayetteville, Parker has pulled over more than his share of rowdy servicemen.

In addition, as a narcotics officer

he was involved in "Operation Stoned" in 1980 and early 1981. Posing as students in Fayetteville high schools, he and other officers arrested a number of dealers who sold drugs to students.

Now he's become a State Patrolman because, as he said, "they're the best, and everybody wants to be a part of the best."

Parker began training here in January. After training a couple of months in this area, and pulling a few motorists over, Parker notes, "I've noticed one thing. People are a lot more friendly here. They're much easier to get along with."

Before becoming a deputy in Fayetteville, Parker completed an associate degree in criminal justice at Cleveland State College in Cleveland, Tenn. His wife, Brenda, is a teacher at Pasquotank Elementary School in Elizabeth City. They make their home at Meads' Trailer Court outside Hertford.

Danny Parker

## Sheriff makes arrest in Ohio attempted murder

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department arrested a local man Wednesday for an attempted murder that took place in Ohio last September.

They also arrested a Hertford man for a September break-in at the Department of Transportation shop on U.S. 17 in Winfall.

According to Sheriff Julian Broughton, his department arrested Michael Helmus, 44, a resident of Perquimans County, and charged him with aggravated attempted murder of

his wife last September in Sandusky, Ohio.

Broughton said that he believes Helmus has been living in Perquimans County since the alleged crime, using the alias Mike Wellman. As Wellman, Helmus worked at a local used car dealer, said Broughton.

Information received by the Sheriff's Department led them to believe that Wellman was actually Helmus, and a check with Sandusky Police found Helmus to be wanted in Ohio for the attempted murder.

Helmus was placed under \$25,000 bond, but waived extradition and was transported to Ohio by Sandusky Police Detective Frank McCleave.

Broughton also arrested Waddell Harvey, 20, of Hertford, charging him in connection with a break-in and theft at the Department of Transportation's shop. The Sheriff's Department believes that Harvey broke into the shop last September and stole various equipment, among them tires.

Harvey is being held in Albemarle

District Jail on \$1,000 bond. Broughton said that more arrests are expected.

The Sheriff's Department also provided information leading to the arrest of Andre Blanchard, 20, of Hertford, in connection with the arson of a mill in Gates County last September.

The Sheriff's Department worked in that investigation with the Gates County Sheriff's Department and the State Bureau of Investigation. Broughton expected other arrests in the case.

## Hertford wreck leaves one in serious condition

An auto wreck on U.S. 17 at Church Street all but totaled two cars last Thursday night and left one man seriously injured, according to Hertford police.

Police also reported a breaking and entering and larceny at Sea Jays restaurant and convenience store Thursday of last week.

The wreck involved a 1973 Plymouth driven by Ernest Willie Hardy of Edenton and a 1977 Toyota driven by Raymond Earl Brown, also of Edenton.

According to Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt, Hardy and passenger Edward Blount of Creswell were driving north on U.S. 17 when they were hit by Brown's car, which apparently had pulled out in front of them from Church Street heading toward Harveys Point.

Brown's car struck the left front fender of Hardy's car, causing about \$2,000 damage to Hardy's car and about \$4,000 damage to his own. Brown suffered severe injuries, and was taken to Albemarle Hospital,

where he was transported to Norfolk General Hospital. He is listed in stable but serious condition.

Hardy and Blount were taken to the hospital and released soon afterward. Brown was charged with a moving violation. Both drivers were headed to a wrestling match in Elizabeth City.

The larceny was discovered at about 6:45 last Thursday morning. The burglar had pried open the drive-in window at Sea Jays with a bar, entered the restaurant, and apparently finding nothing there to

steal, kicked in the window that separates the restaurant from the store and entered.

The burglar then broke open two video games, taking about \$80 in quarters, and also took two six-packs of beer and at least one carton of cigarettes before leaving.

According to Merritt, police found fingerprints at the scene and have also recovered marked quarters used by the store owners to play on-the-house games. From the evidence, Merritt believes he has a likely suspect.

## County School Board drops \$1 token tuition charge

The Perquimans County Board of Education erased their \$1 tuition fee for students whose parents do not pay local taxes during the regular meeting Monday night.

The school system charges a token \$1 fee to students who do not live in the county, or who live in federally-subsidized housing projects, or whose parents work on government-owned sites.

The fee followed a state law passed last summer which requires all

counties to charge such students tuition to attend local schools. The purpose of the law was to augment federal impact aid — received primarily for children of locally-stationed servicemen — aid which the Reagan administration has cut.

To follow the letter of that law, the county school board adopted a \$1 token tuition for those students.

A recent change in the state law made this tuition charge optional to each county, and the county board decided to drop the fee.

In other action, the board:

•Declined a request by the Perquimans County Restoration Association to allow students to sell tickets to the PCRA's Living History Day banquet, to be held in May.

The boardmembers, along with the four principals of the county school present at the meeting, felt that they would not want to be responsible for the money collected from the ticket sales, nor would they wish to create a precedent for other outside fundraising activities in the schools.

•Agreed to encourage county commissioners to pass a resolution supporting the one-cent state sales tax. According to the proposal, 40 percent of the revenue from the tax would be earmarked to each county, 40 percent to each school system, and 20 percent for water projects. The school board has already passed a resolution supporting the tax.

•Approved a motion to auction off certain surplus equipment and materials now owned by the school system.