

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Saying goodbye

Hester Reid, supervisor at the county Nutrition Site since 1975, was honored by site regulars at her retirement luncheon last week at the Missing Mill Park.



## Tax schedule proposed

The county Board of Commissioners received some idea of what property values would be like for the coming years at their regular meeting Monday, when they were presented with the land value schedule for the reevaluation of property in Perquimans County.

The board decided to table approval of the schedule until their next meeting.

The schedule calls for an average 252 percent increase in the assessment value of land in this county, and an average 245 percent increase in the assessment value of houses.

The new assessments, which go into effect for the 1984 tax year, do not necessarily mean that tax payments will increase by that amount, or any amount, but that the value of their property for tax purposes will be more in line with its prevailing market value. State law requires the reevaluation to take place in each county every ten years.

County Tax Supervisor Keith Haskett estimates that, according to this schedule, property will be reevaluated at about 80 percent of its market value. At present, property here is assessed at about 40-45 percent of its market value.

According to Fred Pearson, assessor for Pearson's Appraisal Service, Inc., the firm the county contracted to perform the reevaluation, land values will be appraised according to the condition

of the soil, the proximity to dirt or paved roads or waterfront, and the land's use, along with a few other lesser criteria.

For example, cleared farmland deemed to be of good soil condition along a paved road would be assessed at \$1,200 per acre. The same land along a dirt road would be assessed at \$1,100 per acre. Poor soil would reduce the value of that dirt road frontage to \$900 per acre.

Woodland would be assessed at anywhere between \$225 to \$400, depending on soil condition and road frontage. Tracts of land smaller than 10 acres on a state road, which are more suitable for homesites and therefore of greater value, will be assessed 10 percent higher for cleared land, and 20 to 45 percent higher for woodland.

Homesites on good soil along a paved road would be valued at an average of \$4,500, while the same sites on a dirt road would be valued at between \$3,500 and \$2,000.

The value of houses would be determined by its grade — from AA (superior quality) to C (average) to E (sub-standard) — the house's square footage, and number of stories, and whether the house had such "extras" as a fireplace, garage, additional bathrooms, and central air conditioning.

For example, a C grade one-story house of 1,500 square feet would be assessed at \$31,570, up from its present value of \$14,360, at 220 per-

cent increase. Two-story houses will increase in value by about 260 percent.

The assessors from Pearson's Appraisal Service noted that they would be available to explain their methods before local civic organizations within the coming months.

In other business, the board: •Tabled action on whether to purchase a \$7,000 right-of-way at the intersection of NC 37 and SR 1219 in Winfall.

The county Board of Education has proposed allowing the state to reconstruct the intersection so as to be safer for bus traffic, but a small parcel of land — now occupied by an empty service station — must first be purchased.

The commissioners indicated that they would first want to find out whether the state might purchase the land.

•Turned down a request by the Perquimans County Jaycees to make a donation to cover the cost of last July 4 fireworks show, indicating that the donation might be an undesirable precedent, allowing other clubs to solicit donations.

•Approved a resolution to be passed on to the state Department of Transportation and Southern Railroad requesting they reconsider putting warning lights or traffic gates at railroad track and road intersections.

## School construction project, lunch program discussed

By SUSAN HARRIS

The Perquimans County Board of Education at its regular meeting on Monday night inspected the renovations underway at Perquimans Union School.

School maintenance department spokesman Pete Howell guided the board members to various areas now being worked on by school maintenance crews and private contractors.

The board climbed to the top of the school building to examine the roofing work done by Southeastern Professional Coatings. They found that Southeastern had failed to properly reinstall the gutters.

Once in their business meeting, the board approved payment to Southeastern upon satisfactory completion of all contract work.

Howell showed board members the windows at the school that need to be replaced and explained alternatives proposed to him and Superintendent Pat Harrell by state representatives.

In their business session it was decided to invite the state representatives back to the county to address the board on the problem and possible solutions.

Bids for ceiling tile, insulation and

installation of same in the water damaged areas of Union School were discussed. The Basnight Company from Ahoskie was the low bidder on 2' x 2' tile and six inch insulation.

Harrell brought to the board's attention that no local contractor bid on the materials, and only one, Donald Riddick, submitted a proposal on the installation. Riddick could not, the board felt, complete the project before school begins as it would be at least two weeks before he could initiate work on the ceilings.

With this in mind, the board awarded the contract to Basnight whose bid of \$10,134 includes labor and materials, if the company can have the ceilings finished when school opens on August 25.

Breakfast and lunch prices will remain unchanged from last school year. The board approved the following recommended prices: lunch, K-6 — 80 cents; 7-12 — 90 cents; adults \$1.25; breakfast, K-6 — 40 cents; 7-12 — 45 cents; adults — 65 cents.

Harrell recommended for employment Michael Shafer as a math

teacher at Perquimans County High School. Shafer, a math major and graduate of East Carolina University, taught last year at Eastern Wayne High School where a tightened budget cut his position.

The board approved hiring the Navy Veteran.

Two new programs were accepted by the board: Junior Achievement and Adopt-A-School. Neither will require any county funds or staffing.

Harrell told board members that the state had allocated the county 57 teaching positions, which does not include vocational programs, classes for exceptional children and special programs. He added that if enrollment continues to climb, another position may be funded by the state, reducing the strain on the local budget.

It was also announced that Alphonso Joyner, mechanics teacher at the high school, will receive a master teacher recognition at the forthcoming State Vocational Conference. The board voted to write Joyner congratulating him for his outstanding achievement.

## Winfall Town Council applies for housing renewal grant

The Winfall Town Council voted to apply for a \$522,725 grant from the state's Community Development Block Grant Program following a public hearing on the proposal Tuesday of last week.

If the state approves the grant application, the town proposes to demolish or rehabilitate nearly all of the blighted area along King Street and four sidestreets in northern Winfall, affecting 122 of the 600-odd residents of the town. Of those affected, most of them are of low or moderate incomes.

The project, called the Desert Road Revitalization Project, is the same project proposed in January, 1981, but turned down for funding by the CDBGP.

The Winfall Town Council proposed to rehabilitate or demolish 53 residences along King Street, and on White, Louise, Cathryn Streets and Desert Road north of King Street. This area contains mostly sub-

standard or dilapidated housing, and drainage there is so poor and the water table so high that septic tanks cannot work properly. Sixteen residences in the area are served by outdoor privies.

According to the application, the town will buy 17 parcels of land containing seven vacant dwellings, nine occupied dwellings and one temporary dwelling at a cost of \$90,025. Buildings on that land will be demolished and the land cleared at a cost of \$11,200. Once cleared, the land will be sold for development.

The 24 residents of the dwellings there will be relocated to standard housing at a cost of \$73,500.

Another 32 sub-standard dwellings, housing 91 persons, 83 of low or moderate incomes, will be renovated to standard housing at a cost of \$294,800. Landlords of these dwellings will sign agreements stating that the rent for these

renovated residences will not rise for four years following completion of the work.

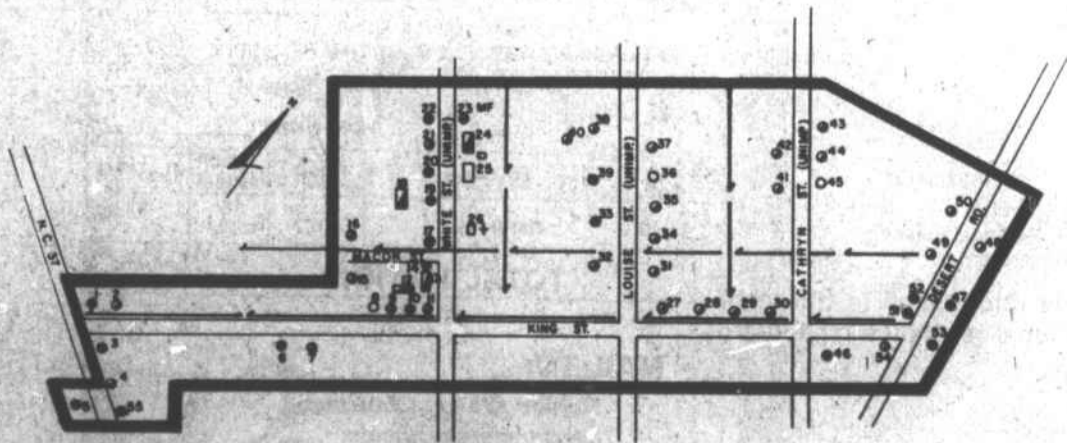
The town estimates that of the 122 residents affected, 113 are of low or moderate incomes. The percentage of low income residents in the area is one of the criteria for obtaining the grant.

In addition, the town has applied for \$13,200 to construct 1,600 feet of new drainage channels in the area.

Town officials expect to know whether they have received the grant by September 30 of this year.

"The Town of Winfall is vitally concerned with the elimination of blight and the provision of safe and sanitary housing for low income persons," the grant application reads.

"The proposed Desert Road Revitalization Project would serve to implement state policy and assist the local community."



PROJECT MAP

DESERT ROAD REVITALIZATION PROJECT  
WINFALL, NORTH CAROLINA  
JULY, 1982

Within thick black lines is the area affected by the proposed Community Development Block Grant.

## A most welcome letter

Most people are seldom excited to receive a form letter in the mail, but Claude and Myrtle Williams were tickled to death with the one they received recently.

The letter came from Buenos Aires, Argentina, the home of their friend Enrique Rossi. Rossi, called "Henry" while in the States, lived with the Williams for five months in 1956 as an agriculture exchange student.

"We hadn't heard from him in a long time," said Mrs. Williams, "and we'd begun to wonder about him."

"I was really surprised to get the letter. I wrote back and told him I was so surprised I almost lost my false teeth."

The letter, the first the Williams had received in years, was a typed form letter opening with "Dear friend," and going on to explain the Argentine position in respect to the Falkland Islands, called the Malvinas by Argentines.

First noting two United Nations resolutions condemning colonialism, the letter went on, "In March 1982 Great Britain provoked a serious incident in the area: a Royal Navy warship was sent to evict Argentine workers who were legally working on one of the islands near the Malvinas.

In response to this aggression and as a way to ensure the protection of its workers, Argentina recovered the Malvinas on Friday, April 2, 1982."

The letter continued, "All the foreign communities in Argentina expressed their support (of the Argentine invasion) and the 17,000 British residents requested the British government to seek a speedy solution to the conflict."

The letter concluded by asking to "please help us convey the truth to your friends and government." A handwritten note at the bottom read "I'm going to Wright (sic) you soon. With love Enrique and Maria Antonia Rossi."

Though a form letter, probably sent to many Americans, Mrs. Williams considered its source and felt it was sincere. "Knowing Henry," she said, "I felt he wants to know the real feeling of the people in America for Argentina."

She wrote back, explaining the American position as she understood it: that President Reagan believed he had a commitment to England, but not, if possible, at the exclusion of Argentina.

A letter from anyone else in Argentina might not have made such an impression to the Williams but, as Mrs. Williams

said, "Henry was quite a guy. He really was a smart guy. I don't know what he's doing now, but I'm quite sure he is 'somebody.'"

As a 25-year-old exchange student in 1956, Henry observed American agricultural methods and spoke to local civic clubs about his country and what he'd learned here. Though he didn't speak much English, his personality quickly touched many people in the county, and he made many friends, Mrs. Williams said.

"He was quite a guy. We were really wrapped up in him," she said. "He used to call us 'Mom Mert' and 'Pop Claude.' A lot of people in the county liked him."

Henry, married with one daughter, returned to Perquimans County later on while working on his master's degree in agriculture, and the Williams made him feel home again. Since then, Mrs. Williams has sent him Christmas cards, but hasn't heard a word from him for the last few years, less because of Henry's neglect, she thinks, than because of Argentine censorship.

"The Williams still keep old pictures, letters and newspaper clippings about Henry. Maybe, they hope, they can hear from or see him again soon. "He was really dedicated to his country," she said, "but he loved America."