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Annual police report indicates drop in crime

Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt presented a glowing annual report to the Hertford Town Council Monday night, which indicated a 36 percent decrease in overall reported offenses.

Arrests for 1982 totalled 148, down from the 224 total for 1981.

In the breakdown of major crimes reported in Hertford during 1982 — robberies and burglaries decreased 100 percent from the previous year. Reports of breaking and entering and

larceny decreased 52 percent in 1982 and larceny arrests decreased 41 percent.

Arrests for shoplifting were down from the 1981 total of nine to five for 1980.

The only marked increases in arrests were for assault and battery, from 39 in 1981 to 43 last year; trespassing, up one from the total of six in 1981; and obtaining property by false pretense, which increased from none to five.

The council members praised the police force and Mayor and Town Manager Bill Cox commented, "I hope you to continue to do your usual good job."

The six patrolman and officers on the Hertford police force reported they had worked a total of 11,943 hours in 1982, with 1,733 hours in overtime. Total value of property stolen in 1982 totalled \$25,148 and \$19,442 was recovered.

Bill Dunn of the North Carolina

Department of Natural Resources presented a map to council members outlining areas surrounding Hertford which are being considered for annexation.

The Town Council is considering annexing approximately 1,500 acres involving about 46 property owners.

No official action has been taken on the annexation and council members report they are just in the "discussion stage."

Dunn told the Council a legal

description of the total boundary would be required as well as a boundary survey. He said Representative Charles Evans office would contact him to let him know what he would need in order to introduce an annexation bill.

In other business, the council members decided to attend the Carolina Telephone rate increase hearing January 26 at Knobbs Creek Recreation Center in Elizabeth City. Cox reported the Council had already

written a letter in opposition to the rate increase.

Town tax collector Marvin Hunter reported he had collected "probably over 60 percent" of the town taxes and that taxes were coming in well.

Cox told the Council members that 500 copies remained of "The Historical Architecture of Perquimans County," by Ray Winslow and Dru Haley, and that approximately 400 copies had been sold. Copies are available for \$15 from the town office.

County Chamber plans eventful year

By VAL SHORT

The year 1983 promises to be an eventful one for the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce.

Plans for a three-county map, a promotional brochure for Perquimans County and the 1983 Indian Summer Festival were highlights of the first Perquimans Chamber Executive Board for the year.

Chamber president Mary Harrell announced that the Perquimans Chamber, in cooperation with chambers in Pasquotank and Chowan counties, will be developing an area map showing medical facilities, overnight accommodations, recreational facilities, and other information.

Approximately \$1,200 in grant funds from the North Carolina Department of Tourism will be used to fund the tourist map. The project is expected to begin soon.

The chamber board voted to "look into" a request from Suzanne Haste of the Perquimans County Restoration Association to assist in developing a brochure for Perquimans County.

The board members agreed that a brochure of the county should include all aspects of the county — not just historic sites.

Belvidere director Shirley Perry said, "We can't promote without advertising."

Dates for the 1983 Indian Summer Festival were announced by president Harrell — September 15, 16, and 17. Harrell reported she was in the process of naming committee chairmen for the Festival.

The 1983 budget was unanimously approved by the Chamber board. With a total of \$17,160, the budget showed a nine percent increase over the previous year.

Chamber of Commerce income for 1982 totalled \$16,381.69 which includes revenues from licence plates, dues, novelties and other items.

Harrell announced that the Chamber included a total of 105 members with \$6,065 in pledges. Harrell urged the board members to encourage new businesses to join the Chamber. She said the Chamber will have a ribbon cutting for any new business that requests one.

Shirley Perry suggested the Chamber publicize the fact that memberships are not limited to businesses, but are also open to individuals interested in promoting the county.

The Chamber board voted to join the Committee of 100, a group of citizens trying to attract industry to Perquimans County.

The Board also discussed joining the Chambers in Chowan and Pasquotank counties to organize opposition to the proposed Telephone rate increase. The group discussed having an attorney speak for the Chambers at the public hearing scheduled January 26 in Elizabeth City.

Bill Cox commented the chamber should be working hand in hand with the Industrial Development Commission. He also said Winfall Town Council, Snug Harbor, and Holiday Island should be represented by ex-officio members at the Board meetings.



Winfall has received \$30,000 for the Winfall Intersection

Project, which includes purchase of right of ways,

taking the existing building down, and installing islands

and turning lanes.

DOT awards \$30,000 for Winfall intersection

The state Department of Transportation has allocated \$30,000 for the Winfall Intersection Project, scheduled to begin sometime this Spring.

The project will include the intersection of N.C. 37 and Business 17 in Winfall. "This just came about because of the school buses," said Lloyd Ray Morgan, mayor of Win-

fall.

He said school buses had never been involved in an accident at the intersection, but the buses had a difficult time making turns, creating hazardous situations.

Morgan said the project was a joint effort of the County Commissioners, the county Board of Education and the Town of Winfall. "We kind of all

worked together on this," to secure the funds, said Morgan.

Morgan said that at first the state wanted the Town of Winfall to purchase the right of way, land owned by Julian Winslow. That's when the county became involved, said Morgan, and the state finally agreed to purchased the right of ways.

With the proposed plans, the state will take down the existing abandoned brick building at the intersection and install two islands, so that turning traffic is separated from the main flow of traffic.

"It's going to have a whole different look," said Morgan and will be a safer intersection.

"Stay in Touch" program offers reassurance to seniors

By VAL SHORT

For many senior citizens living alone getting a phone call every day can really make a difference.

"Stay In Touch," the telephone reassurance program, sponsored by the Perquimans County Interagency Council, is designed to reassure senior citizens in the county with a phone call and conversation every morning, Monday through Friday.

"The program is set up to give the older person a sense of security," explained Lee Riddick, area aging administrator. Participants in the program will be called each morning during the week just to assure he or she is all right. If there is no answer, a neighbor or relative will be called. If the person still cannot be located, police and rescue personnel will be contacted.

If the participant has a doctor's appointment on a particular day, the doctor's office will be contacted to make sure the person arrived.

Eunice Cale, local Green Thumb employee, has been employed to implement the program from the

Perquimans Senior Center. Eventually, the Interagency Council hopes volunteers in each community will carry out the program.

With the help of this telephone reassurance program people who live alone have no need to fear that they will become ill and unable to get help for several days.

The program also lets them know that someone cares, according to Patti Lorick, who helped organize the program in Perquimans County.

"It's also a way to reach out to senior citizens in the community," said Riddick. "This may even encourage them to get out and come to the Senior Center or the Nutrition site" and become involved in senior citizen activities, he continued.

The program can also go beyond just a responsibility for the volunteer — friendships can develop between the client and volunteer, which can encourage the volunteer to provide other services when needed.

"Hopefully, churches will get involved and eventually we hope to get the whole community involved," said Juanita Bailey, 4-H Extension Agent, who has also been instrumental in organizing the program.

The Interagency Council expects to get referrals for the program from the Department of Social Services, the Health Department and other agencies which have neither the time nor the personnel to contact those in need every day.

The program is designed specifically for senior adults, but others who wish to be contacted may also apply.

Cale, who says the program is "really a good thing," has already enrolled five participants in the program from the Hertford area. To enroll in the "Stay in Touch"

program applicants are requested to fill out a form, which asks for the person's name, address, birth date, health conditions and disabilities. The form also requests the name of the applicant's physician, the name of someone to be contacted in case of

emergency as well as the names of two neighbors and their phone numbers. The applicant may also indicate "how many rings" the caller should allow.

The "Stay in Touch" telephone assurance program is the first

program sponsored by the Perquimans Interagency Council on Aging. Dare County is the only other county in the northeastern area which has a telephone reassurance program, and it is very successful, according to Riddick.

Other Interagency Council events coming up include a Health Fair.

For more information about the "Stay in Touch" program or if you would like to enroll, contact the Perquimans Senior Center at 426-5404.



Mrs. Eunice Cale speaks with a participant in the telephone reassurance program —

"Stay in Touch," now being implemented by the Perquimans Interagency

Council on Aging. Mrs. Cale is a Green Thumb employee in

the county and will be calling senior citizens daily.

This week

See the story on the local DAR essay winners, and the accompanying photo on page 5.

Weather

Daytime temperatures should begin to drop with nighttime temps in the 30s.

