

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 39, No. 17

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, April 28, 1983

20 CENTS

## Hertford customers get 7.9 % rate increase

Some 1400 electric customers served by the Town of Hertford will see an increase in their May bills.

During a special called meeting held last Wednesday, members of the Hertford Town Council voted to increase electrical rates to the local customers 7.95 percent.

With this increase, a residential customer using 1,000 Kilowatt hours of electricity who paid \$69.26 last month, will now pay about \$75.04.

Manager Bill Cox explained that the Council is trying to hold the rates in line with other electrical rates in the area.

"At the present time, our rates are identical to the Town of Edenton," he said.

The rate increase came as a result of the 10.6 percent increase which the Town of Hertford received from the municipal power agency. All 36 cities which make up the agency will be affected by the same wholesale in-

crease, according to Cox.

Cox said the difference in the wholesale increase and the increase passed on to Hertford customers will be absorbed by the Town of Hertford.

Cox said that rates for customers located outside of the Town of Hertford will remain 15 percent below the rate within the town.

He explained that these customers do not receive the benefits of garbage and trash pick-up.

Electrical customers will also be

affected by the increased rate for security lights, which will now be \$8 per month. Before the increase, security lights were \$4.50 per month. Cox said this rate has not been changed in 20 years. He added the rate is still several dollars below the Edenton rate.

The basic customer charge for Hertford residential customers prior to the 7.9 percent increase was \$6.64, plus a kilowatt hour (KWH) charge of 6.687 cents for billing in June

through September and 6.687 for the first KWH, and 4.566 for anything over 800 KWH during October through May.

With the increase, the basic residential customer charge will be \$7.10 per month, plus 7.094 cents per KWH during June through September.

During October through May, rates would be 6.794 cents per KWH for any

excess over 1500 KWH.

Basic rates for business customers have increased from \$10.72 per month to \$14.30 per month.

Cox said the increase percentages will vary slightly, according to the rate category.

"The Town did make some other adjustments in electrical rates in order to have the rates comparable to Edenton and Elizabeth City," Cox said.

## Dog owners cited; scam warning given

Although reports from the state attorney general's office indicate an Atlanta insurance firm is doing nothing illegal, Winfall Police Chief warns residents to "know who you're dealing with."

Lothian said to beware of anyone claiming to be an insurance agent who offers to trade insurance policies.

He has been investigating reports of area residents who have been approached by people posing as insurance agents and federal employees.

Lothian said to watch out for anyone offering to trade policies and he suggests people "consult your own insurance agent."

"I think the public needs to be aware of anybody trying to give you something for nothing. These days, that just doesn't happen," he said.

Lothian said he had received a report from the attorney general's office in which the actions of a Georgia insurance firm were declared legal.

At the Hertford Police Department, Chief of Police Marshall Merritt reported that 16 citations had been issued to Hertford dog owners for permitting their dogs to run at large.

Merritt said this was in violation of the ordinance passed by the Hertford Town Council in 1979, which prohibits unleashed dogs in the Town of Hertford. He said that following numerous complaints and instructions from the Town Council, the police department "began a program of vigorous enforcement."

Merritt said one section of the ordinance which is not being vigorously enforced is the requirement that dog owners must purchase a \$1 dog tag from the town.

Merritt also said that those dog owners in violation of the ordinance who have never received a warning before, have been given one written warning. He said cost of the ticket is \$31. However, he said if the dog owner takes the case to court and is found guilty, the cost will be \$31 plus a maximum fine of \$50.

In other police business, Merritt reported that an 11 year old was arrested and charged with shoplifting. The suspect allegedly took two boxes of chocolate covered raisins from the Super Dollar Store in Hertford, valued at \$1.18.

Merritt also reported that the town dog pound, located at the sewage plant, had been vandalized. He said windows were broken and wire fencing had been cut and the dogs had been released.

Merritt said no arrests had been made.



This patient dog seems to be leading the way for a Belvidere farmer who finally got into the field last Friday.

Weekend rainfall of up to three inches caused further planting delays for farmers,

however, but according to County Extension Chairman Bill Jester, growers should

get back to the fields by the end of this week. (Photo by Val Short)

## Rainfall causes further planting delays

That Fickle Mother Nature has brought more wet weather and caused still more planting delays and problems for local growers.

According to Bill Jester, County Extension Chairman, local farmers probably won't get back into the fields before today, due to rains

which fell on Perquimans over the weekend.

Jester said 1 1/2 to 3 inches of rain was reported around the county for the weekend, pushing the total rainfall since January 1 to over 30 inches in Perquimans.

The yearly average for this area is

around 50 inches, according to Jester. "We're already at 3/5's of the yearly average, in one quarter of a year," Jester said.

Jester reported approximately 300 to 400 acres of corn had already been planted in the county. He also said potatoes were being planted in the

four mile desert vicinity of the county.

Jester said some growers, who could adapt their equipment, were using the no-till method to plant corn because of the wet weather.

"You can bet on the land quicker," Jester explained.

## School board approves 1983-84 budget

By VAL SHORT

At a special meeting held Monday night, the Perquimans County Board of Education approved a \$1,232,006 budget for the fiscal year 1983-84 from local resources. The budget will be submitted for the approval of the County Commissioners next Monday night.

The total budget includes a current expense budget of \$1,021,006 with a capital outlay budget of \$211,000.

The budget request represents an increase over last year of \$85,430 or about a 6.4 percent.

Perquimans superintendent Pat Harrell said most of this increase

came in the capital improvements category.

The 1983-84 school calendar was approved at the Board meeting held April 18. School will begin for students next year August 29 and September 5 will be a labor day holiday. Teachers will begin working August 17.

Christmas holidays have been scheduled December 21 through 30 and the Easter holidays are set April 23-27. School will end in 1984 on June 6.

Also at the meeting the Board voted to write to Vernon James requesting that he amend his

legislation on the state sales tax increase to specify a certain percentage be used for construction and improvement of school facilities.

Four Perquimans teachers were approved by the Board for career tenure status. They were Cathy Tant, Katie Lightfoot, Ronald Sutton and Pat Morgan.

In other Board of Education business:

•The Board discussed joining with

Chowan and Gates counties in chartering a bus for Public Education Day in Raleigh May 25. Local citizens, governmental officials and educators from each county will be invited to attend.

•Harrell announced the bathroom windows at Perquimans Union School had been replaced with obscure glass. He said this was overlooked in the contract to replace the windows at the school.

## Democrats host James

Representative Vernon James will be the keynote speaker at the perquimans county Democratic Convention to be held this Saturday at the Perquimans County Courthouse, beginning at 1 p.m.

"We'll be glad to have all the county democrats attend," said Mrs. Estelle Felton, Perquimans Democratic Chairman, who added, "I think we'll have a good crowd."

James, who is a native of pasquotank, has served in the North Carolina House of Representatives for 14 years from the first district. He is currently chairman of the Southern Legislative Conference on

Agriculture, Rural Development and Transportation which includes sixteen southeastern states.

A charter member of the 4-H Honor Club, and chairman of the National Potato Board, James is Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

Besides James's speech, the convention agenda includes the election of county officers and election of members to the state executive committee.

Chairman Felton welcomed everyone to attend the meeting. Such conventions will be taking place in each county throughout the state on Saturday.

## Hunter, Winslow lead 400th panel

The Perquimans County Committee for America's 400th Anniversary has issued an invitation for everyone to "sip" yaupon tea" Sunday, May 1 at 3 p.m. at a planning meeting and forum at the Courthouse.

According to Jeanne White, committee chairman, the meeting is designed as an effort to create public interest and to gather ideas for Perquimans' participation in the event.

Scheduled to begin July 13, 1984, Perquimans Committee has already planned activities for the four year celebration which will bring in visitors from throughout the state and country.

The celebration commemorates the 400 anniversary of the English colonization of

America. A baseball camp and Quaker Meeting are among tentative activities.

Dare County will be the center of activity in North Carolina, but each county has a committee organized to develop 400th anniversary activities within the county.

Lucille Winslow, liaison chairman for the state 400th Anniversary committee, will lead the panel of speakers Sunday. She will discuss the reasons and history behind the 400th Anniversary celebration.

Local historian Ray Winslow will also be featured on the panel and will talk about the Perquimans County of 400 years ago.

Jim "Catfish" Hunter will also

appear on the panel to discuss the baseball camp plans.

White urges everyone interested in the 400th celebration to attend. A special invitation has been issued to County civic organizations and churches to attend the meeting Sunday and to get involved in the celebration of history.

Entertainment including a vibraharp presentation by the Rev. Rendall Cosand and a flag demonstration by the Fire and Drum Corps will also be featured during the meeting.

Refreshments of yaupon tea, 400th anniversary tea cookies, cheese cookies and nuts will be served on the Courthouse green following the meeting. The public is invited and there is no charge.