

# Federal law requires monthly reports on food stamp families

Starting October 1, federal law will require certain North Carolina families to complete monthly written reports in order to receive food stamp benefits, according to Larry Goolsby, chief of food stamp operations for the North Carolina Department of Human Resources' Division of Social Services.

These reports will then be evaluated by the local county departments of social services to

determine whether or not the families are eligible to continue receiving public assistance.

The new monthly reporting procedure was established by Congress in an effort to reduce errors and fraud in the nation's food stamp program.

"The monthly reporting will apply only to food stamp families of six or more members, except in the cases

where all adult individuals are blind, disabled, or over the age of sixty," Goolsby said.

"All other families receiving food stamps will continue the current practice of reporting changes in their income or household circumstances as they occur."

He said the monthly reporting law is expected to affect about 20,000 families, or ten percent of the state's food stamp families.

Each month the reporting form and a return envelope will be mailed to all families required to fill it out. The forms will be sent out near the end of the month and must be completed and returned to county departments of social services by the due date stamped on the reporting form.

The information requested includes the names of all members of

the household; all sources of income for each individual; shelter expenses (such as rent, property tax, and utility bills); the expenses to care for children or disabled adults while an individual works, receives training, or looks for work; the medical expenses of elderly or disabled persons; resources such as cash or property which have become available to the family; and any expected changes that the family is aware of.

The reporting form also contains information on the penalties for fraud, and the procedures to request a hearing on changes in food stamp benefits.

The form must be signed and dated before being returned. In addition, families will be required to provide proof of certain information. For example, as verification of earned income, the family must attach wage

stubs or have the employer complete a wage verification form.

If the monthly food stamp report is not sent in on time or is returned incomplete, food stamp benefits may be delayed or cut off.

Families who have questions or have difficulty completing the form may receive special assistance from their eligibility worker, or by calling CARELINE, toll free form anywhere in the state, at 1-800-662-7030.

## "Octoberfest" sponsored by Hertford Grammar PTA

The Hertford Grammar School P.T.A. is sponsoring their annual yard sale Saturday, October 8, beginning at 8 a.m.

This year, in addition to the yard sale, there will be a bake sale, country store, concessions and games for the children.

Cinnamon buns and French bread will be on sale in the lunchroom for \$2.75 a dozen and \$1.35 a loaf.

All proceeds will go to buy equipment for the school.

Spaces to rent are available at \$10.00 each. If you would be interested in renting a space or donating crafts or baked goods contact Delores Howell at 426-7844 or Helen Hunter.

Come out and make this Octoberfest the best yet.

## North assigned to duty

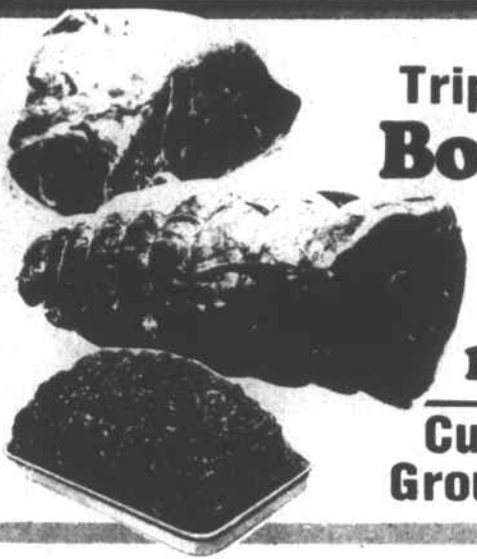
William C. North III, son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. North II of Mystic and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. William North Sr. of Hertford, has been assigned to the Hydrographic Department of the Defense Mapping Agency in Washington.

He recently completed the orientation training course for the department with the highest grade average in the class.

North graduated from Rutgers University in 1976.

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