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25 CENTS



School bells rang once again on Monday, marking the beginning of the 1984-'85 school year in Perquimans County.

These students at Hertford Grammar School seemed fairly excited about seeing old friends once again after their summer

vacation, as Principal Bill Tice stood by to offer assistance and directions. The enrollment for the

first day of school county-wide reached 1,689 students. (Photo by Cindy Leicester.)

School officials set goals for '84-'85

By JANE WILLIAMS

Students in the Perquimans County School System returned for the 1984-'85 term Monday to find new goals in education that will further the systems theme of commitment to caring, sharing and learning.

The focus of the school system for the past few years has been Perquimans County Schools: Committed to caring, sharing and learning. This year Superintendent of Schools, Pat Harrell, has announced that two major goals have been set that directly relate with this theme.

The first goal is to institute a written plan for instructional improvements

and the second is to identify activities that will focus on developing in the students a greater sense of pride and patriotism.

Teachers will be encouraged to plan patriotic activities for their students, such as using patriotism as the theme for assembly programs. Music teachers will be encouraged to concentrate on teaching patriotic songs, etc.

Other objectives for the year will include more informal visits to the classroom by Board of Education office personnel and the school's principals.

According to Harrell these visits will aide school officials in obtaining an overall view

of classroom activities. During these visits personnel will be looking for major functions of the teaching act; focusing on classroom organization, classroom management, instructional presentations, effective planning for instruction and monitoring student progress.

Harrell stated that they would be looking very carefully at the amount of time devoted to the basics, and will work to identify a minimum amount of time that elementary level teachers will spend on teaching basic subjects.

The schools will also be working toward the instituting a county-wide plan for the development of

writing skills.

Another planned activity for the year will be more direct communications with parents and the community.

The idea of a monthly newsletter to parents has been discussed to keep them up-to-date with what is happening in the schools, and reports to parents regarding subjects studied during each six-week grading period is also an objective of the schools.

School personnel will also be looking at the characteristics of an effective school system, and will be looking to see what can be done to make local schools more effective.

Rocky Mount based firm seeks land for nursing home site

By JANE WILLIAMS

A representative of a Rocky Mount based firm met with the Perquimans County Commissioners last week to discuss the possible acquisition of county owned land to build a nursing home facility in the county.

Doug Suddreth, a health planner with Autumn Corporation, told the Commissioners that his company was interested in the prospect of constructing a 78-bed nursing home on the land adjacent to the Albemarle Commission Building on Church St. in Hertford.

Suddreth told the Board that the estimated cost of the facility would be \$1-million, and that it would employ about 80 people, most of them locals.

Suddreth told the Board that a decision had not been made whether to add beds for 'rest home' patients, and that they would talk with other rest home operators in the county as well as the county Social Service Department before making that decision.

He stated that the company would need about five to six acres of land to house the facility if the state would allow them to build in the county, and that the location of the Albemarle Commission site would be ideal for their plans.

County Commissioner Lester Simpson questioned whether there was sufficient land available at that site since the building had been constructed near the center of the property, but added that a nursing home facility would be in keeping with the county's original plans for the land.

"Originally the land was purchased to construct a medical facility that would include a nursing home," Simpson said. "But those plans were not followed through when the

county could not find a doctor interested in locating here to run the project."

The Commissioners displayed an interest in giving an option on the land, but questioned the amount of land available at the site.

A check of the county's plat books showed that there were only about one and one-half to two acres of land left available at the site, which would not be sufficient for the construction of the facility.

The Commissioners mentioned other land possibility in the county, including a 6.2 acre tract owned by Commissioner Charles Ward on U.S. 17 across from Wynn Fork Court in Hertford.

Ward said early this week that he had offered the company an option on the land, but at that time they had not responded.

Suddreth told the Board that the decision whether to construct a facility in the county would rest with the Certification of Needs Section of the Department of Human Resources.

"The state allocates beds by county," Suddreth said. "They have indicated that in 1984 there will be 78-beds allocated in Gates and Perquimans Counties for a nursing home. We have determined that the beds need to be in Perquimans County because it has the greater area of concentrated population."

Suddreth said that the state would look at several factors before deciding which company would be allowed to construct the facility, including the financial strength of the companies.

He told the Board that his company presently operated ten nursing home facilities in North Carolina and Virginia, and that while they were not a "large company" they were larger than some of the other companies interested in locating in Perquimans.

Residents of Holiday Island community get Fire Brigade

By JACK GROVE

A fast response fire unit has been set up at Holiday Island, near Hertford. The unit, dubbed a 'fire brigade,' includes fire-fighting apparatus on a pick-up truck and twelve volunteers.

This unit is no spur-of-the-moment idea according to Perquimans County Fire Marshall Charles T. Skinner, Jr. He said that interest in fire protection was expressed by the resort community's management as far back as May of 1979.

Distance from the closest fire department, the Bethel Volunteer Fire Department, brought about the organization of the fire brigade. The Bethel VFD serves the Bethel Community

Fire District. Holiday Island is approximately four miles outside of this district.

The community's general manager, Forest Myers, said that Holiday Island now has about 250 residential structures and 106 families as permanent residents with more families expected to move there before the end of the year. In addition there are around 300 camping units in the campground areas.

The new unit got its start when Skinner was invited to meet with the Board of Governors (BOG) of Holiday Island on October 15, 1983. The Board at that time had under consideration the purchase of a used fire engine.

Skinner recommended a different approach, "I suggested

something like a skid-on unit as far as maintenance, adaptability to a small truck, and cost," he said. The BOG adapted the fire Marshall's recommendation and discussed with him the formation of a volunteer organization at Holiday Island.

According to Myers, the truck was purchased from Hollowell Chevrolet. "Bobby Hollowell helped us locate the proper truck for our needs," Myers noted.

The truck is a one-ton 1979 Chevrolet pick-up featuring dual rear wheels and extra-low gears for off-the-road use along with an over-load package to support the fire equipment.

The skid-on pumper unit has a 250-gallon capacity tank; 150 feet of one and one-half inch dacrone

attack line; and 200 feet of one inch rubber booster line on a reel.

Holiday Island's Ways and Means Committee has been raising money for a portion of the fire truck's equipment through a weekly special bingo game. The float strainer and draft suction hose were paid for through this fund-raiser.

The organizational meeting of the volunteers was held last July 11. Wes Weatherington was elected Brigade Chief at that meeting. Weatherington is Holiday Island's maintenance

supervisor and has the fire truck in his custody.

Other members of the brigade include: Mark Futrel, Mary and Bob Ziegler, Ted Weeks, Bobby Butler, mark and Elicia Warrenner, Burt Cullipher, Glen Smith, Ann Weatherington and Jack Grove. (Ziegler is a captain with the Newport News, VA. Fire Department.)

The organization has been meeting every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the club house for training lectures, and "hands-on" training with the equipment. Skinner has attended each

session. "I'm delighted with the enthusiasm and response that we've ad for the training in the last eight weeks," he said.

Training and guest speakers have included: Mark Williams, Perquimans County Forest Ranger concerning control of grass and woodland fires and mutual aid from the NC Forest Service; Bob Brooks, operations manager of AEMC, on electrical hazards; Bob Ziegler and Skinner on structure fires; and Wes Weatherington and Skinner on equipment use and fire attack methods.

Volunteer Appreciation Day

Volunteers from throughout Perquimans County will be honored on Sunday, September 9, for their outstanding contributions to life in the county.

Recognizing the importance of volunteerism to the area the county's volunteer selection committee, through the Governor's Volunteer Awards Program, has named September 9 as Volunteer Appreciation Day in Perquimans County.

Individuals and groups that were nominated for Governor's Volunteer Awards in Perquimans County will be recognized at a program at Missing Mill Park at 4 o'clock p.m. that day. Each person who has been nominated will receive special recognition, and the

county award winners will be named at the event.

This will be the second annual county-wide Volunteer Appreciation Day for Perquimans County. Last year's event, held in June 1983, was deemed an overwhelming success by committee members.

The committee met earlier in the summer to chose the county's representatives for the Governor's award program, and had originally scheduled the Appreciation Day for mid-August. Several activities hampered plans for that date, so the event had to be re-scheduled.

The nominees for awards in Perquimans County are as follows:

Individual Awards

Nominees

Ellen Ange, Larry Chappell,

Carolyn Williams Modlin, Allen and Becky Winslow and O. Wayne Winslow.

Also Bill Cox, Tommie Dail, Geneva Sawyer, Hulda Wood, Todd Tilley and Jeffrey White.

Clara Schofield, Leslie White, Naomi Lomax, Percy Brothers, Peggy Rohrer, Richard Bryant and Preston Nixon.

Also Ed Nixon, John Mansfield, Sandra (Sam) Bennett, Bell Elliott, Mattie Matthews and Mary Billups.

Group Awards

Nominees

Swindell Funeral Home, the Perquimans County Senior Center Bible Study Class, the Perquimans County Volunteer Rescue Squad, and each of the Perquimans County Volunteer Fire Departments.



Residents of the Holiday Island Community have worked together to offer additional protection against the threat of fire by forming a

Fire Brigade, comprised by individuals in the resort community. Joining together they have purchased a truck and equipment that will

enable fast response to fires that may break-out in the community. (Photo by Ken Castelloe.)