

Yuvonka Reid honored

see pg. 5

4th of July celebrated

see pg. 14

Tractor pull scheduled

see pg. 2

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Area farm tour set

On Thursday evening, July 7th, the Agriculture Extension Service and area civic clubs will sponsor a tour of four local produce farms for the public. The value of horticulture crops produced in Chowan and Perquimans counties is over \$5,000,000 annually. A wide diversity of fruits, vegetables and greenhouse crops are grown in the two counties.

As new residents move into the area, they may not be familiar with agriculture or realize the important contribution agriculture and the production of horticulture crops gives to the local economy. With this in mind, Jim Mansfield, Area Horticulture Extension Agent and Murray Goodwin, retired Chowan County Horticulture Agent, came up with the idea of a free tour of area produce farms for the public.

The tour schedule is as follows:
6:30 p.m. - Tour begins at Alice & Carlton Perry's Farm on Mexico Road, Edenton (Tomatoes & Peppers on Black Plastic)
7:15 p.m. - Bobby & Emmett Winborne Farm - River Road, Rocky Hook (Melons on Black Plastic)
8:00 p.m. - Robert & McCoy Phthisic Farm - Hunters Fork Road, Tyner (Cantaloupes with Drip Irrigation)
8:30 p.m. - J. P. Perry Farm - Hunters Fork Road, Tyner (U-Pick Grapes and Blueberries)

People will need to provide their own transportation. We can caravan or car pool from place to place if necessary. Refreshments, provided by the Peoples Bank, will be served at the Phthisic Farm. Please call the Edenton Extension Office if you need directions.

Lt. Governor supports the expansion of drug education program

Raleigh—"Everyday North Carolina's one million school students are confronted with the decision of whether to use alcohol and illegal drugs. It's not just older students who face this decision. Each year more and more younger children enter the world of drug and alcohol abuse." Lieutenant Governor Bob Jordan stated Monday during a news conference to announce expansion of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program (D.A.R.E.).

Senator Kenneth Royall (D-Durham) and Representative Bobby Etheridge joined Lieutenant Governor Jordan in announcing that money to expand the program has been recommended in the 1988-89 budget under consideration by the General Assembly.

The D.A.R.E. program was started by Attorney General Lacy Thornburg and Superintendent Craig Phillips with a grant from Wachovia Bank. The program is now underway in 29 of the state's school districts, and this year has reached approximately 20,000 fifth and sixth graders.

"D.A.R.E. is an innovative drug education and drug abuse prevention program that uses carefully selected and trained local law enforcement officers to teach a 17-week course to 5th or 6th grade elementary school students," Jordan stated.

"A significant aspect of the North Carolina D.A.R.E. program is that teachers remain in the classroom to listen to the police officers' message, and then to reinforce it during the week," said Etheridge.

Royall outlined the success of the program in the Durham City and County School systems. "This program has given our school children an entirely new set of skills and a new kind of self-confidence to resist the pressures to use drugs. It has given them a very positive constructive view of themselves and of law enforcement officers."

"The D.A.R.E. program has tremendous potential to keep our young people drug free...We must give our students every tool they need to 'just say no, and walk away,'" Lieutenant Governor Jordan said.

Due to the fourth of July holiday schedule the weekly article on a county agency will not appear this week.

The series will reappear in next week's edition of THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY.



Splash down!

One area youngster certainly knew how to spend a warm, sunny, fourth of July, in the dunking booth. Monday area residents gathered a Missing Mill Park for a 4th of July extravaganza of events. 4th of July in the park featured something for everyone, games for the children, entertainment, games for adults, the county wide church service, the dunking booth, and of course fireworks. The day was sponsored by the Perquimans County Jaycees, and was a huge success.

Hertford Police Department facing shortage in manpower; chief frustrated

HERTFORD—Police Chief Marshall Merritt is feeling frustrated over the revolving door at the police department.

Merritt cited low pay and substandard equipment as the main reasons why he is having difficulty in keeping a full staff of six officers on the police force. In addition, the officers that remain are having to work overtime and are losing vacation hours because the department is understaffed.

Presently, there are four officers in the department.

Merritt said three officers have resigned from the department this year. "The salary is too low to attract and keep officers," he said. The starting pay for a Hertford police officer is \$12,000. The starting pay for officers in Edenton is \$14,428, and the starting pay for Elizabeth City police officers is approximately \$14,000.

"Even though the \$12,000 is comparable to the starting salaries in towns this size across the state, the problem is that we have to compete with the larger towns around us which offer a much higher salary," Merritt said, adding that he has many officers resign to accept positions on police departments at the beach.

In addition, officers may want to leave Hertford because the chances for career advancement are much better in a larger department, Merritt said. "Also, officers are resigning because of what they consider is inadequate equipment to work with, especially the cars, but also because of the lack of modern police equipment."

Merritt said the cars the town buys for the department are all used cars, "with a lot of miles on them already." He said the cars are in need of repairs often. "We are driving family cars that can not stand up to

the stress of police patrolling," he said.

"In my opinion, we need to buy new cars through the state contract that are designed for police use. My officers tell me they are embarrassed to drive some of the vehicles."

Officers remaining on the force are losing vacation time because the department is understaffed. Merritt said two years ago, a cap of 192 hours was placed on the amount of vacation time an officer may accumulate. Officers get one day of vacation for each month's work.

Merritt said three of the four officers now in the department have reached their limit on accumulated vacation hours and have each lost vacation hours during the last two months because there are not enough people in the department to allow anyone to take time off.

"Another reason officers leave is because we have to work so much overtime and that affects the family life. We all made plans for vacation when we had six officers in the department a month ago, but since we had two resignations last month, we all had to cancel our plans," he said, adding that officers in the department have accumulated approximately 1,970 hours of overtime during the last two years.

"The department has been concentrating a lot on drug investigations because we have what we consider to be a serious problem in the Hertford area, and that also causes overtime hours because such investigations take a lot of hours," he said, adding that their efforts have resulted in several successful drug busts.

Hertford is not alone in facing the problems of high turnover rates. Small-town police departments across the state face the same problems. Officers begin their career at

small-town departments, but when the officer becomes experienced and mature enough to do a good job, they go elsewhere for more money.

Merritt has now adopted a policy to have new officers sign a three-year contract. If an officer leaves the department to go to another law enforcement position during the three years, the officer must reimburse the town for training costs.

Merritt said the longer the officer stays with the department, the less he must pay to reimburse the town. "I have had one officer buy his way out of the contract, but the idea of the contract seems to be helping some," Merritt said.

High turnover rates in the department also do damage in other ways. "New officers are not familiar with the local criminal element. Officers that do not stay long are not able to develop good sources in the community and they can't develop a rapport with the people on the street. They also are not familiar with areas where crimes may occur, such as knowing the exits and entrances to buildings."

He said high turnover rates also damage the public perception of the department. "People don't feel as free to walk up to an officer on the street and tell the officer something in confidence. It causes a loss of public trust."

Merritt admitted that the solutions to the problems are not easy. "I realize that we have a small tax base in Hertford and our salaries can not be the same as larger departments, but I also feel our salary structure needs to be reviewed with an eye toward getting more in line with the other departments in the area."

We also need to take a long, hard look at the equipment," he said.

Hertford adopts FY 1988-89 budget

Following a public hearing last Wednesday, which was attended by no one, the Hertford Town Council passed the proposed FY 1988-89 budget.

No changes were made in the \$627,400.00 budget, which reflects a \$38,000 increase over the FY 1987-88 budget of \$589,800.

Mayor Bill Cox announced that taxes will remain at \$.48 per thousand, but users will be paying slightly higher rates for water and sewage.

Planned budget expenditures for 1988-89 are broken down as follows: administration \$89,000.00, police \$144,500, fire departments \$28,300, street departments \$147,000, sanitation department \$125,000, cemetery department \$26,000, non-departmental \$55,000, contingencies \$12,000, water and sewer fund \$246,000, and electric fund \$1,699,000.

Adopted water and sewer rate increases are as follows: 1 to 3,000 gallons \$5 to \$5.50, 3,001 to 10,000 \$1.75 to \$1.95, 10,001 to 30,000 \$.75 to \$1.00. Sewer rate increases are as follows:

1 to 3,000 gallons \$3.00 to \$4.50, and all gallons over 3,000 \$1.20 to \$1.50 per thousand.

Increases in these rates are attributed by the council to cost of improvements being made at the water and sewage plants. The town is currently completing the \$297,000 new waste treatment plant.

The FY 1988-89 budget also reflects a \$130,000 expense for improvements to the town's electrical system. The cost of improving the electrical system was budgeted over a three year period and will appear again.

Council members stated during Wednesday's hearing that they feel the coming year's budget is conservative and tight.

Following the public hearing on the budget, the town council also held a hearing regarding a grant application being made to the state designating Hertford as one of the Governor's coastal initiative communities.

The hearing was attended by no one from the community, and the council unanimously approved that application be sent to the state.

Community residents are cited for violations

HOLIDAY ISLAND: The Perquimans County Health Department has notified six property owners at Holiday Island that they are in violation of county health department laws regarding septic tank systems, and several others have been ordered to cease draining water from washing machines and sinks into the community's ditches.

According to Perquimans County Health Department District Sanitarian Tim Peoples, the residents have 30 days to take action to ensure that the problems with the septic tanks and drainage are repaired or rerouted before additional legal action is taken.

This action comes as the result of an investigation prompted by the Holiday Island Property Owner's Association.

Earlier this year the Holiday Island Property Owner's Association became concerned with environmental conditions in the community following reports of illegal dumping of raw sewage, drainage of raw washing machines, and sinks into ditches, and other apparent environmental and health violations. After much publicity, the association conducted a community wide lot by lot investigation to identify alleged violations in the residential and camping sections of the island.

Upon completion of the survey the property owners forwarded the list of alleged violations to the health department.

According to health department officials the original list received by them from Holiday Island had approximately 15 apparent violations in the residential section of the island, six of which, when investigated by the health department were actually found to be violations. Most of the six identified violations involve septic tank systems flooding over and allowing sewage to seep to the surface. Two of the six violations identified involve households which are draining water from washing machines and sinks into community ditches.

In a telephone interview last week, Peoples stated the violations appear to be fairly minor, and hopefully can be corrected with few problems.

In the camping section of the community the problem appears to be much worse. According to Peoples, the property owner's association has identified 100 alleged violations, but the health department has not been able to begin an investigation to determine the true violations.

Peoples defined a dry well as a hole in the ground with a few rocks in the bottom with dirt on top where raw sewage is dumped.

According to the HIPOA survey some campers are allegedly using these dry wells, but Peoples was quick to point out that these violations have not been verified.

Holiday Island has approximately 500 camping lots, but these lots are not occupied year round.

Dumping stations are provided for campers to use for disposing of raw sewage into holding tanks, but apparently some are not doing so.

"We have not investigated the situation in the camping area yet," said Peoples. "But we begin investigating the problem when we get the time. This is a busy time of the year," he stated, adding that he is the only sanitarian in the district to conduct the investigation, in addition to his other duties of inspecting new sewer tank installations. He also stated that the health department was more concerned with taking care of problems in the residential section of Holiday Island first, since people live there year round.

Peoples stated that he does not feel the problems found in Holiday Island are exclusive to that community. He stated the soil in southern Perquimans County, of which Holiday Island is a part, is poor for septic systems due to the clay contained in the soil. Because clay is often as much as three to four feet deep, water cannot seep through, and this creates problems.

Peoples also contributed other factors to the problems seen at Holiday Island. Lots on the island were developed in the 60s, and most are no larger than 10,000 square feet, which hinders drainage of a septic system. The county now requires that lots with poor soil conditions be 25,000 square feet for septic systems, but those requirements were not put into effect until 1973 after much of Holiday Island was developed.

In addition to drainage problems, Peoples also stated that many people who have septic tank systems do not maintain the system properly. Peoples stated that systems in this area should be pumped out every three to five years to remove sludge build-up, which often clogs drainage lines causing problems like the ones at Holiday Island.

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**Area farms open for picking season
Peaches, blueberries available!**

Cobblers warm with vanilla ice cream dripping down the side, pie steaming hot from the oven. Does it make your mouth water? If so, don't fear fruit picking season is here.

Peaches and blueberries are falling off the trees and bushes at area orchards, and if you like to make jam, jelly, pie, or cobbler, now is the perfect time to take advantage of the county's local orchards.

Lots of other people will be loaded with buckets, boxes or anything else that will hold the fruit.

Jasper Winslow's 15 acres of peach trees in Belvidere are full of peaches, so full in fact many have fallen to the ground, and in the other end of the county, near Beech Springs, Jesse Perry's six acres of blueberry bushes are just full of the small luscious berries.

Jasper Winslow's orchard features over 3,000 trees to pick peaches from, with ten different varieties including

Red Rubi, Red Haven, Norman, Elterby, Early Red Free, Belle of Georgia, and Alberta peaches, which all have different uses and flavor.

Mr. Perry featured three types of blueberries which come in at different times during the approximately two month season.

Both of these local pick your own operations have been in business for some time. Mr. Winslow began letting people pick peaches about nine years ago when he retired, and Mr. Perry has been open for about 16 years.

It is obvious as you walk down the rows at both farms that both gentlemen are extremely proud of their farms, and that they are their pride and joy.

Walking between the bushes Mr. Perry often stops, picks a few berries and pops them in his mouth, commenting on the flavor and the size, and Mr. Winslow wouldn't dare be

without a knife to stop, pick a peach, peel it, pop a piece in his mouth, and smile with sheer satisfaction at the sweet, juicy taste.

Both men run their farms for fun. It's their hobby and through the summer months beginning the end of June for Winslow and the beginning of July for Perry, they spend as much as eight and ten hours a day helping customers and selling their fruit.

But growing peaches and blueberries is not all fun, prior to the season both men say there is much work to be done.

Mowing, pruning, spraying must be done constantly to keep the farms in shape for selling season.

Neither farm is fancy, and you get the feeling you have known both men all your life as you walk talk, and enjoy an occasional peach or blueberry.

Although each farm is similar, the men who operate them are very dif-

WEATHER



Weather forecasters are calling for warm weather this weekend with a slight possibility of afternoon or evening thunderstorms on Friday.

Temperatures will feature lows in the 70s with highs in the mid to upper 80s.