

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 58, No.38

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, September 21, 1989

30 CENTS

Briefs

Heating assistance available through Social Services

The Perquimans County Department of Social Services will begin October 16th accepting applications for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. The LIEAP provides a one-time payment in February 1990 to low income households to help them in paying their winter heating bills.

Some food stamp households may be eligible to apply for LIEAP by mail. Those households will be mailed an application and will not be required to visit the county department of social services.

Those food stamp households who are not eligible to apply by mail will receive a notice telling them to apply in person at the County Department of Social Services.

All interested low income households are encouraged to call and request an appointment date and time before coming in to apply for heating assistance. Appointments will be made beginning October 2.

Applications will be accepted from October 16th through November 22nd.

School closing policy set for inclement weather

During extremely bad weather it sometimes becomes necessary for a decision to be made concerning the closing of schools. When a decision is made in the early morning that schools will close for the day, it must be relayed quickly to all students and parents. A decision to close may affect all schools throughout the Perquimans County System. In order to accomplish this task efficiently and with maximum coverage, school officials are asking all students and parents to cooperate by following the suggestions listed below:

1. Listen to one of the area Radio and Television stations (WGAI-Elizabeth City, WKJX-Elizabeth City, WBXB-Edenton, WZBO-Edenton, WRSF-Dare County, and WNCT-TV in Greenville) in late evening and early morning for an announcement concerning the closing of school.

2. A decision to close the schools or to consider a delayed schedule will be announced by 6:30 a.m.

3. DO NOT telephone the weather bureau, radio or TV stations, newspaper offices, school officials or school offices. Announcements will reach you by radio and-or television.

4. THE ABSENCE OF ANY ANNOUNCEMENT MEANS THAT THE SCHOOLS WILL OPEN AS USUAL.

When making a decision on opening or closing the schools, school officials are primarily concerned with the safety and welfare of all students.

Local DMV to be closed on Monday

The North Carolina License Plate Agency located at 114 North Grubb Street in Hertford will be closed on Monday, September 25 to permit employees to attend a day-long workshop on administration of the state's new highway use tax, it was announced by William S. Hiatt, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

The highway use tax, enacted by the 1989 General Assembly, will go into effect on October 1. Beginning that day, new and used car sales in North Carolina will be taxed at the rate of three percent, with a limit of \$1,000. The highway use tax replaces North Carolina's two percent sales tax, which is capped at \$300. The minimum tax imposed under the new law is \$40.

Proceeds of the highway use tax will help finance North Carolina's \$9.1 billion highway improvement program.

Commissioners examine crumbling school buildings

HERTFORD — The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners met with the board of education Wednesday night and got a firsthand look at the deteriorating conditions of two buildings in the school system.

The commissioners were taken on a guided tour of Perquimans Middle School and the vocational education building at the high school. The two buildings were constructed in the 1940s and are in an advanced state of deterioration for a building still in regular use.

"I already knew we needed more funds for school construction," commission chairman Lester Simpson said, "this shows me more than I knew."

One of the underlying purposes of the meeting was to promote passage of the land transfer tax referendum. Voters will decide in November if they want to let the county assess up to a 1 percent land transfer tax which is to be used to generate funds specifically for school construction projects.

"Both boards are wholeheartedly behind this," Simpson said.

"We are fortunate to have two elected boards working for the betterment of public education with a united voice," school board chairman Clifford Winslow said. "So many areas do not enjoy this type of cooperation."

On the tour the commissioners were shown where age and overcrowding had taken their toll on the buildings. The vocational wing, which served as the high school at one time, has settled about five inches at one end of the building. At



Perquimans County Board of Education member Wayne Howell points to a large crack in an outer wall at the vocational education building at Perquimans High School. The wall is separating from the building and is slowly falling away.

that same end the back wall is separating and falling away from the building. Winslow said engineers have recommended the building be vacated permanently within five years.

Both buildings on the tour were uncomfortably warm, even in the

cool evening air. There is no air conditioning in either building except in computer rooms. Board members also commented about the unpleasant odors in almost every room.

Superintendent Mary Jo Martin and Simpson both agreed that the

meeting was productive. Members of both boards indicated they would like to meet again to further discuss the issue. Winslow invited the commissioners to come to a breakfast at the schools so they could see for themselves how serious the overcrowding problem has become.

State history museum begins local membership drive

The North Carolina Museum of History Associates began their 1989 Membership Campaign with a luncheon and orientation session for 60 volunteers from eastern North Carolina at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Roberson in Bath on September 13. Attending the meeting were members of the state history museum's Perquimans County Committee, Mary Alice Brinn, Sharman Haskett, and Paige Underwood. Committee member Jeanne White was unable to attend.

The Museum Associates, a 13,000-member, statewide support group for the North Carolina Museum of History and 24 state historic sites, provides funds for museum exhibits, artifact purchases, educational programs in every county of the state, and private sector financing for the new Museum of History building.

Construction of the new \$29.5 million museum facility is underway, and campaign volunteers received an update on the building's progress, including a description of a 10,000 square foot Folk Art Gallery on the museum's main floor.

Several recent purchases were announced for this gallery which will be dedicated to the display of North Carolina's finest crafts, including three Cherokee Indian baskets, each woven by an outstanding Cherokee craftsman. Mary Alice Brinn, local county chairman, reported that the highly prized baskets were made by Eva Wolfe, Emma Taylor, and Rowena Bradley of Cherokee.

"Membership dues are used to purchase outstanding contemporary crafts like the baskets for the new museum in addition to historical artifacts," Mrs. Brinn said. She noted that works by North Caroli-

na's finest artisans must be purchased now in order to show museum visitors in the future examples of craftsmanship from the last decades of the twentieth century.

The state history museum's Associate collections curator Betty Tyson described the three award-winning Cherokee Indian women as "among the most creative, talented basketweavers in the United States. They are keeping alive a craft tradition that was taught to them as children."

Volunteers heard about numerous audiovisual and video programs which the Museum Associates are providing for social studies classrooms and adult groups across the state.

00-00 0129 "The Museum Associates are pleased to return membership funds directly to every county of the state through these programs," Mrs. Brinn stated, "and it helps me in my job of recruiting members in Perquimans County when people can see a direct benefit here at home."

Mrs. Brinn noted that museum memberships begin at \$20 and may be obtained by calling any member of the Perquimans County Committee. Committee members may also be contacted for further information about obtaining programs from the museum.

Outstanding programs and displays are offered in this area at the Museum of the Albemarle in conjunction with the North Carolina Museum of History. Students in the Perquimans County Schools system enjoy visiting the museum to view various historical displays, and also are fortunate to have some of the displays come to Hertford, such as last year's kite exhibit at Hertford Grammar School.



Funds are adding up

John Biggers adds more red paint to the library building fund thermometer on the courthousegreen as Mrs. Katherine Biggers, a library committee member, and Denise Peckham, community development vice president of the Perquimans Jaycees, look on. The dinner/auction held last month by the Jaycees on behalf of the library raised \$3,000, bringing the total raised to \$18,655.36. The goal is \$25,000.

Glover, London share their views on Hertford issues

In last week's edition, the views of town council candidates John Beers, Erie Haste, Jordan Bonner and Vance Hoover appeared in this newspaper. Bill Glover's interview did not appear due to a computer transmission error. John London was unable to get with the newspaper due to a trip and illness. Their interviews follow.

Bill Glover

Bill Glover is disheartened to see the apathy of the people in Hertford where its governmental affairs are concerned. Too few people attend the meetings to see firsthand how the business is transacted, according to Glover.

He suggests that perhaps a newsletter from the town could be published in the newspaper on a regular basis to keep the people informed. "We have got to find ways to generate interest in gov-

erning the town of Hertford, maybe going to a system more like New England town meetings," Glover said.

Glover received his bachelor's degree from UNC in political science. He worked for four years as a field engineer involved in a multi-million dollar industrial construction firm in Raleigh. He has been in business in Hertford for five years. This background, he believes, will help him to deal with the problems facing Hertford.

Lack of jobs is one of the problems facing the town right now. Younger people are forced to leave the county to find employment. Since the country's service industry is growing faster than any other, Glover feels that Hertford should try to attract low-technology businesses such as computer repair, soils testing and the like.

He feels that the town owes a

large debt to People Bank for staying in the downtown area, while other businesses are migrating to U.S. Highway 17. There was once a movement to revitalize the downtown area, which he feels has not been brought to fruition.

Solutions to Hertford's problems, Glover feels, will come through active promotion of the town. This must be done by the council and by a more aggressive Chamber of Commerce, Glover said.

Another problem he sees is crime. Citizens Crime Watches may help the situation, he stated. He said that although the police are doing a good job, the citizens must work in cooperation to assist them.

"I feel the ice plant and fire station should be repaired, old decay should be halted and reversed," said Glover in response to a question concerning the condition of the old ice plant facility. "It is a tre-

mendous asset for the town to use in the future." Glover expressed dismay that the building has been allowed to fall into such ill repair. He feels that keeping buildings in good condition is a cheaper alternative than major renovation or demolition and rebuilding.

Should the offices of mayor and city manager be held by the same person? "The old adage 'two heads are better than one' comes to mind every time I hear this issue discussed," Glover said. He feels that the offices are very different and are too much for one person to handle. He feels that the situation also eliminates a system of checks and balances as the mayor is answerable to the voters, while the town manager is answerable to the council.

Glover stated that his position on the condemnation proceedings goes hand-in-hand with the matter

Stay alert as hurricane season approaches us

Weather forecasters predict that hurricanes could head our way as early as late this week. Perquimans County Emergency Management personnel are preparing for the possibility of a storm hitting our area.

All four county schools will be open as emergency shelters should the weather necessitate. Residents should go to the shelter nearest their homes when seeking a safe place to stay.

To prepare for a storm, stock up on non-perishable foods. Bottle water. Check your supply of batteries, candles and matches. Fill your car up with gas. Tape doors and windows.

Mobile home dwellers should be especially cautious, checking tie-downs carefully as soon as a storm warning is issued. Mobile homes are not safe harbors during hurricane force winds.

Should you choose to weather a storm at home, stay inside. You are safest in an inside room away from all doors and windows. Don't go outside during the lull in the storm - the wind can increase in only seconds to 75 miles per hour.

Protect your property without taking unnecessary risks. Move furniture away from exposed doors and windows.

Keep a radio or television tune for information from official sources. Be prepared to leave should the need arise.

If you go to a shelter, emergency personnel recommend the following procedures:

1. Know where you are going and leave early - in daylight, if possible.

2. Move your most valuable possessions to higher points in your home.

3. Take blankets, flashlights, special dietary needs, infant needs and lightweight folding chairs.

4. Register upon arriving if asked to do so.

5. Do not take pets, alcohol or weapons of any kind.

6. Offer your assistance to the shelter personnel, and help to keep it clean.

7. Turn off gas, water and electricity. Safeguard your home before leaving.

8. Take a first aid kit, bottled water, a can opener, eating utensils, food, medications, eyeglasses, one toy for each child and special needs, such as hearing aid batteries.

9. Keep important papers with you, i.e. life insurance policies, drivers license, medic-alert or other medical information.

10. Take warm protective clothing.

Hopefully, Perquimans will be lucky and no devastating storms will crash through our area. However, it's best to be prepared. By being fully prepared, the loss of life and damage to property can be kept to a minimum.

please see ISSUES page thirteen