

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 59, No.12

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C. Thursday, March 22, 1990

30 CENTS

Briefs

Senior Center plans Spring Bahamas trip

The Perquimans County Recreation Department/Senior Center is sponsoring a trip to the Bahamas. An extraordinary trip is planned, but spaces are limited. Please contact Patti White at the Center immediately for information on this trip. You must reserve your space this week.

Cooking fire damages town apartment

Hertford firemen responded to a cooking fire at Stokes Drive Friday. Thirteen firefighters answered the call and were on the scene in under three minutes. Chief Edgar Roberson cited extensive damage in the kitchen of the townhouse apartment, which is owned by the town of Hertford. He estimated replacement costs of cabinets at between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Saturday wreck claims life

By SUSAN HARRIS

A Perquimans County woman was killed and six others injured in a three-car collision near Elizabeth City early Saturday morning.

Nellie Combs Mallory, 45, of Route 4, Box 1000, Hertford died at around 6:40 a.m. as a result of injuries sustained when her 1989 Plymouth was struck by a 1983 Ford operated by Clarence Melvin Madison, 54, of Richmond, Va.

According to the report of N. C. Highway Patrol Trooper C.R. Hailey, the Madison vehicle was stopped at the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and Rural Road 1144. Mrs. Mallory was traveling south on U.S. 17. Madison attempted to make a left turn west onto Road 1144, striking Mrs. Mallory, who was crossing the intersection. Mrs. Mallory had the right-of-way.

A third car operated by Rosa Brothers Frost, 47, of 1145 Mt. Hermon Church Rd., Elizabeth City, was stopped at the intersection. Her 1979 Buick was struck by Mrs. Mallory's car.

Madison's vehicle struck a traffic island and two highway signs before coming to rest in the eastbound lane of Road 1144.

Madison has been charged with death by vehicle and failure to yield.

Damages to the Plymouth were estimated at \$9,000, while the Ford sustained \$1,000 in damages. The Buick received minor damages.

Sylvia Armstrong, Beryl Combs and Katasha Combs, all passengers in the Mallory vehicle, were transported to Albemarle Hospital with minor injuries.

Ms. Frost and her passengers, Sheila Frost and Regina Powell, were also taken to Albemarle Hospital with minor injuries.

'Heated' characterizes Hertford public hearing

By JOE SOUTHERN

Daily Advance Staff Writer

Tempers flared, voices were raised and fingers were pointed during a public hearing Monday night on a proposed amendment to the town's zoning ordinance.

The Hertford Town Council, after hearing several people in a packed room oppose the amendment, voted to refer the issue back to committee for further consideration. Over 20 people crowded into the municipal building to protest the amendment that would allow councilman Jesse Harris to continue to operate his mobile home park in a zone that does not allow mobile homes.

The problem began several weeks ago when town and county building inspector Aubrey Onley refused a permit allowing Harris to put a mobile home in a vacant slot in his mobile home park on Pennsylvania Avenue. The park is in an R-8 zone which prohibits mobile homes.

When the zoning ordinance was approved in 1980, the park and all mobile homes in the zone were allowed to stay under a grandfather clause. The clause states that once individual mobile homes are removed, they cannot be replaced. It also said that Harris's mobile home park could continue to operate until it was vacated or abandoned.

Harris's park, which has been operating for over 30 years, has five slots, one of which was vacated two years ago. Harris was about to rent the slot to a tenant a month ago when he was denied the permit. He said he can do it because he is still operating a mobile home park there. Onley said the trailer was illegal since the space was abandoned.

Speaking at the meeting was William B. Dunn, the community development planner from the Department of Economic and Community Development who helped Hertford develop its zoning ordinance. He sidestepped the question of who was wrong or

right, and only commented on the proposed amendment.

"This proposed amendment clarifies what appears to have been town policy for a while," Dunn said. He added that similar amendments have been passed by towns facing similar problems.

"I'm the one who is on trial here," a red-faced Harris said while stating his position on the matter. "There is nothing here which stops me from putting trailers back into my park," he said, waiving a copy of the zoning ordinance in the air.

Harris said he does not hold anything against Onley for trying to do his job to the best of his ability, but he did feel that Onley went beyond his duties in not allowing the permit.

"I do hold it against you for not checking with the authorities in Raleigh for clarification," he said, directing his statements at the building inspector.

Onley responded saying he called Dunn twice to make sure he was correctly interpreting the ordinance.

From there the meeting lost direction as citizens took turns complaining about Harris, mobile homes and inconsistencies in the town ordinance which governs them. Several times Mayor W. D. "Bill" Cox had to settle the room when heated arguments broke out.

At the suggestion of citizen Bill Glover, councilman T. Erieh Haste, Jr. made the motion to send the amendment back to committee for further consideration. He said he would like to see the amendment broadened to address all non-conforming areas in the town. He also said there needs to be specific wording which defines a mobile home park.

After the meeting was adjourned, Harris privately commented that he does not make enough from the trailer park for it to be worth the fight, and that he is only pressing the issue for the principle of the matter.

April 21 tour will showcase historic Hertford

Circle Saturday, April 21 on your calendar and make plans now to attend a unique tour.

For the first time, structures of historical significance will be opened to the public in Hertford, a charming peninsula town located on the Perquimans River.

A hidden jewel, Hertford was incorporated in 1758. Its many distinctions include being the home of the first woman postmaster in the United States after ratification of the Constitution.

Almost immediately following her appointment in 1792, Sarah Moore Delano DeCrow asked for and received a raise in salary. Her influence with national political leaders, such as U. S. Supreme Court associate justice James Iredell and his brother-in-law U. S. Senator Samuel Johnston, may account for her selection.

Certainly, if this tavern keeper postmaster personified the Algonquian Indian interpretation of Perquimans, "the land of beautiful women," she turned many a gentleman's eye.

Since 1661 when settler-mariner George Durant purchased land from Chief Kilcocanen, residents of Perquimans County established taproots of fairness and strength of character.

In 1971 this heritage restored North Carolina's oldest hours, the (ca.1685) Newbold-White House. It also refuted North Carolina author Thomas Wolfe's "You Can't Go Home Again."

Many repatriated natives (or descendants of natives) came home. Furthermore, they brought with them the financial means to restore ancestral homes, plus a wide cultural experience that is



enriching the quality of life in the area.

An example is Perquimans County bornand reared Wallace Reed, whose ancestor was Durant as well as N. C. Gov. William Reed (1722-1724).

A retired executive with South Carolina National Bank, Reed and his wife, Mary, a native of historic Beaufort, S. C., bought and renovated the river fronted Simpson-Blanchard House. The couple spend the summer months in Hertford, while maintaining a winter home in Columbia, S. C.

Twenty-two homes and two

buildings, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and the 1825 Perquimans County Court House, will either show first floors, vegetable and flower gardens, host art shows on front porches and river front verandas, or all of the above.

The variety of architectural styles promises to please everyone's personal preference.

Sponsored by the Perquimans County Restoration Association as a fund raiser for the Newbold-White House's maintenance, the tour begins at the Hertford Chamber of Commerce, where tickets, rest rooms, coffee and guides are

available. It concludes with a short drive to Newbold-White.

Other attractions on the site are the ca. 1820 David Newby Cottage, the Perquimans Center and an archaeological dig involved in unearthing the site of an earlier (ca. 1670) house on the property.

The \$10 tour fee includes lunch, which will be served in the Perquimans Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. As stated, this is a unique tour at a bargain price.

Inquiries and reservations may be made at the Chamber of Commerce office, (919) 436-5657, or at Newbold-White, (919) 426-7567. Groups welcomed.



Photo by Susan Harris

Grand opening

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox cut the ribbon Friday morning at the grand opening at Mickey B's Professional Cleaning Service on Edenton Road Street. Looking on are (left to right) county commissioner's chairman Lester Simpson, Chamber of Commerce vice president Nancy Newbern, Chamber president Lewis Evans, Cox, co-owner Lee Gordon, co-owner Leon Felton and employees Willie Vaughan, Elton Steppney, Michael Bonner and Larry Mallory. Not pictured is co-owner McKinley Gilliam. The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce sponsored the ribbon cutting.

School board sets goals at annual retreat last week

By SUSAN HARRIS

At its annual retreat last week, the Perquimans Board of Education adopted four goals for the 1990-91 school year.

First on the list was the board's decision to be actively involved in efforts directed toward providing equitable funding for all school districts in North Carolina.

To do this the board will continue to have representation on the Rural Initiative Task Force, Task Force for Excellence in Secondary Education and Financial Advisory Committee in the State Department of Public Instruction; and will also retain its membership in the Small

School Consortium and continue to write grant proposals.

The board will also support the activities related to the successful implementation of Senate Bill 2. This will be accomplished through staff development, continued training for the Effective Schools Team, and enrichment or expansion of curriculum areas. Integrated studies, an additional pre-kindergarten class, writing across the grades, mastery learning, improved remediation efforts, changes in scope and sequence, elementary reading series expansion and SAT preparation may be implemented.

Development of programs and activities that more fully involve the parents in the educational

programs offered is also a goal of the board. This may be accomplished by expanding the Community Schools program through activities such as a printed annual report, community meetings with the superintendent and outreach programs.

Other offerings may be the creation of family counseling and parent education classes, continuation of the adult literacy class sponsored jointly by COA, and the school system, and expansion of the volunteer efforts.

The board will also work to restructure the vocational education program. Administrative staff members have already begun meeting with COA officials to determine what might be accomplished jointly in vocational areas.

Crime report

The Hertford Police Department reported three arrests made during the past week.

Henry Lewis Burnham, 42, of 205 Wynn Fork Ct. was arrested on March 12 and charged with failure to appear and assault with a deadly weapon.

Sharon Woods Burnham, 27, of 205 Wynn Fork Ct. was arrested on March 13 and charged with failure to appear on a show cause order and simple assault.

Connie Lilly Forehand, 20, of 108 King St. was arrested on March 13 and charged with shoplifting.

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department reported three arrests also:

Anthony Ray Saunders, 32, of Lowe's Drive, Hertford Beach was arrested on March 13 and charged with assault on a female.

Frank Dennis Thompson, 27, of P-Section, Holiday Island was arrested on March 14 and charged with perjury.

Leslie Michelle Moore, 19, of Rt. 5, Box 106 was arrested on March 14 and charged with breaking and entering and larceny on a Chowan County warrant.

Thinking of placing a Classified Ad; but not sure how to do it? Just call our friendly Ad-Visor, Elenora. She will be glad to help you.

426-5728

Perquimans Weekly

119 W. Grubb St.
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.