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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 Cents

## Hertford to update electrical system

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**  
Editor

The town of Hertford will begin its electrical system update soon with a new trunk line running from Hertford to Winfall.

Town Manager W.D. "Bill" Cox told council that a study done several years ago estimated the cost of the project at \$125,000. He told council Monday night that the total project cost will be about \$150,000 including engineering.

Cox said the town can finance the project through a bank or ElectricCities at a rate of about 7-7.5 percent. Terms available are three, five or seven years.

Cox is finalizing figures for the project, and said he will apply for a grant to cover engineering costs.

The present line to Winfall runs along the railroad bridge. Plans for the new line call for it to run under the river next to the causeway, then to the old Major and Loomis Mill office, Cox said.

The council will meet again with the county commissioners to try to iron out concerns over the town paying the county for dispatch and building inspection services.

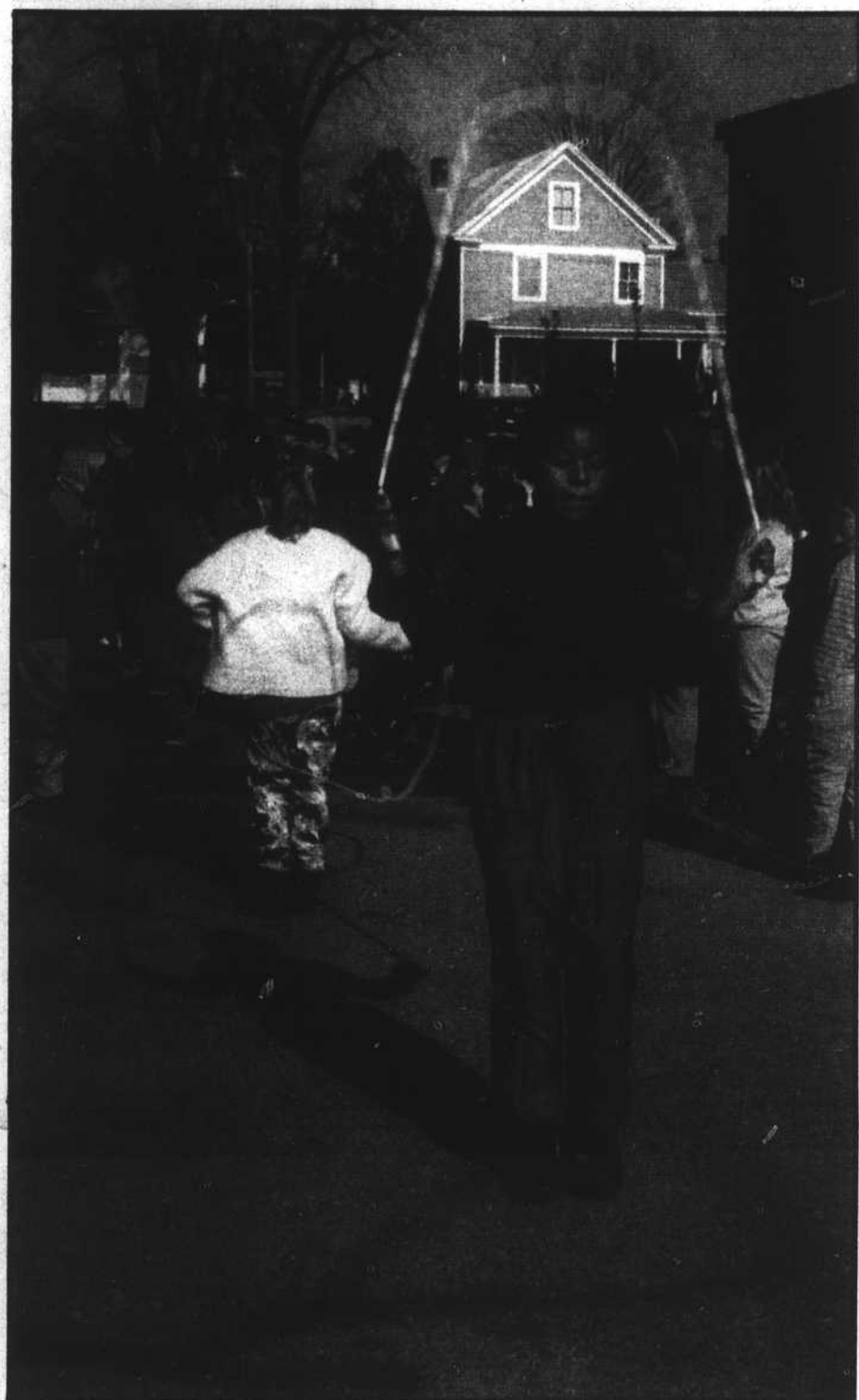
The town board met with county officials several times last year, asking that the county pay all costs of operating the dispatch and building inspection departments. Town officials said that because Hertford property owners pay county taxes, the county should provide those services to Hertford residents at no additional charge.

The county charges the town for dispatching the Hertford Police Department and for performing building inspection services related to town ordinances.

The town's portion of the county's dispatch budget for the year ending June 30, 1992 was \$24,847.60. It cost the county about \$124,000 to operate the department during the 1992-93 fiscal year, according to Perquimans County Assistant Finance Officer Sharon Ward. The town's building inspection share was \$3,661.40. The total building inspection budget was \$18,307, Ward said.

The council voted to pay the county, but said they want to meet again with commissioners to try to resolve what councilman Billy Winslow tags a "double taxation" issue.

## 100 days and counting



Andrea Jones (above) attempts to jump rope 100 times at the Hertford Grammar School 100th Day of School celebration last Wednesday. Second graders observed the milestone with many activities revolving around the number 100. Joshua Lassiter (left) and his partner were charged with bouncing a ball to each other 100 times. (Photo by Susan Harris)

## Landfill group gathers steam

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**  
Editor

The citizens' group studying the proposed eight-county solid waste disposal issue seems to be picking up steam.

According to LuAnn Riddick, one of the group's organizers, the executive board selected two weeks ago met last week and formed sub-committees to research different aspects of solid waste disposal. Riddick said the group wants access to all the information at the disposal of the Regional Landfill Authority.

"That's the purpose of what we're doing - we're going to get the facts and figures, too," Riddick said.

David Vines from Virginia's Southeastern Public Service Authority met with the citizens' group's executive committee last week to review services offered by his company. Vines indicated that Southeastern is interested in receiving solid waste from this area, Chuck White said.

The group plans to begin a petition drive soon. The petition will be against building a high-tech landfill in Perquimans County for use by eight counties,

and will be presented to the Perquimans County Commissioners.

A public information meeting is planned for tonight (Feb. 11) at 7 p.m. at the Albemarle Commission building. Regional Landfill Authority Director Jerry Parks, Perquimans County Manager Paul Gregory and other county officials will be at the meeting.

The agenda includes a report by county officials and the citizens' group on a one-day trip to Addington, Inc. in Ashland, Ken. The purpose of the visit was to review Addington's landfill operation.

Addington has contracted to construct a landfill in Bertie County to handle solid waste from Bertie, Washington and Hertford counties. Addington has invited the Regional Landfill Authority to consider using their facilities in Bertie County.

The Albemarle Environmental Association also has a meeting scheduled for Feb. 24 at 4:30 p.m. in Elizabeth City. Government officials and citizens will discuss the solid waste issue.

"That's the purpose of what we're doing - we're going to get the facts and figures, too."

LuAnn Riddick  
Landfill committee co-organizer

## Call-ins show citizens against county landfill

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**  
Editor

Call-ins to *The Perquimans Weekly* are still running overwhelmingly against constructing a landfill in the county.

"I know we've got to do something with our debris and our trash, but I don't think eight counties ought to be dumping their trash here," one caller said.

The caller went on to say that Japan built an electric plant fueled by solid waste. Although that would be costly initially, the caller said a long-term solution to the solid waste management dilemma must be found.

"Something's going to have to be done with it besides bury it," he said. "This trash situation, it's going to be something in years to come."

The caller said each county should have its own landfill, and worry about its own trash. "Eight counties will fill a landfill up in a hurry," he said.

Another caller said that from an economic development standpoint, a landfill could hurt Perquimans County.

"I am opposed to it (the landfill) being in Perquimans County from a standpoint that I don't want us to become known as

a landfill county across the state," the caller said.

The caller added that a solid waste landfill could open the door to a hazardous waste site in the area, and that would be detrimental to the county. Also, the caller said, a landfill will not attract business or industry to the county, nor will it add revenues.

Several callers said they were against the landfill because of possible negative environmental and health impacts.

All those who were against the landfill being located in the county said that if other solutions to the trash problem were more expensive, they'd be willing to pay a little extra to keep the landfill out of the county.

At present, the total costs of other solutions are being studied, and are not available.

One caller did not speak against the landfill.

"I think that the landfill ought to be placed in the center of all eight counties," the caller said, "but away from water sources and near good roads and rail facilities."

## Basnight makes the grade at middle school

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**  
Editor

Seventh graders in Perquimans County took President Pro Tem of the North Carolina Senate Marc Basnight literally Monday when he told the group that he represented them.

"I represent you, each one of you," Basnight said.

The young teens asked provocative questions when Basnight opened the floor during his visit to Perquimans Middle School. The students questioned Basnight's stand on gun control, abortion, gays in the military and other issues they've heard discussed recently. They also asked for more personal information, like his priorities, how he prepared to become a state senator, if he had goals at their ages, and if he liked his job.

Basnight took all the questions in stride, answering each one. He told the students that hard work, abiding by the golden rule and contributing to their communities were the keys to success.

"If you do all you can within your ability, you will succeed," Basnight said.

Taking school seriously was one of Basnight's key points to the students.

"Really strain at night with

your studies," he said. Basnight said he did not set goals early in life and did not take his studies seriously enough. As a result, he said he had to play catch-up when he left school. He said that was a mistake, and encouraged students to set high goals and work hard to achieve them.

One student asked Basnight what could be done to stop people from taking drugs.

"Only you can stop drugs," Basnight said. He told the students not to get involved with drugs because nothing good ever came of drug use. Drugs hurt not only you, but everyone who cares about you, Basnight said.

To close his remarks, Basnight made a simple, yet thought-provoking point: "You are the future."

Basnight was invited to the school by seventh grade grade-level chairman Sid Eley. Eley said Monday afternoon that Basnight told him he wanted to

come back for another visit because of the interest the students had in government affairs and issues.

On hand for the visit were school administrators, school board members, municipal and county officials, and parents.



North Carolina Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight visited with seventh graders at Perquimans Middle School Monday. The senator spoke with students about the importance of learning, community activism and earning respect. The students then questioned Basnight on his stands on many issues. (Photo by Susan Harris)

## Hertford council briefs

### ABC profits

Hertford ABC Commissioner Cecil Winslow told town councilmen Monday that sales for December and January were up from 1992 levels. But Winslow also said the state has continued to raise taxes on distilled spirits, taking an increasingly bigger bite out of local profits.

Winslow turned in a check for \$1,500 representing the town's profit for last quarter. However, he said that the state received about \$9,000, or about six times as much in revenue as the town, during the same period.

The ABC chairman said the ABC system was established in 1935 to provide revenue for local govern

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## Call us!

Do you think the town of Hertford should pay the county to dispatch the Hertford Police Department and provide building inspection services relating to town ordinances?

Call us with your opinions before Monday at 5 p.m. You do not have to give your name. We'll print the results next week.

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