

Education:
White's Barbecue
wins men's softball
tournament: Page 3

Gardening:
Dyson gives late
summer garden
tips: Page 5

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 Cents

Winfall requests sanitary survey

Winfall residents are hosting visitors this week.

The North Carolina Rural Communities Assistance Project Inc. is conducting a sanitary survey of residences and businesses in Winfall. Residents will be asked questions relating to their water and sewer services to see if there is a need for a sewer system in the town. All answers will be kept confidential.

The town of Winfall requested the study, which is being performed free of charge by the statewide nonprofit rural assistance group.

Conducting the survey are Barbara Harrell, a VISTA volunteer, and Peter Kittany, associate director of N.C. Rural Communities Assistance Project. Funds for the survey are provided through the project's Technitrain program, which is supported by the Farmers Home Administration, and in-kind support from ACTION, the federal domestic volunteer agency, and Economic Improvement Council Inc.

Questions concerning the survey should be addressed to the Hon. Fred Yates, Town Council, Town of Winfall, 426-7425; Ms. June Britt, community services coordinator of Economic Improvement Council Inc., Perquimans County Office, 426-7868; Barbara Harrell, Rural Communities Assistance Project VISTA volunteer, 357-0555; or Peter Kittany or Stephen Dear, Rural Communities Assistance Project staff, (919)542-7227.

Farmers may get drought relief funds

There may be some relief in sight for Perquimans County farmers whose crops were damaged by the summer's long dry spell.

Federal disaster assistance is available to county farmers who have suffered drought-related crop losses according to Thomas L. Riddick, county executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and Melvin Howell, county supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration.

FmHA's disaster emergency loans were authorized on Aug. 10 by Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy in response to a request by Governor Jim Hunt. ASCS disaster payments were made available when President Clinton signed disaster assistance legislation passed by Congress recently. The Emergency Feed, Emergency Feed Assistance, Conservation Reserve and Acreage Conservation programs may also provide additional assistance through ASCS in some areas of the state based upon the need for these types of assistance.

Producers who have suffered losses to their crops and/or livestock should contact the ASCS and FmHA offices to find out details of how the agencies can be of service, Riddick and Howell said.

"Secretary Espy has asked all USDA employees to provide timely and responsive service to their farming constituency," Riddick said.

"We are going to do all we can to show our farmers that the 'Team USDA' is working well in our area," Howell added.

Both agencies plan to make every effort to get the best information and the most disaster relief possible for farmers in Perquimans County.

Application sign-up periods for ASCS services will be announced soon. FmHA can receive emergency loan applications now, but farmers will have until early April 1994 to file.

Summer learning



Some Perquimans High School students had the opportunity to learn more about technology and how it affects their lives in a special vocational summer school program. Colorful projects like the one above detailed what the students learned during the three-week course. (Photo by Susan Harris)

PCMS students' vacation extended

Middle school starts Monday due to construction delays

Perquimans Middle School students added two more days to their summer vacations due to construction delays at the school.

Schools superintendent Randall L. Henion said Monday that his concern about the students' safety, the need to have the school cleaned well before the students return and time to have all furniture moved back into place prompted him to delay the opening.

Teachers reported back as scheduled, but students will not check in until Monday, Aug. 30.

Hertford Grammar, Perquimans Central and Perquimans High school students were not affected by the delay.

The middle school project was thrown about 10 days behind schedule when workmen accidentally cut into contained as-

bestos at the site. Once the asbestos was uncontained, all work crews were required by law to vacate the building for testing, and to remain off the premises until repair work was done.

Henion said when work crews returned to the middle school, every effort was made to get back on schedule, but he felt a delay was better than risking the safety of any of the school's students.

Subcontractors, schools maintenance personnel, teaching staff and even parents have worked to get the renovated facility back in order for students.

The renovations were made possible by over \$2 million in critical facilities needs funds from the state.

Chief Lane helps Winfall residents feel safe

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Anna Newton smiles and hugs the uniformed officer who stops in to chat with her.

While many people are a little uncomfortable when law enforcement officers stop by their houses, Newton and many other Winfall residents welcome Winfall Police Chief David Lane.

Lane initiated a program in June designed to help widowed and elderly residents feel safer. He introduced himself to the residents, gave them safety tips and provided them with his home telephone number with instructions to call him day or night if they need to. The chief asks residents to let him know when they'll be out

of town so he can check on their homes. The program is popular, according to residents.

"I was real thrilled to know that we had someone looking out for us," Newton said. "It's nice to know. I know that I can call him anytime and he'll be here. We've never had this kind of attention before."

"When you live alone, it's just a different ballgame," she added. Newton said she feels safer knowing that Lane is keeping an eye out for her. She said the response from residents she has spoken with has been overwhelmingly positive.

Lane said when he began patrolling Winfall in March after taking his Basic Law Enforcement Training, he started meeting people and talking with them. He realized that there were a lot of elderly residents in Winfall, and a lot of people living alone. Wanting to provide good service, Lane began visiting the residents' homes once or twice each week. Through the program, he has learned where people live, if they have health problems and a little more about them.

"The more I know, the more help I can be" in an emergency situation, Lane said.

Lane and Newton laugh when they remember the occasion when Lane was concerned about Newton's safety. Spotting a strange car in her yard and seeing no signs of movement in the house, Lane stopped by Newton's place of employment, casually asking what Newton was up to since she wasn't at work. Her co-workers told him that her sister was visiting from



Winfall Police Chief David Lane stops to chat with Winfall resident Anna Newton. Lane's program to provide personal service to residents has Newton and her friends singing his praises. (Photo by Susan Harris)

out of town. The strange car explained, Lane went on to his next order of business.

Newton said she didn't feel Lane "checking up" on her was an invasion of privacy. It made her feel even safer to know that he was looking out for her even when she didn't know it.

"It makes me feel safer," she said.

Knowing someone is watching out for their mother has made Newton's children more relaxed, too, Newton said.

Although Newton has not needed to call Lane, she said she would not hesitate to dial his number if she needed him.

The people who live in Newton's neighborhood are like a family, she said, and they try to look out for each other. What they have is sort of like an unofficial community watch, and Newton said Lane's efforts have just added to the feeling of security.

Even when he is not on duty, Lane has helped community residents. Winfall ABC store employee Patsy Sawyer said Lane comes out each night at 9 o'clock when the store closes to make sure the employees get to their cars safely.

"There's just not many people that are going to do that," Sawyer said.

Sawyer said the Windsor Be-Lo murders had made employees nervous about leaving the store. She asked Lane to

• Keep your doors locked, even during the day when you are at home.

• Don't answer a knock on the door, especially if you are alone at night. Try to find an angle in your home from where you can look to identify the caller.

• Install deadbolt locks on door.

• Keep your windows locked and install window pins so they cannot be opened enough to allow someone to crawl through.

• Make sure locks on doors and windows are placed so that an intruder cannot break the glass and unlock the door or window.

• Don't leave keys outside. Someone who wants to break in your home probably knows where to look to find keys.

• Stop newspaper delivery and have someone collect your mail if you're going to be gone.

• Put timers on lamps and/or other appliances in your home. Reset them so that there is not a regular pattern every time you leave home.

• Don't identify yourself to a telephone caller.

• Don't identify yourself on an answering machine. The message should say, "I can't come to the phone right now," not "There's no one home."

• Be wary of telephone surveys.

• Always lock your car even when it's parked in your yard.

• Glimpse in the back seat before entering your car.

• Always park in well-lit areas.

• Make sure the path from your car to your door is well-lit.

• Have a telephone installed in your bedroom.

• If you return to your home and feel that someone may be in your home, leave immediately and call the appropriate law enforcement agency. Do not return until officers have checked your home thoroughly and tell you it's safe to go back.

Dyson joins extension

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Why won't my roses bloom? What type of grass would be best for my yard? How can I get rid of the fungus on my vegetables?

These questions and other horticultural queries can probably be answered by Tom Dyson, the tri-county extension agent who specializes in horticulture. Dyson assists homeowners and commercial growers in Perquimans, Gates and Chowan counties with a host of horticulture services.

Dyson signed on with extension in June, after earning both bachelors and masters degrees in horticulture at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. His work with a lawn care company sparked an interest in horticulture.

Dyson's work will focus on grass, landscape ornamentals and vegetable crops. He said he is always on hand to advise those who need him about green houses, insects, diseases, landscaping and other areas. If he doesn't know the answer to a problem or question, he said the extensive information available through the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service resources will make it possible for him to find an answer. For tough insect and disease problems, samples can be sent to the test clinic in Raleigh for help with treatment options.

Dyson said he loves working with people, and can't wait to meet people in Perquimans. As part of his public education program, he will be submitting regular columns for publication in *The Perquimans Weekly*.

Dyson is in the Perquimans office on Tuesdays, but said he is always available by telephone. He can also make arrangements to meet those who need assistance on other days.

Recycling Recipes

Wash and mill pop top
best flavored drink bottles,
reuse and use when travel.

Submitted by
Linda Gentry