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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 62, No. 34

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C.,

Thursday, October 14, 1993

35 Cents

## Board approves school upgrades

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Minutes after adopting its budget resolution for fiscal 1993-94 on Oct. 4, the Perquimans County Board of Education set in motion capital projects that will cost almost one-half million dollars to complete.

Topping the board's list is bringing the 1924 building at Perquimans High School up to code at a price tag of about \$175,000.

Schools superintendent Randall L. Henion told the board that repairs to the auditorium to alleviate a moisture problem, installing a fire protection system and rectifying code deficiencies are essential projects at the school.

"This one's critical," Henion said.

The superintendent added that budget constraints had put the repairs on hold, but the board could no longer hold off.

The board voted to retain HBA Architects, the Tidewater, Va. firm hired for the Perquimans Middle School renovation project, to help with design work and preparing bid specifications. HBA's fee will amount for about \$12,500 of the project cost.

Air conditioners may hum at Hertford Grammar School thanks to a \$225,000 allocation included in the schools' local budget. The board agreed to retain Hickman Ambrose, and engineering firm, to design a system and prepare bids for the project. Henion said the project should be conducive to future renovation at the site, and that the company will explore installing heat and air conditioning combination systems, as well as just adding air conditioning. Hickman Ambrose's fees will run between \$12,000 and \$14,000.

Perquimans Middle School will have a state of the art communication system installed at a cost of up to \$65,000.

"The system has fantastic capabilities," Henion said.

The system will operate via a main unit housed in the media center. Each classroom will have a telephone which will allow access to the computer system, video retrieval and communication with other parts of the building.

The sound system was an alternate dropped from the original renovation project due to lack of funds. Henion said the schools can use technology funds provided by the state's small schools grants to complete the project.

The schools maintenance department will spend around \$12,000 to wire Perquimans Central School for air conditioning. Maintenance supervisor Richard O'Neal priced the job to accommodate 34 window units at a cost of about \$550 each. Although the \$19,000 to purchase the units is not available, Henion said he would try to work through the school's PTA to attempt to raise the needed funds to secure the units. He also indicated that the central office will assist with the project.

## Open house



Perquimans Middle School showed off its new look Sunday, as about 200 people visited during an open house hosted by HBA Architects. Above, Kenneth Ray Winslow steps off the teaching theater. The school's \$2.6 million facelift included air conditioning the facility; expanding the library; renovating the gym; adding a teaching theater, art room, foyer, ad-

ministrative areas and classrooms; updating electrical and plumbing systems; refurbishing restrooms; and cosmetic improvements. New flooring, paint and decorative touches completed the job. Students, staff and the community seemed please with the school's new look. (Photo by Gary Cosby Jr.)

## Planning, prevention are important fire safety tools

The telephone rings at the central dispatch office. Personnel are sent on the kind of call that every firefighter dreads: a house fire.

Perquimans County Fire Marshal John Long said that although National Fire Prevention Week was last week, families should always be alert to fire hazards. He recommends some ways to prevent serious injury and loss of life if a fire ever breaks out in your home.

Every family should devise a fire escape plan. Escape plans should include two exit plans from each room in the house, a primary route and an alternate plan in case the primary route is engulfed in flame. When developing escape plans, be sure to check all exits to see that you can actually get out.

Everyone in the household should participate in developing the escape plan, including young children. Draw a floor plan of your home and show two ways out of every room and a meeting place outside. Practice your escape plan, the primary plan and the alternate, at least twice a year. If there are very young, very old or physically impaired people in your home, try to locate their sleeping rooms on the lowest level of the house and assign a family member to assist them in case of fire.

Never go back inside a burning building. Leave the building immediately and be sure everyone else does the same. Once outside, call the fire department from a neighbor's home. If you think someone is trapped inside, immediately inform the fire department or tell fire fighters on the scene where you think the person can be found. Fire fighters are trained and equipped to safely perform rescues. Entering a flaming structure without the proper clothing and breathing equipment can be deadly.

Roughly three out of every ten home fire deaths occur between midnight and 4 a.m. when most people are asleep. This time is one of the lowest frequency periods for home fires, but because fires can develop undetected, an early morning fire is especially likely to be fatal. This underscores the importance of installing smoke detectors on every

level of your home.

In a fire, smoke is headed and rises. It fills the room from the ceiling down. If you encounter smoke or flames on your way out, turn around and use your alternate exit. If you must escape through smoke, crouch or crawl under the smoke, keeping your head as low as possible.

Never open a door in a burning building without first putting the back of your hand against the door, the knob and the crack between the door and the frame. If the door feels hot, it means there is fire on the other side and you should use an alternate exit. If the door feels cool, slowly open it with your shoulder braced in case you have to slam it shut. If all is clear, escape carefully, closing doors behind you as you go.

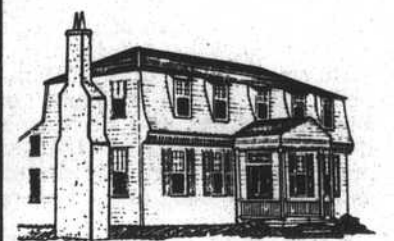
Do not take the time to retrieve anything from inside a burning building. Possessions can be replaced. Your life cannot.

If your clothing catches on fire, stop, drop and roll. Running fans the flames and increases your chances of injury. Stop right where you are, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands, and roll over and over to extinguish the flames. If someone else's clothing catches on fire and you are unable to convince them to stop, drop and roll, try to knock them down and smother the flames with a rug, heavy coat or whatever else is available.

If you are trapped inside a burning building, try to remain as calm as possible. Breaking a window could injure someone outside and damage fire hoses. It is dangerous to jump from a window higher than the second story. Laboratory approved safety ladders are recommended escape equipment for upstairs rooms.

If you are trapped and it is dangerous to jump, close the door and cover the cracks to keep the smoke out. Call the fire department and tell them your location or signal at the window with a light-colored cloth. If the window opens, crack it at the top and bottom to let in fresh air. Shut the window quickly if opening it draws in smoke. Try to breathe normally while you await rescue.

## Belvidere sets history celebration



BELVIDERE MANSION

Belvidere is the second community in Perquimans County looking for recognition in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Old Neck community opted for a spring kick-off for its attempts. Belvidere residents are now organizing their Nov. 6 gala to raise the funds for historical studies and applying for National Register inclusion.

Robert Smith, better known as nationally-acclaimed disc jockey Wolfman Jack, and his wife, Lucy, herself a Belvidere native, will host the Historic Belvidere Celebration on the lawn of their home, Belvidere mansion.

Guests will be chauffeured by horse and buggy from the parking area to the lawn, where their arrival will be announced, just as it may have been when Belvidere was born. Hosts and hostesses will greet guests and serve hor d'oeuvres and dinner in period costumes.

Local talent will provide entertainment for the evening. Barbara Jean and the Band of Gold, featuring Belvidere residents Bobby and Barbara Layden Reames, will headline. Barbara was recently named the Virginia Country Music Association's Female Vocalist of the Year for the third consecutive time. Bobby earned the Association's Instrumentalist of the Year Award in both 1992 and 1993. The Band of Gold was also noted by the Association for excellence. Kevin and Dawn Bennet, Tanya Twine, Darryl Stallings and Miss Indian Summer Festival 1993 Lena Swet will perform.

Belvidere's history will be highlighted during the celebration with an antique and photograph display. Those with remnants of the community's past can drop them off at Layden's Supermarket.

Following a social hour at 4 p.m., guests will enjoy a 5 o'clock dinner featuring roast pig, Southern fried chicken, barbecued potatoes, cole slaw, corn bread, iced tea and dessert.

The Belvidere Historic Committee hopes to raise \$2,500 with the celebration. That money will be pledged as matching funds on an application for a state grant. The committee hopes to receive at least \$2,500 for the state. The total should be sufficient to fund the necessary studies and apply to establish a National Register Historic District in Belvidere.

The proposed district includes the Nicholson-Riddick house, Josiah Nicholson Jr. store, Rufus White house, Francis H. Nicholson house, Fernando C. White sawmill, Belvidere (in National Register now), Robert B. Newby house, Belvidere Academy, Josiah Nicholson Jr. house, Elihu A. White house, Piney Woods Friends Meetinghouse, William Henry Layden house, Thomas D. Perry house, Whiteville Grove Baptist Church, William H. Winslow house, John J. Chappell house and Timothy Nicholson house.

Tickets for the event are \$10, and can be reserved by sending a check made payable to The Perquimans County Restoration Association to Mrs. Becky Winslow, Rt. 1, Box 9, Belvidere, N.C. 27919. Reservations should be made by Oct. 22.

For more information, contact Douglas Layden or Becky Winslow.



Board members and employees chat in the new foyer at Perquimans Middle School. The area connects the buildings, formerly connected only by a breezeway. Built-in bench seats and display cases, highlighted with bright paint, provide a welcoming touch to the entrance. (Photo by Gary Cosby Jr.)

## Governor appoints Yates to state crime commission

A Winfall resident was appointed to the Governor's Crime Commission.

Fred L. Yates, acting mayor of Winfall and a mayoral candidate in the November election, was named to the commission effective immediately. His term will expire in March.

"Thank you for your will-

ing to serve the state of North Carolina," the governor stated in a letter to Yates. "I am deeply grateful for people like you who are willing to give their time and talent to make North Carolina all that it can be and must be. I know that you will be effective and diligent in your service to our state."

### THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

#### DEADLINES:

NEWS RELEASE

Monday - 3:00 p.m.

ADVERTISING

Monday - 3:00 p.m.