

## Sports:

Pirates use control to whip Knights, 54-41: Page 6



## Sports:

Middle school Tiger teams claim first season wins: Page 6

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 62, No. 39

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, December 16, 1993

35 Cents

## Citizens group wants grants for water, sewer installation

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Estelle Felton told the county commissioners last Monday that some county residents live in "deplorable conditions," with inadequate or nonexistent plumbing and sewage. And Felton wants to help rectify that situation.

Felton volunteered to lead a Housing Task Force under the auspices of the Perquimans 2020 Coalition to determine the extent of the problem countywide, and recommend a course of action.

Felton told the commissioners that the lack of adequate sewerage and plumbing is a health hazard and affects the quality of life for county residents. She added that the condition brings shame to the county.

Felton told the commissioners that she was informed that grants are available to alleviate the problem, and asked for county support to seek improvements. She said she was not asking the county for money.

"We can no longer blame the victims," Felton said.

Felton said she knew of 11 occupied houses in her neighborhood, Beech Springs, with no bathrooms. Some, she said, do not have running water.

Commissioners chairman Mack Nixon told Felton and approximately one dozen residents who came to support her request that the county is presently working with a \$302,000 Community Development Block Grant to renovate about a dozen homes in the U.S. Highway 17/Ferry Road area. Included in the project is adding and/or updating water and septic facilities to the houses. He said the grant represented the first the county has sought, and was matched with \$20,000 in local funds, an indication, he said, that the commissioners are concerned about the lack of sewer and water availability to some residents. Nixon added that the board will seek additional grants for more upgrades.

Commissioner Charles Skinner was chosen as the liaison between the task force and the commissioners.

## Winfall names Miller mayor pro tem

William Ray Miller will serve as mayor pro tem in Winfall, after being unanimously chosen by council members Monday night.

Council voted to send Police Chief David Lane to radar school on the Outer Banks, Jan. 3-7, and to provide uniforms for town maintenance supervisor David Peckham.



### DEADLINES

- News Release Monday - 3:00 p.m.
- Advertising Monday - 3:00 p.m.

## Trimming for the holidays



The fireplaces and mantles through Steve and Phyllis Perry's 18th century home, Riverside, were adorned with live greenery and silk accents. The Perry home was one of three on the annual Perquimans Extension Homemakers Christmas Ramble. (Photo by Susan Harris)

## Simplicity marks seasonal decorations

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

The annual Perquimans County Extension Homemakers Christmas ramble featured homes adorned with trimmings designed with a busy holiday season in mind.

The beauty of many of the decorative touches was in their simplicity. All three homes were outfitted with decorations that left rooms uncluttered enough for easy everyday living, yet festive enough for holiday entertaining.

Luminaries lighted the path to the wicker-filled sunporch of Cheryl Phillips' Woodland Circle home. A Victorian Christmas tree filled with ornaments made by Miss Phillips was the focal point of the living room. The tree's theme was carried through with pastel-wrapped gifts topped with matching bows and flower sprigs. Greenery filled the room's mantle.

A miniature tree brought the holiday spirit into the combination study, sewing and guest room.

In the master bedroom, a handmade quilt behind the double bed lent a country feel to the room.

The hallway was made festive with a gold lame drape over a forest green cabinet. Flickering candles atop the drape brought sparkles to the area.

Simmering spices and a festive red-velvet cake brought the smells of the season to the kitchen. Even the utility room was decked with

a basket of poinsettias and a suspended white bird cage filled with red and green.

Greenery and candles flickering in the windows welcomed guests to the historic Riverside Farm, home of Steve and Phyllis Perry. Inside, floral sprays placed on the home's many hearths provided a focal point in each room.

The warm country kitchen was accented with a gingerbread village atop the freezer.

The Perrys enlisted Charlsie Perry and Michael Clinkscales to fill the home with holiday melodies, and Matt Tunnell and Mark Clinkscales assisted guests up and down the tall steps leading to the front and back doors of the ca. 1790 home.

A good morning stairway greeted guests in the unique home of Van and Holly Johnson. The home was built in 1985 from a bow house kit to resemble a ship. The Johnsons collected antiques and unusual collectibles over the years to give the home the warm feeling of a historic dwelling.

The keeping room featured a walk-in fireplace topped by a lighted antique stained glass window. A huge live tree filled the keeping room corner. An antique bread board filled with greenery and fruit served as the centerpiece on the harvest table, surrounded by an old church pew and ladder-back chairs.

Refreshments were enjoyed at historic Hertford Baptist Church, built in 1854.

## Perry opens dental office



The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce recently sponsored a ribbon cutting to welcome the new dental practice of county native Douglas Perry. On hand for the ribbon cutting were (left to right) county manager Paul Gregory, commissioners Archie Miller and Shirley Yates, Hertford town manager trainee John Christensen, Elliott "Pete" Overman,

county commissioner Leo Higgins, Dewey and Clara Perry, Cherie and Douglas Perry, Chamber president Sherry Harrell, Hertford town manager Bill Cox, Joe France, Hertford mayor John Beers and Ed Walker. The office is located on U.S. Highway 17 South of Hertford. (Photo by Susan Harris)

## Hertford on solid financial footing

### • Bad news is electric fund is too low

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Certified Public Accountant Sonja Hibbard told the Hertford Town Council Monday night that the town is in solid financial shape, but the town does not have the reserve in the electric department recommended by the state.

The town had a fund balance of \$361,000 in the general fund as of June 30, but Hibbard said only \$147,000 of that money is unreserved. The council budgeted \$94,000 in the 1993-94 fiscal year, and reserve accounts, such as the \$70,000 firemen's relief fund, cannot be spent for general expenses. The water and sewer fund showed a net operating loss of \$114,522. Fixed assets accounted for over \$3.1 million, brought down to total assets of only \$2.9 million with the operating loss, which included depreciation.

Town manager Bill Cox said preliminary results from tests run on the water and sewer lines Monday indicated the town is facing at least \$200,000-250,000 in expenses to update the system.

The electric department showed income of \$41,352 before operating transfers to the general fund. Hibbard said the department showed a fund balance of \$925,000, but said that \$446,664 of that balance is accounted for in fixed assets. She warned the council that the electric fund balance falls short of the three months of operating expenses the state recommends municipalities keep on hand.

In the good news category, Hibbard said the town collected 94.57 percent of ad valorem taxes for the audit year, an improvement over the previous audit. Debt service was another

positive area. The town owed only \$89,535 as of June 30. The amount represented payments on a bucket truck, garbage truck, street sweeper and water and sewer bonds. She said the town could borrow over \$3 million based on its financial condition.

Interim Police Chief N. Brad Krause told the council that he has contacted Elizabeth City officials involved in a growing Community Watch Program about helping to set up the program in Hertford neighborhoods. Krause told the board that since implementing the program in Elizabeth City, the police department there has seen a decrease in property crimes and an increase in property recoveries.

The council told Krause to continue to gather information on the program, and gave Community Watch its full support.

Krause told the council that the program will not work without a network of dedicated town residents as its backbone.

Krause also asked the council to purchase three new patrol cars on a lease-purchase plan. Krause said he had found financing that would allow the department to purchase the cars and make payments using the funds the town agreed to budget to purchase one new car each year. The acting chief added that the town would also realize significant savings by pulling the two older patrol cars out of service. He said low gas mileage and maintenance makes the cars expensive to operate.

Council asked Krause to put his proposal in writing to allow them to study the request further.

In other business, the council:

- voted to repair six streets at a cost of about \$21,000;

- was informed that county fire marshal John Long has sent a letter to the Lester Keel estate with the news that the building on the corner of Grubb and Edenton Road streets has been deemed a fire hazard.

- entered closed session to discuss personnel matters.

## O, Christmas tree



The Christmas tree in the keeping room of Van and Holly Johnson reaches well up into the two-story room. A rocking chair and walk-in fireplace nearby add a feeling of coziness to the spacious room. The Johnsons home was open for the Extension Homemakers Christmas Ramble last week. (Photo by Susan Harris)