

# The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

## Two new officers at work in Hertford

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Two new officers are wearing the blue uniforms of the Hertford Police Department.

Thanks to state and federal grants, Ronald L. Jacobs and Nathan W. Zachary have joined the ranks of the local law enforcement unit, bringing the number of officers on staff to 10.

"I feel good about both of these (officers)," said Hertford Police Chief Bennie Murphy.

The chief cited Jacobs' experience in military law enforcement and canine handling and training as assets to the department. Jacobs, 42, retired to Holiday Island after serving 20 years in the U.S. navy.

Zachary, 21, is a Perquimans County native. He attended Elizabeth City State University, where he took some law enforcement courses. He also served an internship last year with the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department. His knowledge of the area will enhance the department, said Murphy.

Both men have completed Basic Law Enforcement Training, and started their jobs on July 17.

In addition to the officers, the department received funds for a fully-equipped new vehicle, equipment for the officers and office equipment. The funds came through the federal COPS FAST program and the Governor's Crime Control Commission grants. The town's share of the cost for the 1995-96 fiscal year is around \$16,000, Murphy said. The federal grant provided over \$45,000.

The new personnel will allow the department to devote one officer to the Problem Oriented Policing System, tagged POPS. The program puts an officer in high crime areas to concentrate on problems there. Murphy said the officer will work directly with the Hertford Housing Authority to stem crime in those areas.

Another outcome of the department expansion will be designating an officer as a full-time investigator. Murphy said having an investigator will allow better coverage and take the responsibility of following-up cases off of the street officers, giving them more time to patrol the streets.

## NEW ELECTION BOARD



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Perquimans County Board of Elections was sworn in last week by Sheila H. Onley, assistant clerk of Superior Court (left). Beside Onley is Board of Elections Supervisor Eula Forbes. Board members are (left to right) Marie Byrum, Gail Daneker and L. Paul Smith Jr. The next elections will be the municipal races in November.

## Hertford files suit against Stancil's Bi-Rite Market

### Town alleges store does not conform to zoning ordinances; seeks damages

The Town of Hertford filed civil papers in Perquimans County District Court on July 10 seeking to force Stancil's Bi-Rite Market to conform to town zoning ordinances.

According to the documents filed by town attorney Walter G. Edwards Jr., Bi-Rite was issued a privilege license on July 7, 1989 to operate a variety store or grocery store "limited to the sale of frozen foods, canned foods and goods and prepackaged items only" at 206 Dobbs Street. The address is located in a C-3 zone according to the town's zoning ordinance. The suit maintains that the business gradually changed, and began to sell damaged food products and also "began butchering, processing and selling meats and other items associated with a full scale grocery store, such as fresh fruits." The store also enlarged beyond the 1,500 square foot floor space allowed in the town's zoning ordinance for C-3 zones.

Residential neighbors of the store began complaining to the Hertford Town Council about the smell and loud noises coming from the store in June 1994.

The documents filed in the lawsuit state that at the time of the complaints, John Christensen, town zoning

enforcement officer, found the store to be in violation of the town's zoning ordinance. Per a letter and memorandum dated Nov. 8, 1994, Christensen advised store owners that they were operating in violation of the town's zoning ordinance and could only continue to operate if the butchering, processing and selling of meats stopped and the square footage of the store's floor space was cut back to 1,500 feet. The owners were given until May 15, 1995 to comply. As of May 15, the papers maintain, the provisions of the town ordinance "have been entirely ignored by Defendants." The store continues to operate.

The town is seeking to force Bi-Rite to comply with the C-3 zone in which it operates. The suit requests a temporary restraining order, preliminary and permanent injunction and order of abatement directing the defendants to cease the full scale grocery operation and meat processing and selling in violation of its ordinances and to cut back to 1,500 square feet of floor space. Further, the town seeks damages of \$50 per day from May 15 until Bi-Rite owners comply with the zoning ordinances. The town also requests that Bi-Rite be ordered to pay the town's costs and expenses incurred in the lawsuit, including attorney fees.

The suit was filed against Stancil Van Davenport and wife, Barbara J. Davenport; Eugene C. Davenport and wife, Linda J. Davenport; Beazer W. Davenport and wife, Mary Dee

Davenport individually and/or trading as Stancil's Bi-Rite Meat Market, Bi-Rite Meat Market or Bi-Rite Grocers.

Reached Tuesday, Eugene Davenport, one of the defendants in the lawsuit and a co-owner of Stancil's Bi-Rite Market, said he had been asked by Edwards not to discuss the case.

The Perquimans Weekly was notified last Thursday that the Hertford Town Council had set a special meeting for Tuesday, July 25 at 7 p.m. in the town office. According to the notice the Council planned to go into closed session to consider and instruct the town's attorney concerning the handling of legal proceedings.

Christensen verified Tuesday that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the pending litigation against Stancil's Bi-Rite Market. The town manager said he did not know when the town could expect the case to be heard in civil court.

Section CS 2-1.9 of the town's zoning ordinance enacted May 19, 1980 states that C-3 is commercial, neighborhood zone providing "for the shopping and service facilities utilized regularly by residents of neighboring residential districts, while utilizing such controls as necessary to protect the residential character of surrounding districts."

Section 11-4.5 allows for a "quick service food store for minor shopping of everyday items."

## Hertford cops nab fake bills

### Men arrested for passing counterfeit \$10 bills may face federal charges

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Two Hertford men caught passing the buck could face stiff prison sentences.

Milton Anthony Stepney, 29, of 207 Edenton Road St., was arrested on July 13 and charged with three counts of passing counterfeit money after allegedly using the bills at two local businesses.

Hertford Police Chief Bennie Murphy said Hardee's reported receipt of a counterfeit \$10 bill on the evening of July 12. On July 13, Stancil's Bi-Rite Market notified police that they received a counterfeit bill around 1 p.m. on July 12 and another at midday on July 13. Murphy said a clerk was able to identify Stepney as the men who passed the bills from a photo line-up.

Secret Service agents were notified by the Hertford Police. Agents and local officers picked up and questioned Stepney, who told officers he had gotten the bills from a man at Meads Trailer Park, Murphy said.

Hertford officer Anthony Webster went to the home of the second suspect, Earl Louis White Sr., and picked up two counterfeit bills. White, 40, was subsequently charged with aiding and abetting a felony (obtaining property by false pretenses). Murphy said White refused to tell officers from whom he obtained the fake bills. Other counterfeit bills were found at the residence at the time of White's arrest. Murphy said all the counterfeits confiscated bore the same serial number.

Murphy said federal charges may be brought against the men. If convicted on federal charges, Murphy said the men could each face up to 15 years for each bill possessed or passed.

In addition to the charges relating to the counterfeit money, Stepney was charged with possession of a controlled substance with the intent to manufacture, sell or deliver. He was confined to Albemarle District Jail in lieu of a \$4,000 secured bond.

White was also charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond totaled \$1,200, with \$1,000 being secured. He was confined to Albemarle District Jail.

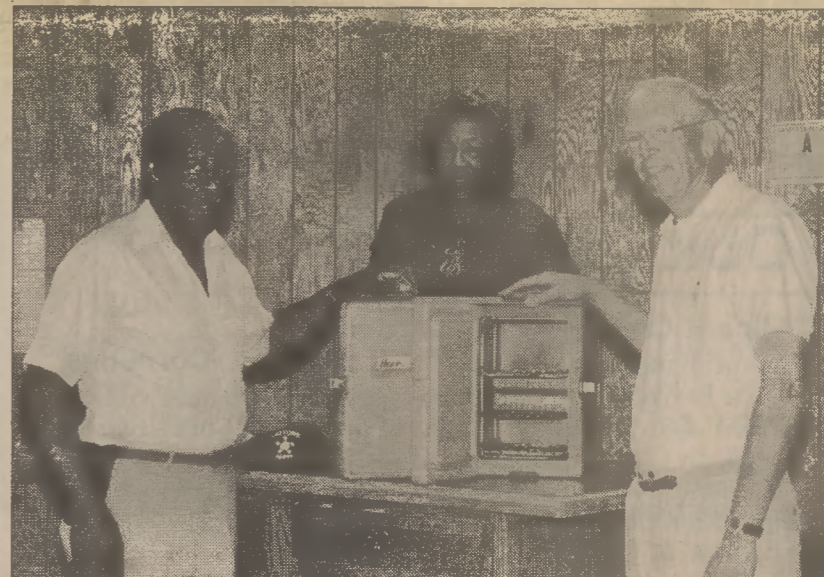


PHOTO BY ANZIE ZIEMBA

New home-delivered meals (left) Robert Creecy and Bert Hayes discuss their routes with Nutrition Site Manager Katie Lightfoot.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Senior citizens who have recently chosen to have their lunch at the Nutrition Site include (left to right) Sarah Baxter, Florence Clarke, Walter and Naomi Paarson and Robert Ziemba.

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## Residents will to gather to consider forming arts council

People interested in all art forms will meet on Thursday, Aug. 10 at 1 p.m. at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall to discuss the formation of a Perquimans County Arts Council.

Those spearheading the effort said the forum is open not only to those whose medium is paint and canvas, but to those interested in all the fine

arts, including writing, music, dance, clay, wood, metal, fabric and all other art forms.

There was an arts council in the county previously. Probably one of the most outstanding undertakings of that group was the 1976 outdoor drama, "Freedom's Way," produced in conjunction with the American Bicentennial. For two nights, audiences gathered

in the stands of Memorial Field at Perquimans County High School to watch local amateur thespians spin a tale of an acting company traveling just prior to the American Revolution.

The desire of those wishing to resurrect the council is to bring creative people together to discuss the arts and how to best showcase talent.

## Outside

| THURSDAY                               | FRIDAY                                 | SATURDAY                               |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
| High: 90s<br>Low: 70s<br>HOT AND HUMID | High: 90s<br>Low: 70s<br>HOT AND HUMID | High: 90s<br>Low: 70s<br>HOT AND HUMID |