

The Perquimans Weekly

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

County starts year by dipping into fund balance

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

After setting the 1995-96 budget, the Perquimans County Commissioners found themselves dipping into the county's fund balance for an unexpected expenditure.

The board voted in regular session Monday to spend around \$28,000 to buy new recording equipment for the dispatch department.

The purchase was made necessary by action taken in neighboring Chowan County. County manager Paul Gregory said Chowan implemented the enhanced 911 emergency calling system on Aug. 1. Chowan County only routed residents inside the county's borders through its E-911 system.

But there are also Perquimans County residents with Edenton and Tyner addresses assigned telephone numbers with 482 and 221 prefixed. Those people must have their 911 calls routed to Perquimans County, meaning Perquimans Dispatch must install two new lines to its recorder to increase its capacity. The present equipment will not allow for the expansion.

Updating the approximately 20-year-old dispatch equipment was cut from original departmental budget requests. The county was trying not to add any new equipment until going on the enhanced 911 system in approximately two years. So that no tax increase or fund balance draw would be required, the county approved a 50 cents per month surcharge on telephone bills to collect funds to purchase the necessary dispatch equipment. That plan is still in effect.

Gregory told commissioners they should consider the equipment purchase an emergency and take the purchase monies from the fund balance.

Festival date set

The Indian Summer Festival will again be a one-day affair.

Set for Saturday, Sept. 23, the annual event will offer activities both in downtown Hertford and at Missing Mill Park, according to Chamber of Commerce president A.O. Roberts.

The festival, organized by the Chamber, offers entertainment, food, crafts, displays, sidewalk sales and more in a county fair-like setting. The festival has ended each year with a street dance.

Applications for craft, display and food booths are available by contacting Roberts at 264-3326. Those who have received applications but not submitted them should mail them immediately to the Chamber at P.O. Box 27, Hertford, N.C. 27944.

WAVING IN THE BREEZE



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Twenty-seven days of 90-plus degree temperatures, extreme humidity and no breeze meant no flags waving. But with Monday's temperature break came breezes that set both the American and North Carolina flags flapping in front of the Hertford Municipal Building.

School meal prices don't change

School meal prices in Perquimans County will stay at last year's levels, at least for a while.

Perquimans Schools Child Nutrition Director LaClaire Anderson told the school board on July 31 that changes being considered on the federal level could result in price increases later in the school year.

Breakfast prices are pre-kindergarten-grade 2, 55 cents; grades 3-12, 60 cents and adults, 90 cents. Lunch is pre-kindergarten-grade 2, \$1.10; grades 3-12, \$1.25 and adults \$2.00. Extra milk is 30 cents. Additional servings and supplemental items can also be purchased.

Applications for free and reduced lunches have been mailed. Households that did not receive the application packet, which includes information about health care and additional programs, by Aug. 11 should call the schools administrative office at 426-5741 to have one mailed or stop by the central office or any school office to pick up the packet.

Applications should be returned as soon as possible.

PARK EXPANSION



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Work is in progress on the expansion at Missing Mill Park. Work crews have poured the sidewalk that connects the board walk to the new portion of the parking area, and the curbing around the lot. The construction is being funded by a public access grant. Visitors to the park can now follow the old sidewalk, cross onto the boardwalk/nature trail area, then use the new walkway to get back to their cars, eliminating the need to walk in dew-laden grass.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 80s Low: 70s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 80s Low: 70s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 80s Low: 70s PARTLY CLOUDY

Last-day filers create races in Hertford, Winfall

Former officeholders turn back to politics

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Last-day filers filled the Perquimans County Board of Elections office last Friday, according to Supervisor Eula Forbes.

There are races for all available seats except the Mayor of Hertford. Incumbent John G. Beers is running unopposed for the Hertford Mayor's slot.

For the Hertford Town Council, five residents filed for two available seats. Carlyn L. Brown, former mayor and town manager W.D. "Bill" Cox, Barbara P. Sheeley, G. Eldon Winslow and incumbent

Billy L. Winslow will seek the seats presently held by Billy L. Winslow and Larry Chappell. Chappell said he chose not to seek re-election for personal reasons.

Over in Winfall, incumbent mayor Fred Yates is being challenged by former councilman C.D. Barclift.

Those running for two Winfall council seats include former mayor Lloyd Ray Morgan, Carol B. Cooper, incumbent Jake Chesson and former board of education member Clifford P. Towe. The seats are presently held by Chesson and Bert Hayes.

The non-partisan elections will be held on Nov. 7. Deadline for registering to vote and changing precincts or addresses is Oct. 13.

Schools scramble to fill remaining teaching slots

Four classroom jobs still open; board to get recommendations

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

With the countdown to school take-off winding down, four classroom positions are still open in Perquimans County Schools.

Schools personnel director Paul Ward said Monday that of the 16 system positions initially open for the upcoming school year, six have been filled and approved by the school board, six recommendations will be presented to the board at its Aug. 21 regular meeting, and four remain open.

Positions yet to be filled are elementary teacher at Hertford Grammar, health and P.E. at Perquimans Middle, language arts/social studies at Perquimans Middle, and teacher assistant at Hertford Grammar.

Appointments approved by the board to date include Dr. Jessie Rivers Phillips, science at Perquimans High; Diana L. Brock, elementary counselor, Hertford Grammar; Martha Nixon, elementary teacher (fifth grade), Perquimans Central; Lisa DeCastilla, exceptional children's teacher, Perquimans High; Tammy White, Student and Family Services assistant, Perquimans High; and Wade Stokes, custodian, Perquimans High.

The board also authorized two-year contracts for Perquimans County High School principal Elaine Pritchard and assistant principal Dwayne Stallings.

Ward said interviews and credentials checks are underway for the four remaining positions. He said he hopes to have recommendations for the slots for the board on Aug. 21.

Hiring teachers is arduous process

The search for qualified teachers is an arduous process, according to Perquimans County Schools Personnel Director Paul Ward.

Ward explained earlier this week what steps are taken to fill teacher openings. When a position becomes available, applications on file are reviewed, the position is advertised in newspapers and placement services at colleges and universities are contacted. For positions that may be difficult to fill, personnel services are notified.

Once the applications are received, Ward said they are reviewed and passed on to the proper administrators, usually a principal and/or program supervisor. The principal or supervisor determine which candidates will be interviewed. Applications are interviewed by a team of at least three and sometimes five. Each team member completes an assessment sheet based on the interview. Ward provides the information gathered during a reference check. The team then decides what candidate would be best for the job by consensus. The individual is contacted to make sure the candidate is still interested in accepting the position, and told that employment is subject to board approval. Every employee hired is approved by the school board.