

# The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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## VALENTINE'S DAY/READY FOR CUPID



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The annual day of love, Valentine's Day, is the biggest day of the year for florists. Designers work many hours preparing beautiful arrangements for the deliverers to carry to special people. At Mary's in Winfall, owner Mary Sheldon already

had a table full of silk arrangements ready on Monday. In addition, she had tied hundreds of yards of bows to place in the fresh flowers to be designed and delivered Wednesday. Sheldon also had chocolates and stuffed animals for sale.

## County van use policy questioned

Yates wants Learning Center approved for use

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

The county's recreation van policy will be reviewed because Winfall Mayor Fred Yates questioned its interpretation by County Manager Paul Gregory.

Yates appeared before county commissioners to allow the van's use by the Perquimans Resource Center for its Community Based Alternatives Program. Yates' request for the Center to use the van to take at-risk youth to a basketball game at Elizabeth City State University was denied by Gregory. Gregory said he was following the county's policy with his action. The policy allows use of the van only by county agencies, Gregory said.

But Yates disagreed with Gregory's decision. He said the county's support of a Community Based Alternatives Grant received by the Resource Center to help fund the at-risk program put the program under county government activities.

"This is your program," Yates said. "You told the state that you would do that (support the program)," Yates said.

Yates said the Perquimans County Learning Center, of

### County van use policy

1. All drivers must be 21 years old or older, have a good driving record and be approved by the County Manager. A copy of their drivers license will be maintained in a file at the Recreation Department.
2. The van may be used for all Recreational and Senior Citizen Programs/Activities coordinated through the Recreation Director and Senior Citizen Coordinator.
3. The van may be used for all County Government Programs when used to transport Perquimans County Citizens.
4. All other Recreational / Senior Citizen Programs and Activities must pay for the gasoline used. The van gas tank will be full when the group receives it and must be full when returned.

## Funds flushed out for sewer system

Yates collects 90 percent of sewer cost from grants

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Most folks don't even think about flushing a toilet. For at least three families in Winfall, there isn't a toilet to flush. And for some others there, a visit from the health department could put an end to the flushing.

It's these septic system problems and their detrimental affect on the town's surface water and residents' quality of life that prompted Mayor Fred Yates to continue the mission his wife, former Winfall Town Councilwoman Shirley Yates, started in 1988 - to construct a town sewer system in Winfall.

It will cost approximately \$4.2 million to build a sewer system in the town. Yates' crusade has led him to grants totalling \$3.75 million. He anticipates that the town would have to borrow an additional \$438,000 from RECD, formerly FmHA, to build the system. Hook-ups, costing about \$100-\$125 per customer, should cover the rest of the \$4.2 million.

RECD has already given its preliminary blessing to the

project, declaring the town to be in sound financial condition. The town could borrow the funds at a 5 percent rate to be repaid over a 38-year term.

Yates said the final paperwork is in progress to allow Winfall residents to vote on the issue during the May 7 primary election. If all the Is can be dotted and Ts crossed on schedule, the town will have a referendum on May 7.

"This is the last go-round to get this type of opportunity with these grant funds," Yates said. "This is it. Grant money is being cut."

The base monthly rate for sewer service would be \$10 per month. This rate would apply to those customers who use 2,000 gallons of water per month or less. The rate would rise by \$3.50 for every 1,000 gallons of water used over the 2,000 base. The rate would apply to the approximately 305 residential and business customers in the town.

"We've gotten it (monthly rate) as low as we can go," Yates said.

Winfall would need to generate about \$7,500 in revenue

each month to cover the cost of the payment to RECD and system maintenance, Yates said.

The largest sewer fees would be paid by the school system. Both Perquimans Middle and Central schools would be affected by the new system. Although the school system was mandated by the state to

install new wastewater treatment plants at both schools over the last five years, Yates said if the town constructs a sewer system, both schools must tie in at an estimated cost of \$800 per month based on the amount of water used by the schools.

If voters approve system construction in May, its estimated completion date would be December 1997.

There are many positives to installing a sewer system in Winfall, Yates said. It would help alleviate surface water contamination resulting from substandard systems in place now, which would cut the cost of treating the town's drinking water. It would allow owners of homes with no septic systems or substandard systems

access to sewer. At present, owners of many of those properties cannot install or upgrade outdated systems because the lots do not meet state guidelines. It could also result in development that would increase the town's tax base.

According to Yates, there are private property owners who have indicated a desire to develop property in Winfall. In some cases, the property will not perk and cannot be developed. With a sewer system, houses can be constructed, which would add not only water and sewer customers, but tax payers.

Yates has put his funds search on hold for the moment. At this point, more grant money would mean a deduction in the amount RECD is willing to lend the town. If the referendum is approved, Yates said he will continue to look for more funds after all paperwork is complete. Any funds he could obtain at that point could be used to lower the amount of money the town has to borrow.

Whatever the outcome of the referendum, Yates said he will have fulfilled his promise of allowing the people of Winfall to decide for themselves whether or not they want to construct a sewer system.

**"This is the last go round to get this type of opportunity with these grant funds. This is it. Grant money is being cut."**

Fred Yates  
Winfall Mayor

## County to purchase share of Intercounty Water System

Perquimans will gain 265 new water customers

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Perquimans County should have 265 new water customers by June.

The board of county commissioners in both Perquimans and Pasquotank counties have approved an agreement with the Intercounty Water System to take over the system. Perquimans will get 265 cus-

tomers; Pasquotank, 199. The figures are based on customer residency.

Under the terms of the contract, the counties will assume their proportional share of Intercounty's loans. Pasquotank will pay off its share, \$98,482. Perquimans will assume RECD, formerly FmHA, loans totalling \$130,080, with annual payments of \$13,516. The bulk of the money was borrowed at 5 percent, with \$35,540 at 6 percent. Collections will cover the loan payment, County Manager Paul Gregory said. Gregory said the water depart-

ment expects to collect at least \$20,000 per year in revenues from the additional customers.

Perquimans County will get the plant, wells, tank and land surrounding those facilities. Gregory said the plant needs major renovations and the county will not use Intercounty facilities. The Woodville Ruritan Club will get the office building and 1.5 acres surrounding it. The county will have to lay 450-500 feet of pipe to connect to the system.

Gregory responded to commissioners' concerns about having enough water to serve

the customers during peak periods. He said the Winfall plant has never run at full capacity. Doing so could provide additional water. Also, Gregory said since Holiday Island residents have been on individual meters, the subdivision has drastically cut its water consumption, meaning the Bethel plant has been able to catch up and cut off.

The county manager said the 265 customers will not require the water department to add additional employees. The water department computer system can also handle the additional customers.

## Sheriff says no to regional drug task force

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Sheriff David Lane followed the lead of his predecessor when he asked the county board of commissioners not to approve joining a regional drug task force.

"That's just two-year, cheap law enforcement," Lane said.

The sheriff said while a drug task force is a good law enforcement tool, working on a two-year grant proposal is not long enough.

"It needs to be at least five years. Two years is a waste of time," Lane said. "You're just getting started and you quit."

Law enforcement officials from the northeast region have met to prepare a grant proposal to submit to the state to fund a drug task force. The proposal calls for the state to fund 75 percent of the task force, with the local agencies chipping in 25 percent. That

which the Resources Center is a branch, is administering the grant for the county.

Gregory countered that the county is the agency through which the funds are disbursed from the state. The program is

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### Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 40s Low: 30s CLOUDY	High: 40s Low: 30s MOSTLY CLOUDY	High: 30s Low: 20s PARTLY CLOUDY