

The Perquimans Weekly

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Registration deadline for Nov. election draws near

Registration books close Oct. 11

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

It's the day 18th-century colonists fought and died to bring about. It's election day and it's coming soon.



On Tuesday, Nov. 5, voters in Perquimans County will make decisions impacting county, state and federal government. Some ballot items include:

- 3 county commissioners
- register of deeds
- governor
- lieutenant governor
- president
- state legislators
- federal legislators
- judges
- state bond referendum

The Perquimans Weekly will focus on local races, the state bond referendum and voter information during the month of October to help the community make informed choices in the voting booth on Nov. 5.

Registered voters in Perquimans County may vote in their precincts, 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., on election day.

Precincts in Perquimans County are Belvidere, Bethel, East Hertford, West Hertford, New Hope, Nicanor, and Parkville. Polling places for the precincts are Belvidere Community Building, Bethel Community Building (Ruritan Building), Perquimans County Courthouse (main building), Hertford Grammar School (library), Durants Neck Ruritan Building, Whiteston Community Building, and Parkville Ruritan Building (Winfall), respectively.

The registration books for the Nov. 5 general election close on Oct. 11. All county residents who are not registered must register by Oct. 11 in order to be eligible to vote in the election. Registered voters who have moved from one precinct to another should visit the elections office to update their registration.

Registered voters who will be out of town the entire time the polls are open on election day may One Stop Vote at the elections office between Oct. 14 and Nov. 1.

Any registered voter who cannot go to the polls on election day due to disability or illness may apply for an absentee ballot in person or in writing through Oct. 29.

The Perquimans County Board of Elections office is located in the county office building on Edenton Road Street (extension building). Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The telephone number is 426-5598. The local elections supervisor is Eula Forbes.

Lady hurricanes still causing trouble

Bertha and Fran are gone, but not forgotten here

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Bertha and Fran are long gone. Or are they?

A downed power line that put Hertford residents in the dark Sunday morning may have been a result of belated damage by the two hurricanes that blew through Perquimans weeks ago.

Hertford Town Manager John Christensen said

Monday that a tree limb fell on a North Carolina Power electric line at the intersection of Ballhack Road and Edenton Road Street around 6:10 Sunday morning, burning the line into. The whole town was without power for almost two hours, Christensen said.

The line was reportedly throwing sparks and was smoking, Christensen said.

With no power, the Perquimans County dispatcher called Hertford Fire Chief Sid Eley by phone. Eley in turn used the fire department radios to summon firefighters to the scene.

Christensen said the two storms weakened tree limbs and tree root systems. Sunday's downed limb could have been damaged by the storms, but not fallen immediately, Christensen said.

In another strange twist of fate, it may have been the hurricanes that compounded Sunday's problem, Christensen said. The town lost power on Sept. 17 when a tree weakened by the storms fell on North Carolina Power's feeder line in a swampy area northwest of Hertford. North Carolina Power opted to switch Hertford's feed to the

south of town at that time. Ironically, it was that feed that knocked out Hertford's electric power on Sunday.

The Sept. 17 outage played havoc with the local school system. The town lost power around 2 a.m. Knowing that crews were working on the problem, school officials opted to roll the buses on Tuesday morning.

Dr. Randall Henion, schools superintendent, said he remained in contact with electric officials throughout the morning. As buses began to arrive at the schools, students at Perquimans High School

and Hertford Grammar School were held on the buses because neither school had electricity.

Around 8 a.m., power company officials told Henion that because the line was located in a swampy, hard to reach area, it could be several hours before power was restored. The decision was made to close the schools, and students were sent home. A few minutes later, the power was restored, at least two hours earlier than power company officials initially estimated.

Students will make the day up on Oct. 14.

GOP opens local headquarters

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

It took them five months to turn a brainstorm into a headquarters.

The Perquimans County Republican Party decided last April to open a party office in preparation for the 1996 general election. But finding an affordable building in a good location proved difficult for the party committee assigned to the task.

Finally, "at the eleventh hour," according to party chairman Bobby Jones, Pete Perry negotiated a deal with Joseph Perry, the owner of an empty house at 118 W. Grubb Street in Hertford. An agreement was reached, and within two days, Republican volunteers were replacing broken windows, power washing the exterior, cutting down overgrown bushes, and applying paint both inside and out.

A week later, on Sept. 27, the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce sponsored a ribbon cutting to officially open the headquarters.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Perquimans County Republican Party opened a headquarters on Grubb Street in Hertford in preparation of the 1996 general election on Nov. 5. A ribbon cutting was sponsored by the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce.

"We're here and open for business," Jones said. "We're really grateful to Pete Perry and Joseph Perry."

The Republicans had several reasons for opening a headquarters, according to Jones. Their first goal is to register voters before the Oct. 11 voter registration deadline.

Then they will begin a campaign to seek support for Republican candidates, and

for Bert Hayes, who is running unaffiliated for county commissioner with the backing of the local Republican party.

Ultimately the Republicans would like to see a strong two-party system in the county.

"We hope to have a two-party system in the county," Jones said. "We think it's healthy for the area and the state. Both sides should be

presented so people have a choice."

Any unregistered Perquimans County resident—regardless of party affiliation—can register at the Republican headquarters Monday-Saturday, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The headquarters will remain open until the Nov. 5 election. Sample ballots and other election information are available at the office.

Arts league raises money at auction

PAL hopes to bring more fine arts to county

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The Perquimans Arts League got some help from friends of the arts Saturday night.

PAL held its first fund raiser, a successful auction held at the Albemarle Commission building. Nearly every item shown was sold, according to PAL secretary Linda Morris.

The evening was filled with high-spirited bidding, led by auctioneer Wallace Evans. Among the items offered was crystal glassware, original art works by local artists, coins, commemorative medals, depression glass, antique jewelry, collectibles, gift certificates and items donated by local merchants and formal-wear.

"The businesses of Perquimans proved to be supportive with generous gift certificates and donations of their store products," Morris said. "The featured item, formal-wear, was greatly enhanced by the modeling of these dresses



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lauren Saunders models one of the formal dresses auctioned at the Perquimans Arts League fund raiser at the Albemarle Commission building Saturday night.

by some of our prettiest teenagers."

PAL hopes to experience continued success with fund raising activities.

"With successes like this, PAL will be able to bring concerts, workshops, drama and

all aspects of the fine arts to Perquimans County," Morris said.

PAL membership for individuals is \$10.

For information about PAL, call president Jeri Oltman at 426-5319 or Morris at 426-7965.

Free smoke detectors offered

The Hertford Fire Department, in conjunction with the Albemarle Area Realtors, has a limited number of home smoke detectors to give residents of Hertford.

To obtain a detector, call the office of the Hertford Town Clerk at 426-5311 during business hours.

The detectors will be given on a need basis, first come, first served. Senior Citizens will be given preference.

If you need the detector installed, the members of the Hertford Fire Department will install it for you.

Smoke detectors save lives

Smoke detectors save lives, and the Hertford Fire Department is joining other county fire departments and the National Fire Prevention Association to promote the installation and maintenance of smoke detectors in every home during National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 6-12.

After fire prevention, smoke detectors are the first line of defense against fire. The appliances can cut the risk of dying in a house fire nearly in half.

In recent years, roughly 60 percent of home fire deaths have occurred in homes without smoke detectors. In 1994, a total of 3,425 people died in home fires.

More than half of all fatal home fires happen at night. Inexpensive household smoke detectors can mean the difference between life and death. Detectors sound an early warning in the event of fire, waking people before they are overcome by smoke and poisonous gases. These few moments of warning give people time to escape.

As of 1994, 93 percent of homes in the United States had at least one smoke detector installed, but nearly half of the house fires occurred in houses with no smoke detectors.

Although the vast majority of homes have smoke detectors, 20 percent of those detectors that could save lives do not work. The primary reason for detector failure is dead, disconnected or missing batteries.

This year's Fire Prevention Week is devoted to educating the public about installing and maintaining home smoke detectors. The theme is "Let's Hear It For Fire Safety, Test Your Detectors!"

Fire officials recommend testing home smoke detectors each month. Once a year, batteries should be changed. Officials suggest changing batteries in October when the time changes.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 70s Low: 60s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 70s Low: 60s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 70s Low: 60s PARTLY CLOUDY