

# The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

Vol. 65, No. 46 The only newspaper for and about Perquimans County people Hertford, North Carolina 27944

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November's theme: **Show a positive attitude.**

## Ground broken on school projects

### Event marks new Winfall school, fix-up at Hertford site

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**  
Editor

Perquimans County Schools celebrated an historic occasion last Wednesday when the district broke ground for the first new school to be built here in over 40 years.

School and local government officials joined representatives of Boney Architects and M.B. Kahn Construction Company on the front lawn of Perquimans Central School to mark the occasion.

The groundbreaking was the symbolic beginning of two projects, the new school in Winfall and the addition/renovation project at Hertford Grammar School.

School board chairman Wallace Nelson called the occasion "the beginning of a journey."

"We're excited about what we've got in front of us," Nelson said.

Paul Boney of Boney Architects, designers of the



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

School and county officials joined representatives of the student body from Perquimans Central School to break ground for the new elementary school to be built in Winfall and renovations at Hertford Grammar School last Wednesday in front of the present Perquimans Central School. Schools superintendent Randall Henion said the community will gather again in about one year for a grand opening at the two facilities.

construction at both sites, said his company works with schools because of the sense of history for the company begun by his grandfather and because the architects work for children.

"We have the greatest job in the world," Boney said.

Boney's grandfather designed the original Perquimans County High School building, constructed

in 1924.

William W. Cram of M.B. Kahn said a lot of hard work has already gone into planning for the \$9.1 million construction program.

"More than starting a building today, we're starting the future," Cram said.

County commissioners chairman Charles Ward said local and state officials are committed to education. He

added that both the county commissioners and school board had worked hard together to upgrade school facilities without raising taxes.

"You can be sure that the county commissioners of Perquimans County are committed to education," he said.

Schools superintendent Randall Henion said that the building program represents an assurance to county resi-

dents that the school system and county commissioners seek to provide a safe, quality learning environment for both students and staff.

Henion said everyone involved in the project from elected officials to the taxpayers deserve thanks "for believing in and investing in the future of children."

The community will come back together in about one year to celebrate the completion of the projects, he said.

Henion; assistant superintendent Jake Boyce; school board members Nelson, Walter Leigh, Helen Hunter, Marjorie Rayburn, Tommy Riddick and Helen Shaw; county manager Paul Gregory; county commissioners Ward, Mack Nixon, Bert Hayes and Evelyn Stubbins; and Perquimans Central School Student Council representatives Jonathan Boyce, Devin Mallory, Lauren Nelson, Brittany Perry, Jasmine Price and Amy Tunnell donned hard hats and symbolically broke ground on the project. The groundbreaking was organized by the school system and M.B. Kahn. Kahn is the construction management firm hired by the board to oversee the projects.

## Open Door needs a visit from Santa

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**  
Editor

The Open Door has a holiday wish. The ministry would like to be added to the Christmas lists of county residents.

According to director Rosemary Rosenberg, the Open Door needs donations of food, money and time. Especially needed in the food line are juices and fruits, she said. The food pantry can also accept store packaged meats as freezer space is available, Rosenberg said. Re-packaged meats cannot be accepted.

At present, the Open Door has only seven volunteers to take client applications, shelve donations and pack food boxes that meet dietary guidelines to provide nutritious meals.

Space constraints and low volunteer numbers forced the Open Door board of directors to cease operating the thrift store which offered used clothing and small household items, Rosenberg said.

"We just don't have the space or the personnel to do that (operate a thrift shop)," she said. "It would be nice if we could."

People continue to drop off clothes, she said, although the thrift shop hasn't operated for well over a year. Rosenberg said the Salvation Army in Elizabeth City accepts donations of clothing.

Rosenberg has been with the Open Door since its reorganization and reopening in February. Since then, she said 2,790 meals and \$2,191 in emergency financial assistance has been disbursed through the agency. Clients are referred to the Open Door by the Department of Social Services.

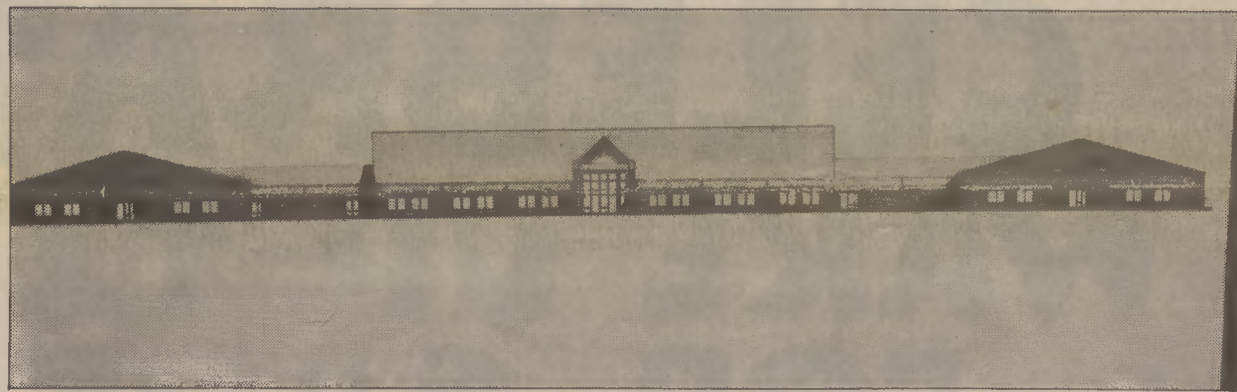


PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The new elementary school in Winfall will look much like the present Perquimans Central School.

## School facilities to improve

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**  
Editor

Facilities at both Central and Hertford Grammar schools will improve significantly as a result of the construction/renovation projects now underway.

The new school in Winfall, which will serve pre-kindergarten-grade 2 at its completion, looks similar to the present structure with a central entry and two wings. It will feature a multi-purpose room which can function as an auditorium, space to hold physical education classes in bad weather and other activities.

The exterior plans will increase safety and alleviate morning and afternoon traffic jams. Staff parking lots will be located on both sides of the building. There is a separate area for bus pick-up and drop-off. A fourth area will serve for visitor parking and student pick-up/drop-off.

The central building will house a cafeteria, the multi-purpose area, media center and administrative offices.

Two wings on either side of the central building will house classrooms, restrooms and resource rooms.

The new structure will be located behind the present school.

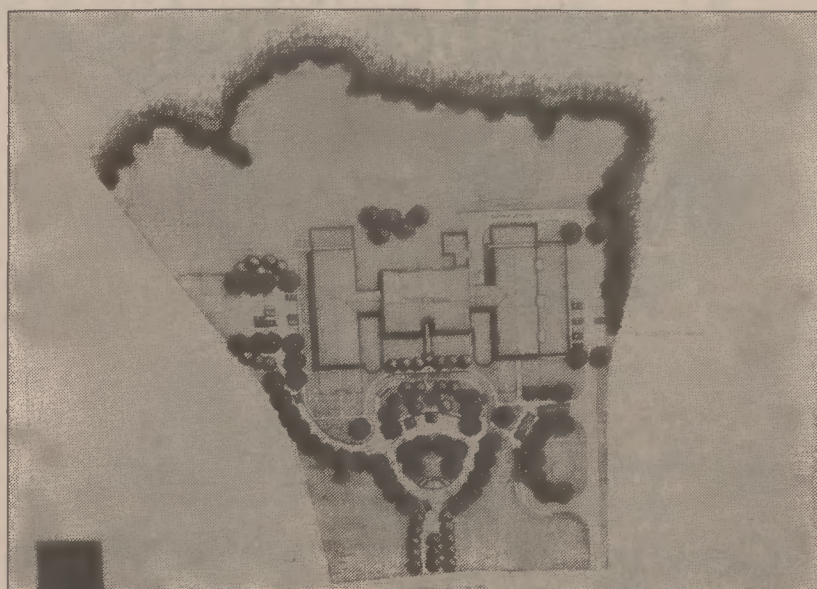
At Hertford Grammar School, the project will include a new building behind the west wing, replacing all exterior doors and windows, restroom upgrades, electrical upgrades and interior renovations.

The new building will house a cafeteria, multi-purpose room, two large restrooms and four classrooms.

In the central building at the site, the cafeteria will



The dark areas show the new building and areas of extensive renovation at Hertford Grammar School (above). The exterior layout at the new Winfall site (below) will increase safety.



become the media center. Administrative offices and conference rooms will be created from the present media center.

Restrooms in the west wing will become teacher work rooms.

Work will also be done on the bus parking area.

Canopies in front of the

building, surfacing the east parking lot, improving the front drive and painting in the existing buildings were taken out of the contract due to funding restrictions. If bids come in under budget, items will be added back as funds allow, school board members said last week in a joint meeting with county commissioners.

### Funds sources

State school bond	\$4,133,112
State school bond/small counties	\$2,038,450
Total state funds	\$6,171,562
County land transfer tax	\$1,000,000
County loan	\$2,000,000
Total local funds	\$3,000,000
<b>Total project cost</b>	<b>\$9,171,562</b>

## Projects top \$9.1 mil

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**  
Editor

Perquimans County will spend over \$9 million on the building projects at Central and Hertford Grammar schools.

School administrators and board members looked long and hard for years to find funds to replace Central School and renovate Hertford Grammar School. Then the Public School Building Bond Act of 1996 was approved by voters statewide in November 1996. Perquimans County received \$4,133,112 as an immediate result. Lobbying by local school officials helped bring another \$2,038,450 of the bond funds to the county through the small county bond funding portion of the act.

With \$6,171,562 in state funds, the school board and county commissioners began looking at ways to complete projects at both schools. The commissioners' goal was to find a way to secure funds without raising taxes.

Last Wednesday, one year of redesigning buildings and number-crunching resulted in a final vote by the county commissioners at a joint commissioners-school board meeting held after the groundbreaking ceremony to fund an additional \$394,000 from land transfer taxes to the project. The funds will allow both building projects to be completed if bids come in on target. It has been reported in school board meetings over the last several months that preliminary work bid has come in on budget.

The additional monies brought the total county dollars earmarked for the project to \$3 million. Land transfer taxes will account for \$1 million. The county will borrow \$2 million, which will be repaid with sales tax and other revenue sources already earmarked for schools. In addition, the county will hold local dollars contributed to the school system in its maintenance budget to \$250,000 for five years.

### Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 50s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 50s Low: 30s MOSTLY CLEAR	High: 50s Low: 30s MOSTLY CLOUDY