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 PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY  
 110 W ACADEMY ST  
 HERTFORD NC 27944

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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

## Low-interest loans help with failing septic systems

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

Financial help is available for many local residents with failing septic systems.

A public management entity program established by Albemarle Regional Health Services, formerly PPCC District Health Department, has set up a revolving loan fund to help low and moderate income residents fix or maintain septic systems and subdivision drainage facilities.

According to Ralph Hollowell of Albemarle Environmental Management Services, the program was established because there are many people in Northeastern North Carolina with septic and drainage systems that are not in good repair. Waste systems that do not work properly are a threat to water quality.

The maximum loan available is \$5,000. Hollowell said that amount is usually more than enough to repair a problem septic system. Most people who have taken advantage of the program have fixed or replaced systems for about \$1,200-\$2,500. He said the loans are available only for people who have existing failing septic systems, not for those who wish to install a new system.

One of the benefits of enrolling in the public management entity program is that the repaired system will be checked each year to make sure it is still working properly. Hollowell said checking to make sure everything is in good working order can help ensure that the system continues to serve the residents of the property, and that there are no problems that could contaminate their ground water.

Usually, septic system operation and maintenance are left up to the homeowner. Permitting agencies look at the site, provide design and installation specifications, and inspect the installation at various stages. But these agencies do not check to make sure the systems continue to work

properly. All septic systems can fail, especially in areas with difficult soil conditions. The same is true for drainage systems.

Albemarle Regional Health Services is the septic system permitting agency in the five counties it serves — Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Camden and Currituck. In addition to permitting traditional septic systems, the department has been permitting alternative systems in the region since 1982.

The management entity was established in 1991 to supervise the design, installation and continuous operations of all non-conventional on-site wastewater systems for the service area.

Anyone who lives within a half mile of a basin or sub-basin of the Pasquotank, Chowan or Roanoke rivers qualifies for the program. The rivers, creeks and swamps in Perquimans County are a part of these basins. Hollowell said most people in the nine counties served by the public management entity — Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Camden, Currituck, Hertford, Gates, Washington and Tyrrell — live within a half mile of a sub-basin.

If loans are approved, applicants with a gross income greater than 150 percent of the county median income can borrow 100 percent of the cost to repair a septic system, including a \$250 management fee, at 5 percent interest for five years. Applicants with income between 50 and 80 percent of the county median can borrow the money for 10 years. All borrowers must pay a \$100 application fee, which is the only out-of-pocket expense.

Applications for revolving loan funds are available at county health departments and through Hollowell's office at 110 Kitty Hawk Lane, Industrial Park, Elizabeth City, just off Halstead Boulevard. For more information, Call Hollowell or Kim White at 338-4490.

## CHECK YOUR SPEED

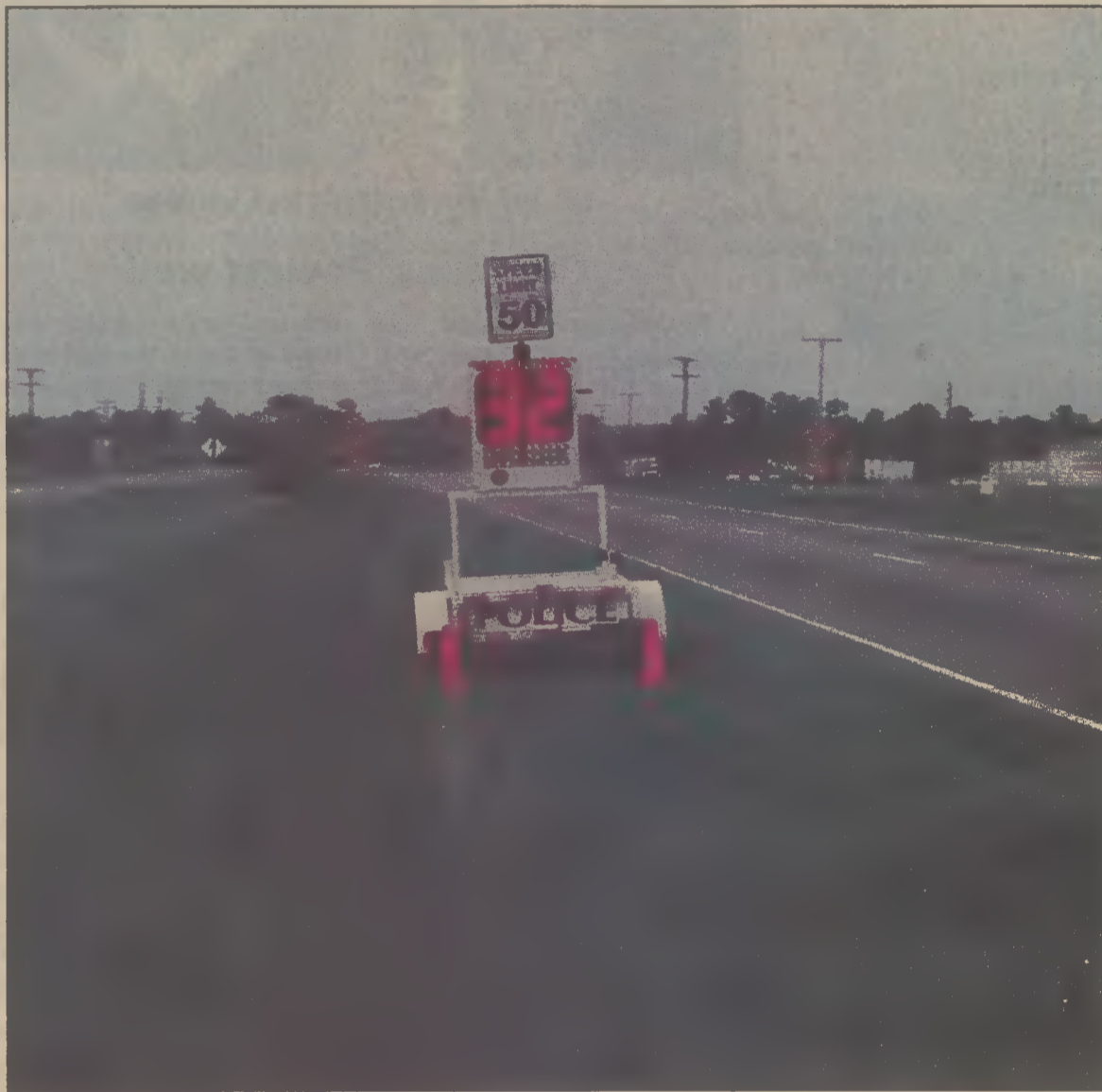


PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Motorists have seen this mobile speed detecting unit in various locations around Hertford over the past week. Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said through a cooperative effort between the Elizabeth City and Hertford police departments spearheaded by the Governor's Crime Commission, Hertford will now share the unit with Elizabeth City. Vanscoy told the town's council last Monday night that he expects to have the unit in town about every two weeks. It will be set up in problem areas to remind drivers to watch the posted speed limits. During its first day of operation, when the unit was set up on North Church Street, Vanscoy said he had several motorists tell him they did not realize how fast they were traveling until their speed flashed on the unit.

## Eley to run for Hertford mayor

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

Sid Eley wants to move to the middle of the Hertford Town Council table.

The second-year councilman filed to become Hertford's next mayor Monday. According to information Eley obtained from the N.C. Institute of Government through Town Manager John Christensen, he will not have to give up his council seat to run for the higher office.

Eley retired from Perquimans County Schools in June after 30 years in the classroom. He will teach one more year on a contract basis. After that one year, he will no longer be eligible to teach and collect his retirement.

Because he will not have the responsibilities he had during his tenure as a councilman as a teacher, coach and athletic director, Eley said he will have time to devote to the office of mayor. He said he would like to be a part of positive growth and renovation in the town. Eley has stood solidly behind the development of the county's commerce center and the town's designation as a Heritage Tourism Development Pilot. He supports the effort of the Chamber of Commerce and serves as fire chief.

Eley was first elected six years ago in his first bid for public office. He retained his seat in 1997 when he was elected to a second four-year term. Should he be elected mayor in November, council will appoint a replacement to fill his unexpired term. If not elected, he will continue to sit on council.

Mayor John Beers announced at the beginning of the filing period that he would not run again. He is serving his second term as mayor, and has been on the town's governing board for 34 years.

Winfall Mayor Fred Yates announced about two weeks ago that he will run for his second full term as mayor.

Elections Supervisor Eula Mae Forbes said Eley is the only candidate to file so far.

## Festival plans get underway

Annual event set for Saturday, September 11

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

The 1999 edition of the Perquimans County Indian Summer Festival is in the works.

The Historic Hertford Business Association has this year joined forces with the Perquimans County Restoration Association for the annual gala. The festival is set for Saturday, Sept. 11.

For the past several years,

the Indian Summer Festival has competed with an event in Elizabeth City that was scheduled for the third Saturday in September — Indian Summer Saturday. Also, the Restoration Association a couple of years ago began offering a Harvest Festival at the Newbold-White Historic complex.

This year, HHBA and PCRA will combine their events to offer a day-long celebration of life present and past in Perquimans County.

The Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the festival until 1997, has will once again be a part of the festival, as the group will organize the children's games.

HHBA is presently getting

food, arts and crafts, and display and information booth applications ready for distribution. In an effort to draw a greater variety and more local participation, the group has revised the booth fee schedule for this year's festival. Applications may be picked up from Mary White at The Wishing Well, 144 N. Church Street.

A committee is also looking for entertainment to perform throughout the day. HHBA would like to get a variety of performing artists to appear.

At Newbold-White, PCRA is organizing a living history day to allow a hands-on look at life in Perquimans past for children and adults.

## PAL to host show

Work of artist Jennifer Abbate to go on exhibit

Perquimans Arts League will sponsor a special month-long exhibit by artist and photographer Jennifer Abbate at Perquimans Arts Center in Hall of Fame Square. The show will open Sunday, Aug. 15 with a reception from 4-6 p.m. at the Arts Center.

Abbate, a PAL member who resides and works in Raleigh, is an award-winning artist who exhibits her paintings and photography work in galleries, shops and street festivals, including Perquimans Arts Center. Many patrons have made her unique works part of their own private collections.

She received a fine arts degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she began experimenting with design, color and fabrics. Every piece is an experiment of how the artist is relating. She uses a unique blend of paint, color, and fluid form mixed with a subtle hint of mystery and spirituality that evokes an experience for each viewer.

Much of her photography work is of the local scene and features many landmarks in Perquimans and Chowan counties. She also designs silver jewelry, garment designs, gift baskets, children's books and restaurant logos.

Abbate's work is about being true to oneself and embracing that which is simple and pure. Her work will be on display through Sept. 15.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Perquimans Arts League will sponsor a month-long exhibit by artist and photographer Jennifer Abbate. The show will open with a reception at the league's gallery in Hall of Fame Square on Aug. 15, 4-6 p.m.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
 High: 80s  
 Low: 70s  
 PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
 High: 90s  
 Low: 70s  
 PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
 High: 90s  
 Low: 70s  
 PARTLY CLOUDY