

PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
110 W ACADEMY ST
HERTFORD, NC 27944

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Commissioners pass budget after hearing

Ward, Miller cast negative votes due to tax rate

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Commissioners put their 2-cents worth in Monday night before a split vote to approve the 2000-2001 county budget.

The 4-2 vote came after commissioners Charles Ward and Archie Miller spoke up for a 60-cents tax rate rather than the 62 cents proposed by County

Manager Paul Gregory.

When the budget hearing was closed by Chair Shirley Wiggins, Bert Hayes moved and Evelyn Stubbins seconded approval of the \$8.7 general fund budget.

"I still think that we need to drop the rate to 60 cents," Ward said immediately after Stubbins' second.

"I'm all for cutting taxes," Commissioner Ben Hobbs responded. Hobbs added that he was a proponent of a 60-cents tax rate in April, but when the projected fund balance growth for fiscal 1999-2000 dropped from a half million dollars to just over \$100,000, he changed his mind.

"The fund balance is coming down," Hobbs said. He added that if the fund balance grows more than projected, he would vote to cut the tax rate next year.

"It'll grow \$200,000," Ward responded. "You won't ever do it (propose lowering taxes). You folded in this year and you'll do it against next year."

Wiggins stepped in to defend Hobbs' position. She said she felt it was better to make sure there were funds available to the county, and that the rate could be lowered next year if there is too much growth in the fund balance.

Ward continued to contend that the county has a \$4 million

surplus and that that amount is too high.

Gregory countered that the fund balance is at \$3.25 million.

Hayes said that commissioners have to put aside funds for the future. He added that Pasquotank and Chowan counties have used their hospitals to generate significant income in recent years, but that Perquimans does not have that option, so funds must be set aside for future needs.

Wiggins and Hobbs both cited projects the county has already agreed to fund over the next few years as reasons to approve the budget as submitted by Gregory.

In the budget message sub-

mitted by Gregory to commissioners earlier this month, he cited a new health department, renovations/additions to the courthouse, construction of the new recreational complex in Winfall and other minor projects as reasons for the accumulation of extra funds. The fund balance will keep the county from having to borrow money for these projects, he said. On Monday, he added that a possible addition to Albemarle District Jail could cost the county between \$250,000 and \$500,000.

Perquimans County recently completed its state-mandated revaluation. State statutes require the county to re-value

all property every 8 years. The general assessed valuation in Perquimans County increased by an estimated 18.8 percent taking into account allowances for vehicles, senior citizen exemptions and utilities, Gregory stated. The tax rate fell 20.5 percent to 62 cents. Gregory said that most taxpayers will actually see a decrease in their ad valorem taxes with the revaluation and new tax rate. Waterfront property owners and those who have made significant improvements to property have likely seen an increase, some dramatic, in their property values and will see a corresponding increase in property taxes.

Memorial Tree Park brings new life to Academy Square

15 trees donated as honorariums, memorials

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Leaves are once again beginning to rustle in the breeze on Hertford's Academy Square.

Now known as Memorial Tree Park, the town's park adjacent to the tennis courts and library is dotted with living honorariums and memorials.

Once home to majestic old oaks, the park lay bare after disease forced town officials to cut down the trees. Hertford residents Don and JoAnne Morris and Leo and Marge Ambrose asked the town to take some kind of action to renovate the park after the trees came down. The town asked JoAnne Morris, now a councilperson, to chair a committee to consider park renovation and beautification.

The committee sought input from locals with knowledge about trees and which species would best fit at the park. It was decided that the town would seek donations of trees to be planted as honorariums and memorials. Fifteen trees have been donated to date.

In addition to the donations, the committee also researched and applied for grants to provide vegetation at the site. Over 50 azaleas now add spring color through those efforts.

Morris enlisted volunteers

to help with planting and care of some of the planting projects, while town maintenance staff has taken an active role in the establishment of and upkeep at the park.

Trees given to date include: Japanese cherries—in honor of Roy Reed by Norma Thorne, in honor of Thelma Elliott and Grace Coston by JoAnn Morris.

White flowering dogwoods—in honor of Edgar and Delia Harvey by Celestine Hartsfield, in honor of Charles F. and Pattie W. Hoffer by Gloria Creecy; one each in honor of Sally Miller Jones, Pennie Jones Carrier and Grace Jones Copeland by Ronald Carrier; in honor of Leo and Beatrice Kreckle by Martha Gaulding; in honor of our parents and loved ones by Don and Barbara Gustafson; in honor of Larry Brown by Carlyn Chambers; in honor of Joseph W. Nowell Jr. by Kitty Pippen.

Native hollies—in honor of Carla S. Chappell by Sybil S. Skinner; in honor of T.F. Winslow family by Betty Crawford.

Weeping cherry—in honor of Clinton T. and Edna Eley by their sons Charles and Sid.

Northern red oak—in honor of Anthony J. Nelson II by Hattie Williamston.

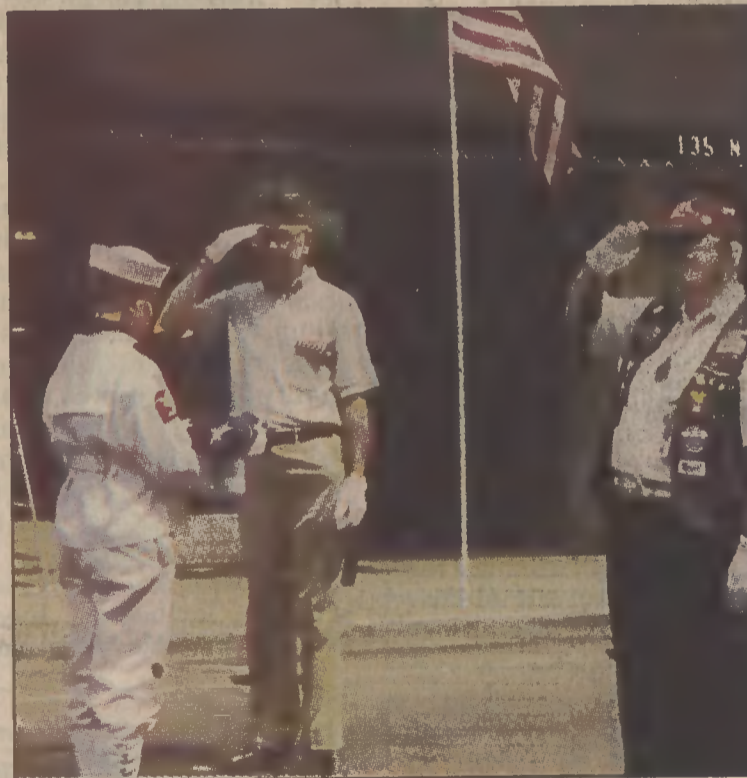
Donors may choose from a list of needed species at the town office. The trees range in price from about \$30 to \$100. Prices include the tree, planting and a plaque showing the donor and honoree.

FLAG DAY CELEBRATION



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY PERQUIMANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

An honor guard of veterans from the Korean War, World War II and Viet Nam eras (above) proudly takes part in Flag Day Celebration 2000 in downtown Hertford. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the ceremony included the Korean War 50th Year Commemoration. Aaron Hoffer, Cub Cadet, U.S. Navy Memorial, Washington, D.C. (right) presented a special American flag to the honor guard. A roll call of World War II and Korean War veterans killed in action took place during the ceremony, along with a 21-Navy bell salute for all deceased veterans.



Fireworks moved to July 3

Perquimans will celebrate Independence Day a day early this year — on July 3.

Julian "Little Man" Broughton, spokesperson for fireworks show organizers American Legion Post 126, said a change in the federal training rules caused the shuffle. The ATF has made training requirements for those shooting fireworks more stringent, Broughton said. Now, organizations wishing to purchase fireworks and have them delivered must show proof of appropriate certification. In order to meet the guidelines, duly certified volunteers from outside the county will come and help. They will be shooting in their hometowns on July 4.

Fireworks are now scheduled to be shot at 9 p.m. on Monday, July 3 at Missing Mill Park.

The change has the Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of activities to take place before the fireworks, scrambling to rearrange schedules. President Gaye Murray said events will begin at the park at 5 p.m. and last until the fireworks begin. Plans call for old-fashioned games such as sack races; festival foods such as ice cream, cotton candy, and lemonade; and a first-come, first-served barbecue dinner.

The Chamber is offering food and game booths for the event. Those who would like more information should call the Chamber office at 426-5657 or Chimney Masters at 426-1426.

Send fireworks donations to Julian Broughton, American Legion Post 126, PO Box 551, Hertford, NC 27944.

PCHS graduates earn \$264K in scholarships, awards

Perquimans County High School's class of 2000 left high school behind with over \$264,000 in one-time and renewable scholarships in hand, according to school guidance counselor John Wells.

Earning scholarships were: Emily Bailey-New Bethel Baptist Church, \$500; Parksville Ruritan, \$500. Sharnae Brickhouse-First Baptist Church, \$300; Senior Matrons of Elizabeth City, \$250.

Dayton Caddy-Scott Williams Memorial, \$200; Lions's Club Jim "Catfish" Hunter, \$500; Margaret Saunders Memorial, \$500; Athletic Boosters Claude Brinn Memorial, \$300; Campbell University Athletic,

\$4,000; L. Paul Smith, \$1,000. Emily Candler-4-H, \$700; Queens College Achievement, \$3,500.

Susan Courtney-Joe Lee Tunnel, \$300.

Keith Cullipher-Berea Church of Christ, \$300. Sheena Farrow-ECSU Incentive, \$3,800.

Crystal Forbes-\$750. Jennifer Harrell-Berea Church of Christ, \$300; Bethel Ruritan, \$600; Hertford Rotary Jack Kanoy, \$500; Hertford BPW, \$200; William Bogue, \$2,500.

Joshua Harrell-Parksville Ruritan, \$500; Albemarle District Ruritan, \$500. Courtney Harris-George and Frances London, \$5,000; Julia Hamlet Harris, \$1,000;

NC Teaching Fellows, \$6,500; Meredith Teaching Fellows, \$2,250; PCHS Valedictorian, \$200.

Sarah Harris-Margrett Saunders Memorial, \$500; Ruritan National, \$600; VFW, \$1,000; Oral Roberts University Academic, \$5,000.

Vickie Hurdle-Evening Light Church of God in Christ Jesus, \$500; Parksville Ruritan, \$500; Delta Thigma Theta, \$1,000.

Jeremy Jennings-Bethel Ruritan, \$500; NCAE, \$300; DeVry Institute of Technology Dean's, \$3,000.

Kera Johnson-Ralph Robinson Sharing Faith Foundation, \$500; ECSU Music, \$900. Chris Lane-DeVry Institute

of Technology Dean's, \$3,000.

R.J. Lassiter-Hertford Rotary Jack Kanoy, \$500; Hertford BPW, \$200.

Aaron maupin-Hertford Rotary Jack Kanoy, \$250. Nicholas McLawhorn-Bobby Carter Memorial, \$500.

Arthur Mitchell III-First Baptist Church, \$300.

Suzy Morgan-Friends of Chowan Hospital, \$500; Parksville Ruritan, \$500; Campbell University Academic, \$4,000.

Ethan Nelson-Parksville Ruritan, \$300; Campbell University Presidential, \$8,000.

Adam Nixon-ECSU Music, \$1,500; Chip Chappell-Band, \$250.

Lauren Pionka-ECUS Incentive, \$3,800.

Mindy Roberson-Athletic Boosters Claude Brinn Memorial, \$300; Bear Swamp-Beach Springs Ruritan, \$600; ECSU Athletic, \$1,500.

Chris Weatherington-Chowan College Incentive, \$5,000.

Tokura White-New Bethel Baptist church, \$500; NCA&T Incentive, \$750.

Blair Winslow-Hertford United Methodist Mem, \$250; Hertford United Methodist Women, \$100; John and Grace Coston Memorial, \$300;

Knowles Memorial, \$900; Thelma Elliott, \$300; Joe Lee Tunnel, \$650; Parksville Ruritan, \$600; PCHS Salutatorian, \$200.

Brandon Winslow-Parksville Ruritan, \$500.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 89
Low: 71
SCATTERED T-STORMS

FRIDAY
High: 89
Low: 69
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 89
Low: 70
MOSTLY CLOUDY