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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Former Hertford manager, mayor dies

Cox held both jobs for 20 years

SEAN JACKSON
The Daily Advance

The man who served as Hertford's top elected official and manager for more than two decades passed away at his Lane's Landing Road, Tyner home last Tuesday.

William Dennis "Bill" Cox, 80, served as mayor and town manager of Hertford for most of the 1970s and all of the 1980s, before stepping down from his dual posts in the early 1990s.



Cox

"He was a fantastic man," Mayor Sid Eley said. "I can say nothing but good about Bill. He was a tireless worker for everyone and probably one of the most influential people in northeastern North Carolina. Everyone knew Bill Cox."

Cox began his political career in 1976, when he was elected to a four-year term on Hertford's Town Council. He began his 20 years as manager in 1971. Cox also served as town manager during that time, holding that job for 22 years.

After retiring as town manager in 1993, the Perquimans County native briefly returned to the town council in November 1995, serving until health problems caused him to step down in December 1997.

Councilman Carlton Davenport was appointed to fill that unexpired term.

John Beers replaced Cox as mayor in 1991. Beers chose not to run again in 1999, opening the door for Eley.

Town Manager John Christensen said Cox was a formidable and tireless politician.

"He was one of those figures that always seemed to be there. Whatever function or event, Bill was there," Christensen said.

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BACK TO SCHOOL



Faculty, staff and students in Perquimans County Schools have returned to the classroom. Parents are taking advantage of open houses to get to know teachers like Julie Roberts (above) and meet with new superintendent Ken Wells (right).



Speeders ticketed in Winfall

Police chief has no mercy on speeders in school zones

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The blue light special in Winfall lately has been pink slips.

Police Chief David Shaffer said he's ticketed 17 people for speeding and two for driving with revoked licenses. That doesn't include the warning tickets. The average speed of the cars whose drivers had been ticketed was 15 miles over the posted limit.

"They're rolling," Shaffer said Monday afternoon as he parked near the school zones to keep an eye on traffic minutes before Central and Perquimans Middle schools were scheduled to dismiss. "In the last three minutes, three cars have gone by me going 12 miles over the speed limit or more. And I'm right out here in the open. They can see me (in the marked cruiser)."

Shaffer said there is a constant problem with speeders in Winfall. The excuses they give when caught vary, but Shaffer said it's rare that an excuse he hears is a valid reason for speeding through a school zone.

"I ask them, 'If someone gave that excuse after hitting your child, would you think it was a good enough excuse to be speeding through a school zone?' Most of the time, that makes them think."

Shaffer said studies have shown that on short trips such as picking up children during high traffic times like before and after school, speeding saves just seconds. This is due, he said, to other traffic on the road, including buses making frequent stops.

If you're already running late, you're going to be even later if you get stopped. And you'll find yourself with less money in your pocket, too. Speeding up to 15 mph over the limit carries a \$25 fine plus \$90 for court costs. Make it 16 mph over the limit, and the fine goes to \$50. At 20 mph over, there is a mandatory court appearance and a judge sets the fine. In some instances, Shaffer said he requires a court appearance for less than 20 mph over the limit, especially if the offense is in a school zone. Auto insurance may rise also.

A speeding ticket adds two points to your license. Speeding in a school zone adds three points.

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Fire rips through Hertford home

SUSAN R. HARRIS

It was a Sunday meal the Stanton family is not likely to ever forget.

While Wade and Marianna Stanton and their sons enjoyed dinner around 6 o'clock Sunday evening, they heard an explosion that signaled something was very wrong. Minutes later they were hurriedly leaving their blazing home.

Hertford Fire Chief Bob Reed said the exact cause of the fire was still unknown as of Tuesday morning, but firefighters are almost certain it had something to do with the gas grill on the couple's back deck.

"We think the explosion (they heard) was when the gas grill relieved itself of pressure," Reed said.

The upstairs and back corner were fully involved when firefighters arrived, Reed

said. He did not know a dollar figure, but said the recently remodeled house on the corner of Edenton Road Street and Wynn Fork Road was extensively damaged.

With temperatures soaring into the 90s, Reed said he called for manpower from Winfall, Intercounty and Bethel fire departments. The Perquimans EMS and Rescue Squads set up a rehab area to keep a watch on heated firefighters and provide liquids. The Hertford Police Department also assisted.

In addition, Reed said the community turned out with water and drinks to support those entering the burning home.

"The people (in the community) really helped us," Reed said. "We needed the drinks. It was so hot you couldn't stay in the house but 10 or 15 minutes before you had to take a break. That's why I called for backup."

Schools begin fall term

Bells. Whistles. Buses. Music. Squeals of delight at seeing each other after a summer vacation.

All these sounds and more signaled the first day of school in Perquimans last Thursday. And from all accounts, it was a good start to a new year.

"Getting off to a good start takes a team effort and that's exactly what we had in Perquimans County," said Superintendent Ken Wells.

There were parents on 'Parent Patrol' at Perquimans Middle School ensuring that students crossed safely through the first-day heavy traffic.

Chief of Police David Shaffer was in charge of traffic overflow at

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Draft of Hertford strategic plan on display

After more than a year of information gathering and study, the LandMark Design Group, Inc. has put together a five-year strategic plan for Hertford that is now on review.

LandMark, with its staff of engineers, planners, surveyors, landscape architects and environmental consultants, used information gathered from meetings and focus groups to develop the plan which includes ideas for base mapping, sign review and site analysis. In addition, LandMark staff used ideas from several documents including A Vision for Heritage Tourism, Hertford Creating Place:



About a year of information-gathering and planning has resulted in basic ideas for base mapping, signs and site analysis for Hertford. The drafts are on display at Inteliport during regular business hours for public review and comment.

Public Art and Community Design and North Carolina Main Street Resource Team Report.

Participating in the process have been the Heritage Tourism Development Council, Perquimans County

Restoration Association, Hertford Main Street Program, Perquimans Heritage, Inc., Academy Green Committee, Perquimans Arts League, Antique Dealers Association of Perquimans County, Chamber of

Commerce, the Historic Hertford Business Association, the town of Hertford and Perquimans County.

The documents are on display in the lobby of Inteliport in downtown Hertford. They can be

reviewed Monday — Friday, 9 a.m.—9 p.m. or Saturday, 9 a.m.—6 p.m. Changes or comments can be made right on the displays. There is also a box available for comments. In addition, Inteliport will provide a public access computer for those who prefer to email comments directly to mainstreet@inteliport.com.

Belinda Washlesky is the Main Street Manager.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 85
LOW: 71
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 88
LOW: 73
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 88
LOW: 72
SCATTERED T-STORMS