

Wrighton is Mother of Year

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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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June 11, 2003

Vol. 71, No. 24 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Hertford approves \$1.7 million budget

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Hertford Town Council approved its budget ordinance Monday night after receiving no opposition during a public hearing.

The budget contains no ad valorem tax increase nor increases in utility rates. The only fee that will change is the solid waste collection fee, which will rise from \$4 per month per 90-gallon container to \$5 per month per container.

The tax rate will remain at 48 cents per \$100 valuation.

The town budget is broken into several funds. The general fund is the town's basic operation fund. The budget for that fund is over \$1.7 million.

Enterprise funds include the water and sewer fund and the electric fund. The water and sewer fund budget is just over \$600,000, while the electric fund is almost \$2.5 million.

The police department will get the lion's share of the town budget, at \$454,905.

The TEA-21 project, which will put period lighting on portions of Church Street and is funded in large part by grants, will cost \$441,120.

The street department will get over \$258,000, while the fire department will receive almost \$217,000.

Administration will cost taxpayers almost \$186,000, with sanitation running just over \$93,000.

Other general fund expenses include DMV-license plate agency, ceme-

tery and Main Street program.

The largest portion of town revenues - \$571,245 - will come from grant funds.

State shared revenues are expected to be just over \$452,000, and ad valorem taxes will bring in about \$364,000.

Sales and services will generate \$166,200 in revenue, and payments from other funds will total almost \$142,000.

In the water and sewer fund, the water department will cost \$243,485 to operate; the wastewater treatment department, \$212,736; and the wastewater collection department, \$162,279.

The budget also includes ice plant renovation funds and the water and sewer system upgrade project.

Town officials expect to see over \$1 million run through the ice plant renovation fund, which will be paid for by \$146,600 in grant funds and over \$950,000 in loans.

The water and sewer system upgrade project budget is \$8.4 million, only \$2.8 million from borrowed money. The rest of the project is covered by grant funds and a \$455,000 tap fee from the Town of Winfall.

The upgrade project will result in over \$6.6 million in system improvements, including expansion to the commerce centre.

The design will cost almost \$438,000; land acquisition, \$35,000; and construction observation, \$318,720. Almost \$350,000 will be kept in a contingency fund.

SENIOR HEALTH FAIR



Marcia and Lon Humphreys (right) visit with Rose Monroe at the Albemarle Home Care exhibit at the Senior Day Health Fair, while Hattie Williamston (left) waits for a workshop to start.

Health fair draws 70

Perquimans senior citizens enjoyed a fun and informational day in the park and at the senior center recently, taking advantage of the Senior Day Health Fair.

Health screenings, informational displays and workshops presented important health and wellness information to seniors in a relaxed and informal setting.

Sponsors of the event were the Cooperative Extension Center, Albemarle Regional Health Services, Senior Center, Area Agency on Aging and Chowan Hospital.

About 70 seniors participated.



Grover Morton gives Maxine Cherrix (center) and Margaret Christgau shuffleboard pointers.

Summer safety tips for youth

The lazy days of summer are here, and parents should remind children about basic safety rules, according to Sheriff Eric Tilley.

Tilley said children often have increased unsupervised time on their hands during the summer, which requires special care by children and parents.

Parents should know where children are and who they are with at all times, and should caution children about contact with strangers. Children should never enter a stranger's car or house, accept money or gifts from strangers or let strangers touch them or join in play.

Children should play in groups, never alone or in vacant buildings or alleys. They should always walk, skate or bike with a friend.

Parents should check out babysitters and know the character of adults who become friendly with their children, Tilley said.

Parents should tell children to report any unusual actions of grown-ups they may encounter. They should report license numbers and descriptions of anyone whose behavior they find unusual.

Children should also be taught to follow basic water safety rules, such as swimming in groups, wearing life preservers and not diving in shallow water.

Communities in Schools brings the community to school

Communities in Schools does just what its name suggests: CIS brings resources from the entire community into the schools to help young people successfully learn, stay in school and prepare for life.

The nationwide, non-profit organization helps communities take more responsibility for their children and education. It is a process that engages a wide range of private businesses, public human service organizations and community residents in a collaborative action to identify and meet the needs of students and their families.

CIS works on the premises that all children need and deserve five basic life tools:

- a personal, one-on-one relationship with a caring adult;
- a safe place to learn and grow;
- a marketable skill to use upon graduation;
- a chance to give back to peers and community; and
- a healthy start and healthy future.

In Perquimans County, Barbara Gustafson heads CIS.

Gustafson presented the organization's annual report to the school board in May. Highlights of the

report included:

- assist with Great Leaps remedial reading program at the middle and Central schools.

Nine active tutors worked throughout the school year with 35 students to help improve reading and comprehension skills. CIS recruited and trained volunteers, provided some curriculum, worked with school coordinators to place and oversee volunteers, provided some incentives for students and recognized volunteers and staff for their service.

- strong collaboration with National Guard to provide educational/developmental programming.

Fifteen students had the opportunity to attend the Ft. Bragg Youth Leadership Camp and eight participated in the ongoing mentoring programming.

CIS is also planning to facilitate a National Guard Starbase program for the upcoming semester, and is developing procedures for Perquimans County to participate in the Tarheel Challenge Program.

- Judicial Attendance Council.

CIS serves as the liaison to the agencies involved in the Council, which addresses truancy problems and helps to solve family issues.



Participants in the Ft. Bragg Youth Leadership Camp look on as a member of their delegation accepts a challenge from military personnel to test physical fitness and endurance.

Case plans for the families, monitoring progress and evaluating program effectiveness are also a part of the program.

Agencies involved include the 1st Judicial District System, Department of Mental Health, Governor's One-on-One, health department, Hertford Police, department of social services, Juvenile Detention Center, Sheriff's Department and Winfall Police.

- Community after-school programs.

To assist with after-school programs, CIS works with the RHEMA, Central School 4-H and 21st Century programs, and with sponsoring agencies

including HUD, Cooperative Extension, Snug Harbor Community, the school system and local churches.

Some sites have asked CIS to provide Great Leaps training and for others, materials and incentives have been requested.

CIS also assists with grant writing to mobilize resources for these programs.

Books and craft projects for use by volunteers have been provided at Central and Hertford Grammar schools.

- Act as a liaison agency to coordinate community-wide volunteer efforts of agency and business representatives and community



Communities in Schools matches volunteers with opportunities, such as after-school programs.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 89
Low: 69
ISOLATED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
High: 83
Low: 69
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
High: 83
Low: 69
SCATTERED T'STORMS