

Happenings

Pancake breakfast

The Forestburg Ruritan Club will hold a pancake and sausage breakfast at its building on the corner of New Hope and Woodland Church roads on Saturday, June 25, 7-10 a.m. Cost is \$4. Proceeds go toward scholarships. For more information, call 264-4671.

Pettigrew Regional Library

The Pettigrew Regional Library Board will meet on Monday, June 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Tyrrell County Library in Columbia.

AARP meeting

The Perquimans Chapter of AARP will meet Monday, June 27 at the Senior Center at 2 p.m.

Free computer classes

The Community Technology Learning Center at the high school will offer Word, PowerPoint, Publisher and Using the Internet classes in July and August at times convenient for those who register. To register, suggest a training area not listed or for more information, contact Antje Curphey at 426-5775 ext 286 or email acurphey@pcs.k12.nc.us.

Recreation offerings

The Perquimans County Recreation Department will offer several lessons, camps and clinics this summer: Basketball camp, July 11-14, ages 7-10 9-11 a.m., ages 11-14 noon-2 p.m., register by July 5, \$25. Girls volleyball camp, July 19-21, 9-11 a.m., ages 9-12, register by July 12, \$25. Day camps, July 25-29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., ages 7-12, register by July 15, \$70; second session Aug. 1-5, register by July 22. Soccer camp, Aug. 8-12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., ages 4-12, register by July 29, \$45. Fast pitch softball clinic is being set up. A T-shirts included for everything except kayaking lessons. For information, call 426-5695.

Hunter safety fund raiser

The Perquimans County hunter safety teams are having a fish fry catered by Captain Bob's on Sunday, June 26, 4-7 p.m., at the old Be-Lo parking lot next to Popeye's. Tickets are \$6 and are available from team members and parents. Plates will be available for purchase during the supper. Take out only. Call Randy Park, 264-2873 or Will Forbes, 297-2155 for information.

Thrift store

The Hertford Community Aid and Thrift Store at Ward Shopping Center is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The non-profit store has clothing and household items for sale. Clothing is available at no charge to those in need.

Community Care Clinic

The Community Care Clinic of Perquimans County is open the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, 9 a.m.-noon. Classes and free medication are available for persons who qualify. Call 426-5346 for information.

Nutrition Site menu

June 27-July 1: Monday: Baked ham, succotash, peaches, rice, cornbread, ice cream. Tuesday: Turkey divan, zucchini, pineapple tidbits, stuffing, bread, cookie. Wednesday: Salisbury steak, gravy, collards, orange juice, mashed potatoes, blackeyed peas, fruit crisp. Thursday: Herbed baked chicken, broccoli with cheese, fresh fruit, potato, roll, brownie. Friday: Tuna salad, carrot-raisin salad, orange-pineapple juice, salsines, pasta salad, cookie. All meals served with milk.

Health department clinics

The Perquimans Health Department is open daily 8 a.m.-5 p.m. There is a night clinic every Thursday, 5-7 p.m. June 27-July 1: Monday: General all day. Tuesday: General and WIC all day. Wednesday: General all day. Thursday: Prenatal a.m.

Summer feeding program menus

June 27-July 1: Monday: Chicken nuggets with roll, corn, orange juice. Tuesday: Barbecue sandwich, green beans, applesauce. Wednesday: Cheeseburger, potato wedges, mixed fruit cup. Thursday: Chicken fillet sandwich, green peas, peach cup. Friday: Smoked sausage on bun, tater tots, juice. All meals served with milk. Breakfast will also be served at the school sites.

Regular government meetings

Elected governing bodies hold regular meetings each month. The schedule for those meetings in Perquimans County as follows:

- Perquimans County Commissioners: first Monday at 7 p.m.
- Hertford Town Council: regular meeting - second Monday at 7:30 p.m.; work session - first Monday at 7 p.m.
- Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments - 3rd Monday at 7 p.m.
- Winfall Town Council: Second Monday at 7 p.m.
- Perquimans County Board of Education: fourth Monday at 7:30 p.m. The boards may also hold special meetings as warranted.

Live Professional Musical Theatre in Historic Edenton
The Rocky Hock Playhouse
 Presents
 A new musical by Gloria Emmerich
PAUL
 June 28 - August 20, 2005
 Box Office/Info (252) 482-4621

Mulch matters

Attention homeowners and landscapers: Want to reduce mowing, weeding and watering in your landscape? Want to improve the soil without having to constantly fertilize and aerify? Want to have the best looking plants with the least amount of work? Does this sound too good to be true?



Around the Yard

Katy Gray
N.C. Cooperative Extension Service

It's not, the answer to these and numerous other tedious garden chores can be found in one simple form: mulch.

Most people are familiar with mulch as a product, usually in the form of straw or shredded hardwood that is spread around the base of trees and shrubs. It is most commonly used to improve the appearance of a landscape, however, mulch provides numerous other benefits.

When applied properly, mulch can prevent numerous weed seeds from germinating and suppress other weeds from growing.

As it decays, it improves air and water penetration below the soil, thus improving plant and soil health. Mulch also conserves moisture during dry spells and can help improve drainage if too much water is available.

As temperatures outside change, mulch helps to maintain the soil temperature of plant roots, encouraging them through extreme conditions. As mulch decays into the soil, it naturally releases fertilizer to plant roots.

In addition to all of the plant benefits, mulch reduces areas of the landscape that require mowing, and weed trimming for the caretaker.

When deciding what kind of mulch to use, keep in mind that each has its benefits and drawbacks. Organic mulches, which

include bark, pine straw, compost and even leaf clippings, are best to use. Finely shredded bark performs well, but needs to be replaced more often.

Cypress mulch is very slow to decompose, meaning it is slower to improve plant health. Straw and pine straw are better on slopes and are usually less expensive, but they are also slow to decay. Shredded leaves and grass clippings work well and are inexpensive but will need frequent replacing.

Newspaper as mulch works especially well in vegetable gardens, but will need a light covering of something else to hold it in place. Inorganic mulches like rock and plastics are not recommended as they don't offer any improvement to the soil or plant health.

When applying mulch to trees, shrubs or perennials, apply a uniform layer of mulch 2 to 4 inches deep. Applying mulch deeper can cause the plant roots to suffocate. Ideally the mulch will encompass as much of the root zone as possible.

For large trees, mulch at least 3 feet out from the trunk on all sides. Do not allow the mulch to touch the bark of a tree or shrub. To prevent decay, pull back mulch 1 to 2 inches away from the bark.

Both homeowners and landscapers often make the mistake of over applying. Do not create mulch "mounds" around or against the bases of trees, this is a common mistake. A light uniform layer of an organic mulch will be enough to benefit the landscape and its caretaker.

For more information on mulch, contact Katy Gray at the Perquimans County Extension office, 426-5428.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chris Powell, director of public relations for Albemarle EMC presents a \$5,000 check to Patricia Youngblood, executive director of Albemarle Hopeline.

Hopeline: One step closer to new facility

A battered-women's shelter in Elizabeth City is one step closer to moving to a new, larger facility, thanks to a grant from the Albemarle Community Trust (ACT).

The trust's board of directors recently approved a \$5,000 grant to Albemarle Hopeline, which is currently in the midst of a fundraiser to purchase a new shelter.

Patricia Youngblood, executive director for Albemarle Hopeline, said the Hopeline Board plans to sell the present location on Main Street and purchase the Carolina Living Facility on Halstead Boulevard. The move, which should happen in October, will allow them to triple their shelter space.

"We'll have nine bedrooms at the new shelter, and we'll be able to consolidate things under one roof, like counseling, legal advocacy and those sorts of things," she said. "We'll also have a play room for the kids and a dining room."

Albemarle Hopeline serves six counties, with offices in Perquimans, Chowan, Currituck and Pasquotank counties. Hopeline provides domestic and abuse services that include emergency shelter, food and transportation; a 24-hour crisis line and more. To contribute to the Hopeline fundraiser, call Patricia Youngblood at 338-5338.

The grant came from the Albemarle Community Trust, a fund established by Albemarle EMC to assist nonprofit organizations. ACT is funded by co-op members who voluntarily have their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar each month. The amount by which the bills are rounded up is then put into the fund.

Since its inception in 2001, ACT has granted more than \$200,000. To apply for a grant, call Albemarle EMC at 426-5735. Grant applications are reviewed by a nine-member board, consisting of representatives from the surrounding communities.

HELPING HAND



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Bill Bradbury (right), special assistant for regional affairs with the North Carolina Department of Insurance, awards Rescue Squad Captain Mark Symons and Rescue Squad Treasurer Billy Winslow a check for \$12,731 to purchase four radios and two defibrillators. The group also recently received a check for nearly \$7,000 and a boat worth at least another \$7,000 from the annual Mother's Day weekend tag sale sponsored by Albemarle Plantation.

HELP!

The Perquimans County Senior Hunter Safety team won the state championship and earned the right to compete at the national championship in New Mexico. All donations to help with travel costs would be greatly appreciated and tax deductible. If you would like to help these youth represent Perquimans, please send your check to Perquimans County Hunter Safety Team, c/o Rosa Forbes, 601 New Hope Road, Hertford, NC 27944. Call Will Forbes at 297-2155 or Randy Park at 333-9993 for information.

TIRED OF PAYING HIGH BILLS FOR ELECTRICITY, WATER, & SEWER? TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR COSTS!

The Town of Hertford is planning a energy and water conservation workshop this summer. Anyone interested should contact the Town office at 426-5311 to sign up. The workshop will include information about weather stripping, water saving tips, and tips for reducing your electric consumption. Information about weatherization programs will also be provided. Space is limited so call now and register.

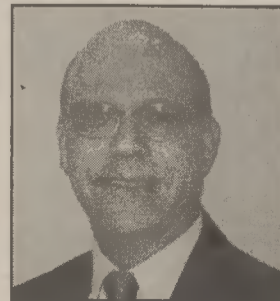
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