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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

Vanscoy blames manager for HPD problems

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A second former town police chief has come forward saying the problem with the town's police department isn't in the department, but with town management instead.

Former Chief Dale Vanscoy, who led the department for almost 11 years, says town management fails to support the police department, and that micro-managing on the town manager's part undermines the department heads' abilities to do what is best for the department.

"I got tired of knocking my head against a wall," said Vanscoy regarding why he left the Hertford Police Department back in March. "In my resignation letter, I wrote that the difference between management and myself would never be worked out and that it was hurting the department. I was tired of fighting a battle I could not win and wouldn't be compromised.

"I was really going to stay out of this (local police issues). I worked here for 16 years and I will always support the Hertford Police Department. But, I saw the blame being shifted and the town blaming someone else. I decided it was time to stand up," Vanscoy said.

Vanscoy's remarks follow those of Brian Riddick who resigned in August after serving as interim police chief for only five months. Last month, Riddick, who now works for the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department, told The Perquimans Weekly that police turnover is high due to lack of support from town management. He also said that the department badly needed equipment to be replaced, but received no support from the town.

Vanscoy, who now works for the Edenton Police Department, says he brought grants for both equipment and personnel to Town Manager John Christensen each year Vanscoy was

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EACH SEPTEMBER, FAMILY AND friends of Jim "Catfish" Hunter walk through Hertford to raise thousands of dollars for the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation. This past Saturday dawned clear and fair for the annual walk, which begins and ends where Hunter first made a name for himself on the mound, at Perquimans County High School. The foundation, organized by Hunter and his friends and neighbors before his death from complications of ALS in September 1999, raises funds for research and patient support services. A new clinic bearing his name has opened recently at Pitt Memorial Hospital thanks to funds raised through events such as the Walk to D'Feet ALS.

Perquimans Weekly photo by CATHY WILSON

Police chief hired

Amos coming from Mt. Gilead PD

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The town of Hertford has a new police chief.

Joseph Thurman Amos III, chief of the Mt. Gilead Police Department, was hired by Town Manager John Christensen Sept. 22. Amos is expected to complete his paperwork and be on the job within two weeks.

Amos said Monday he hasn't officially resigned from his position with Mt. Gilead yet, but will do so when his Hertford paperwork is completed.

Amos comes to Hertford with 11 years of experience in law enforcement. His wife, Bobbi, is also a school resource officer and an instructor holding a training coordinator certification. Amos is also a specialized instructor for the state, he said.

They are the parents of a 10-year-old boy.

Amos comes to Hertford after serving as chief since January 2007. In addition, he has also served as senior police detective in Henderson, a reserve police officer for Franklinton, and assistant police chief for Youngsville.

Additional experience includes serving as a public service officer for Morganton, a support officer for the state's general assembly, and as an assistant chief of EMS and rescue in Northern Wake County.

Amos is currently working on his bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

His vast list of training ranges from liability issues for law enforcement supervisors to advanced K9 handler. In addition, he comes with experience in criminal investigations, public affairs, undercover work, crime prevention, computer and identity theft.

He has also served as a canine handler, detective, member of a tactical team and received a meritorious service award for performing CPR on an infant. He received law enforcement's highest award when he received the Medal of Valor from Henderson for his efforts in stopping a man from jumping off a bridge in an attempt to commit suicide.

He is also a member of the Mount Gilead Volunteer Fire Department.

While his resume given to the town listed many attributes, Amos comes to Hertford leaving unusual circumstances in Mt. Gilead.

According to The Montgomery Herald newspaper, the town hired a second police chief Sept. 3 following weeks of emergency town board meetings and meetings with attorneys.

In an article written by Tammy Dunn, the Mt. Gilead Town Board officially

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Village residents say "thanks"

Fire victims host lunch for those who gave aid

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Some baked desserts or helped serve the food. One even played music on the organ. Others sat at tables and just smiled at their very special guests.

No matter how they participated, the residents, family members and staff of Albemarle Village said thanks last week to the local volunteers and other folks who lent a helping hand following a fire at the independent living facility on Aug. 21. Lunch was served to members of the three volunteer fire departments who responded (Hertford, Bethel and Winfall), EMS, emergency management, Red Cross, Coastal Carolina Family Practice, and the Albemarle Commission.

While not everyone was able to attend, those who did feasted on ham rolls, beef croissants, chicken wings, potato salad, veggies, and a host of mouth-watering homemade desserts.

Imogene Penfound, site manager for the facility, presented certificates of appreciation to those who helped after a kitchen fire

in one of the apartments forced the evacuation of 38 residents from the entire 36-apartment complex. No one was injured during the fire.

"This is just our way of thanking you all," she said. "And to let you know that you are certainly not taken for granted. From the firefighters who jeopardized their lives for us to the ones who brought us a drink of water, we say thank you and we want you to know that we are here for you too."

The luncheon was made possible by donations from residents, their family members, area grocery stores, and the facility.

Penfound touched on how everyone pulled together that day, noting that the quick response of firefighters not only saved the building and residents, but their possessions as well. Employees at nearby Albemarle Commission and Coastal Carolina Family Practice helped calm the residents and kept them comfortable following the evacuation that hot day.

The American Red Cross responded, set up a temporary shelter inside the commission's building and fed them lunch and helped escort them back and forth to their apartments to gather needed items such as medication.

EMS workers were on the scene helping including administering oxygen to at



Perquimans Weekly photo by CATHY WILSON

ALBEMARLE VILLAGE RESIDENTS, THEIR families and staff showed appreciation to those who came to help when a fire in one of the complex's apartments caught fire on Aug. 21. Lunch was served to firefighters, EMTs, emergency management, the Red Cross, staff from Coastal Carolina Family Practice and those who work in the Albemarle Commission building.

least one resident.

When the lunch was over, several guests thanked the residents for preparing the luncheon in their honor.

"What happened was a tragedy, but it could have been so much worse," said Darlene Harrell, nutrition program director for the Albemarle Commission. "But, out of the bad comes good... this luncheon."

She remembered how the residents were brought into the commission building that day nervous and upset. But, she said, Penfound quieted them by saying a beautiful prayer.

"You could just see and feel the calmness spreading in the room," Harrell said.

Bethel Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jeff Proctor thanked the residents, saying firefighters aren't used to being thanked by being fed.

"We really appreciate it," he added.

Bob Reed, chief of the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department, also thanked everyone for the luncheon, and reminded the residents

to call on them whenever they had a problem.

"Just call, and we'll be here to help," he said.

Carolyn Self with the American Red Cross told the residents the Red Cross workers enjoyed the time spent helping them. She also thanked them for the luncheon.

"This was nice for us. Usually, we're the ones feeding people!" she joked. "We're the quiet guys working behind the scenes that you don't hear much about. No matter what the disaster, we're there working to take care of you."

Sid Eley, mayor of Hertford and member of the fire department, said the response and team effort that was seen at the Albemarle Village fire was one of the greatest things about this locality.

"Everybody was helping everybody. It worked like clockwork," he said.

He reminded the residents that the town appreciates Albemarle Village and said it is one of the best additions to the town.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 74 LOW: 55
SUNNY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 76 LOW: 57
SUNNY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 76 LOW: 59
SUNNY

