

Belvidere VFD's improved fire rating to help homeowners

Rating improvement to 5 will lower insurance costs

From staff reports

Perquimans County homeowners who live in the Belvidere Fire District can expect a price break on their home insurance rates starting Sept. 1.

The county's Emergency Services agency announced last week that the Belvidere Volunteer Fire Department improved its fire rating from the N.C. Department of Insurance. As a result, homeowners

who live within 5 miles of the Belvidere Fire Station, regardless of the location of fire hydrants, will have a 5 rating instead of 9E.

The improved fire rating comes after a recent inspection by officials with the NC Department of Insurance Office and the Office of State Fire Marshal, Perquimans Emergency Services said in a press release.

According to emergency services, inspections of fire departments are required on a regular basis as part of the North Carolina Response Rating Sys-

tem. A fire department's staffing, equipment, maintenance of equipment, communications capabilities, and access to a water source are all evaluated during the inspection. The inspection results then help determine the insurance rates for a homeowner who lives within the fire district.

One key metric during the inspection is staffing and training. Each year, volunteer firefighters are required to complete a minimum of 36 hours of training and continuing education to remain active. Last year,

the 27 members of Belvidere Fire Department logged more than 1,644 hours of training — nearly 700 more than the required amount.

Perquimans Emergency Services Director Jonathan Nixon praised the Belvidere Volunteer Department for its improved fire rating.

"This is an excellent rating for a rural volunteer fire department and shows the dedication and continued commitment of our volunteer firefighters," Nixon said. "These men and women train hard to ensure they are prepared when duty calls to help preserve life

and property."

The state's top fire official also praised the Belvidere department for its achievement.

"I'd like to congratulate Chief (Lee) Dail for the department's performance and for the hard work of all the department members," Mike Causey, NC insurance commissioner and state fire marshal, said in the release. "The citizens should rest easy knowing they have a fine group of firefighters protecting them and their property in case of an emergency."

Dail, chief of the Belvi-

dere Volunteer Fire Department, said his department's members began preparing for its most recent inspection about four years ago. He described the improved rating as a "team effort."

"To achieve the best rating possible, we had to ensure that all the necessary documentation was completed and logged," he said. "Due to these efforts, I am very proud that our department will be able to move from a 9E/10 to a 5/9E to help the citizens in our districts in both Perquimans and Chowan counties."

Hardee's drive-thru damaged in multi-vehicle accident

One transported to hospital, incident under investigation

From staff reports

HERTFORD — The drive-thru window at Hardee's in Hertford sustained significant damage after a multi-vehicle accident at the restaurant Tuesday, June 7.

Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White said the crash is still under investigation but it appears to have been accidental.

The accident was reported at 11:13 a.m. June 7, Perquimans County Emergency Services said in a press release. The restaurant's

drive-thru window and multiple vehicles in the parking lot were struck during the incident. According to White, four vehicles were involved.

A photo posted to Facebook after the accident shows that the entire exterior wall of the Hardee's building where the drive-thru was located is completely gone.

Five people were evaluated at the scene by Perquimans Emergency Medical Services personnel and one person was transported to a local hospital. No update on the person's condition was available Wednesday, June 8.

Responders on scene included the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office, Hertford Fire Department, Perquimans County EMS, Perquimans County Emergency Management, and the NC Highway Patrol.

Following the incident, the Perquimans County Inspections Department inspected the Hardee's building to ensure it had not sustained any structural damage.

Albemarle Regional Health Services' Environmental Health Section also conducted an inspection to ensure the accident had not caused any issues for food preparation.



FACEBOOK/DOTTIE SKIDMORE

This photo posted to Facebook shows the scene of the drive-thru lane at Hardee's in Hertford after a vehicle struck the structure, Tuesday, June 7. The incident is under investigation, the Perquimans County sheriff said.

PERQUIMANS CRIMEWATCH

The Perquimans County Sheriff made the following recent arrests:

- Karen Lassiter, of the 140 block of Woodland Church Road, Hertford, was arrested May 9 and charged with two counts of failure to appear as required. A \$52,000 secured bond was set.
- Kelli Patrick, of the 400 block of U.S. Highway 64 West, Creswell, was arrested May 10 and charged with simple assault. A \$1,000 secured bond was set.
- Mark Thompson, of the 120 block of Pee Dee Drive, Hertford, was arrested May 10 and charged with misdemeanor larceny.
- Emilio Rodriguez, of the 1000 block of Creamer Street, Norfolk, Virginia, was arrested May 11 and charged with failure to appear as required. A \$500 secured bond was set.
- Devin Carmichael, of the 220 block of Shady Lane, Hertford, was arrested May 11 and charged with failure to appear as required. A \$2,000 secured bond was set.
- Crystal Meny, of the 100 block of Explorer Arch, Hertford, was arrested May 13 and charged with first-degree burglary, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill or to inflict serious injury and attempted first-degree murder. A

\$250,000 secured bond was set.

- Brenda Allen, of the 100 block of Rabbit Run, Hertford, was arrested May 13 and charged with 2 counts of breaking & entering. A \$50,000 secured bond was set.
- Charles Simpson, of the 380 block of Chapanoke Road, Hertford, was arrested May 17 and charged with failure to appear as required and driving while license revoked. A \$1,000 secured bond was set.
- Lance White, of the 330 block of King Street, Hertford, was arrested May 17 and charged with failure to appear as required. A \$500 secured bond was set.
- Anthony Jordan, of the 320 block of Stokes Drive, Hertford, was arrested May 19 and charged with failure to appear as required for a charge of forgery of an instrument. A \$20,000 secured bond was set.
- Norman Warden, of the

1650 block of Ocean Highway 17 North, Hertford, was arrested May 22 and charged with second degree trespass and two counts of simple assault.

• Toris Starks, of the 620 block of S. Hughes Boulevard, Elizabeth City, was arrested May 23 and charged with one count each of fugitive warrant, communicating threats, assault on a female, driving while license revoked (non-impaired revocation), speeding and communicating threats. A \$52,000 secured bond was set.

• Ryan Anderson, of the 110 block of Zack Circle, Elizabeth City, was arrested May 24 and charged with one count each of financial card fraud and larceny by employee. A \$2,000 secured bond was set.

• Trevon Lynch, of the 320 block of Madison Street, Roanoke Rapids, was arrested May 25 and

charged with breaking & entering a motor vehicle. A \$2,500 secured bond was set.

• Shaneese Johnson, of the 110 block of Wynne Ford Road, Hertford, was arrested May 25 and charged with one count of failure to appear for a charge of driving while license revoked (non-impaired revocation). A \$250 secured bond was set.

Jerry Midgette, of Hemlock Street, Hertford, was arrested June 4 and charged with one count each of assault on a female and communicating threats.

• Nathaniel Phillips, of the 4740 block of Integrity Court, Milton, Florida, was arrested June 5 and charged with trespass of real property. A \$300 secured bond was set.

• Jozeclyn Frierson, of the 300 block of Meads Loop, Hertford, was arrested June 6 and charged with one count each of simple assault and damage-injury to

personal property.

• Craig Goodwin, of the 1010 block of County Line Road, Tyner, was arrested June 6 and charged with one count each of failure to appear for a charge of financial card fraud and failure to appear for a charge of driving while license revoked (expired registration). A \$52,000 secured bond was set.

• Brandon Burrows, of the 1530 block of Ocean Highway North, Hertford, was arrested June 7 and charged

with two counts of misdemeanor larceny. A \$500 secured bond was set.

• Lance White, of the 330 block of King Street, Hertford, was arrested June 8 and charged with child support warrant. A \$60 secured bond was set.

• Donald Reilly, of Snug Harbor Road, Hertford, was arrested June 9 and charged with failure to appear and simple possession of a schedule VI controlled substance. A \$5,000 secured bond was set.

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GRASSROOTS ARTS PROJECT NARRATIVE

The Washington County Library is proud to announce the lineup for the 2022 Grassroots Arts Series, sponsored by the North Carolina Arts Council. This grant is offered to local institutions and allows them the opportunity to bring in artists from all over the state to share their crafts within the greater community. Months of preparation and contact with artists from all mediums has been truly rewarding and we are ecstatic to bring these wonderful acts to Washington County!

2022 "GRASSROOTS ARTS" SCHEDULE:

JUNE 3:

JUNE 20:

JUNE 22:

JUNE 24:

JAZZ BAND THE STANLEY BAIRD GROUP
Opening Act at Plymouth Black Bear Festival

2 DAY COMIC BOOK CLASS FOR TEENS AND ADULTS WITH L. JAMAL WALTON
at Washington County Library - 1 PM TO 5 PM
(There are a limited number of spots for the comic book class so contact the library to register at 252-793-2113 and ask for Brandy).

DR. MELINDA RATCHFORD'S TITANIC SHIP OF DREAMS
at Washington County Library - 5:30 PM

STORYTELLER DONNA WASHINGTON
at Washington County Library - 12 PM

For more information, contact the Washington County Library. A special thank you to the North Carolina Arts Council and our performers for their generosity in helping spread a love for the arts!

North Carolina Arts Council
Fifty years of leadership

These projects were supported by the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. NCArts.org

DEATHS

HERTFORD — Timothy Olen Smith, 67, died on Saturday, May 21, 2022. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 2-5 p.m., at Holiday Island Clubhouse, Hertford. Arrangements by Cremation Society of VA.

OBITUARY POLICY

For information on submitting obituaries or death notices Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 252-329-9505 or email obits@appgenc.com

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