

# Students were on the move after power outage

## 2 Petersburg elementaries affected

BY MARKUS SCHMIDT

STAFF WRITER

PETERSBURG — A power outage at two Petersburg schools caused by a traffic accident forced school officials to move more than 500 students to Petersburg High School yesterday.

The accident occurred around 10 a.m. when a truck hit a power line, which knocked out power in the area around Peabody Middle School and A.P. Hill Elementary School.

"It wasn't just a school thing, the entire neighborhoods were affected," said Cliff Davis, spokesman for the Petersburg Public Schools. Davis said power was restored at A.P. Hill by noon. "We fed the students lunch and when the power was back on, they resumed classes as normal."

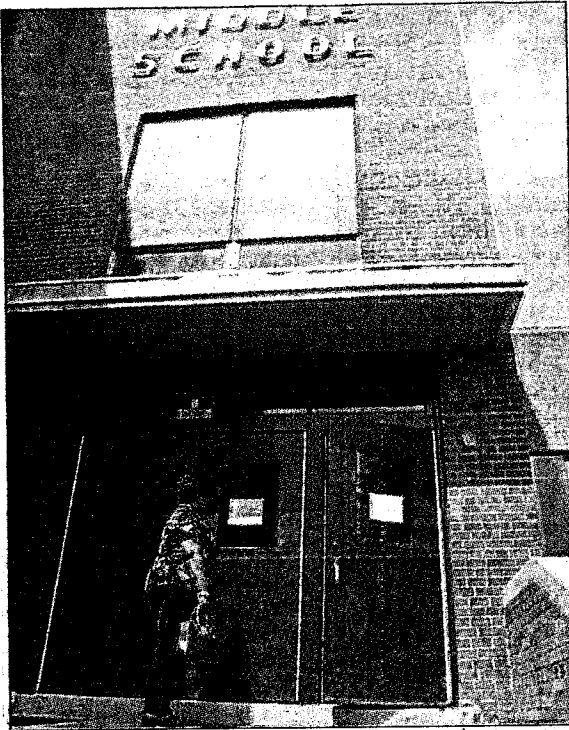
At Peabody, it was a different story. With no power, school officials decid-

ed to move the 580 students to Petersburg High, using 22 school buses. "Everything was conducted in a very organized manner, very quiet and professional," Davis said. Then students were told to write notes to their parents, explaining the reasons for the move.

In the meantime, the public schools' alert system notified parents, explaining the circumstances and asking them to pick up their children at the high school if possible.

"Students who usually walk home were taken back to Peabody at 2:45 p.m.," Davis said. Others were bused to their normal drop-off locations.

•Markus Schmidt may be reached at 722-55172 or [mschmidt@progress-index.com](mailto:mschmidt@progress-index.com).



MANDANA MARSH/STAFF PHOTO

Cheryl Riggins was disappointed when she went to Peabody Middle School to pick her son up for an appointment and found out students were at Petersburg High School due to a power outage.

# Growth Task Force on Overcrowding

## Group is examining alternatives to brick and mortar.

by Nick DeRatto  
Village News

As steady development across the county promises to add more students into a school system already feeling the strains of overcrowding, the CCPS Growth Task Force continues their work in looking at ways to alleviate overcrowding and prepare school facilities for the future.

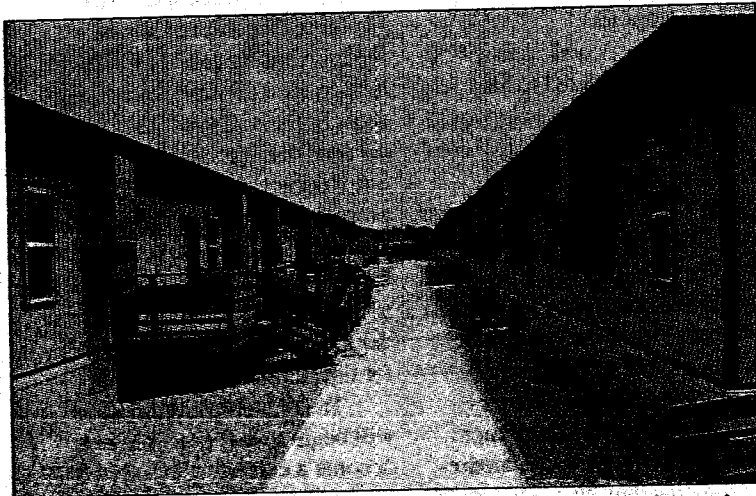
Having already tackled identifying the needs of the school system and looking at school construction, renovations, and additions, the Growth Task Force looked at alternatives to brick

and mortar during their meeting on August 28. To help get a range of possible solutions for Chesterfield's schools, the group welcomed Mike Burriss, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities for Wake County Public Schools in North Carolina.

"One of the first things that struck me from his presentation was how important it is to have community support," says David Wyman, Dale district representative on the School Board and co-chair of the Growth Task Force.

"The trouble they have

See 'Growth' page 3.



Temporary schools consisting entirely of trailers, such as this one in Wake County, NC, could provide a temporary solution to overcrowding in Chesterfield.

# Growth

*Continued from page 1.*

had because they were not able to get bond referendums shows how important it is for us to have the community actively involved in our decision-making. If Chesterfield is to be proactive, we must think of future needs and how to accommodate them."

Currently, Wake County schools have approximately 134,000 students and use over 1,150 trailers, with some schools using over 15 trailers; comparatively, Chesterfield has over 58,000 students, with 234 trailers in use for classrooms across the county.

"Out of necessity, they have had to establish temporary housing for their students and they have a more rampant use of temporary facilities," says Wyman. "That's not to say that they haven't done a marvelous job in reacting to their growth issues; they have done an excellent job in providing for the needs of their students. We just want to have our ducks in a row so that we don't get into that situation."

Solutions that Burriss offered included installing SIPS buildings, temporary buildings that resemble small houses and are more stable than trailers. When new schools are being built, Burriss also suggested the use of modular schools, essentially a school consisting entirely of trailers.

To serve 500 students, Wake County installed a modular school, similar to an open-air mall, consisting of 32 trailers serving as classrooms and separate trailers serving as media centers, play areas, administrative offices, student support services, and a kitchen and dining room.

Costs for a modular school is generally about two-thirds that of new construction costs, while SIPS buildings are generally three-fourths the cost of new construction.

Could Chesterfield be seeing some of these modular schools or SIPS buildings in the near future? According to Marshall Trammell, Bermuda District representative on the School Board, it's possible, though not likely.

"It's an intriguing possibility, but is still a huge investment for temporary quarters," says

Trammell. "The best I can say is that it would have to be under the right circumstances at the right time to work. Right now, we are just looking at how the task force digests all of these ideas."

The Growth Task Force has tentatively scheduled their next meeting for September 25 at the School Board main office at 9900 Krause Rd. and will be looking at the cost and financing of schools; they will be making their recommendations during the School Board work session on December 5.

nderatto@villagepublishing.com | 751-0421

# newsbriefs



Rebecca Lee

## Area Teen Attends Leadership Summit at Harvard Univ.

Chesterfield .....

Rebecca Lee, a student in Chester, Va., recently joined a select group of students representing their schools, communities, and country as People to People student leaders. From June 15-24, Lee attended the People to People Leadership Summit in Harvard University/MIT in Boston, Mass. Lee was nominated and accepted for the honor based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement, and leadership potential.

The People to People Leadership Summits bring together outstanding student leaders from around the globe to focus on leadership, team building, community service, college admissions, and professional aspirations.

A graduate of Salem Church Middle School, Lee is currently in her freshman year at L.C. Bird High School