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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Barge landing site generates public concern

Several concerned citizens voiced concerns about a proposed barge landing site in Winfall to Perquimans County commissioners this week, but commissioners said they had no jurisdiction over the land being proposed for the site.

"It is Winfall's problem, not ours," said Commissioner Thomas Nixon.

C.D. White cited environmental concerns, potential disruption of recreational activities and traffic concerns when he told the commissioners about the 19-acre site located on Major Street off N.C. Highway 37 between Winfall and Hertford.

The Division of Coastal Management is now reviewing the permit application submitted by the Outer Banks Contractors Inc. for a 300-foot rock bulkhead planned at the site, and comments on the project are being accepted through Dec. 8.

The property is within the Winfall zoning jurisdiction and it is zoned for commercial highway use. A barge landing would be an acceptable use under that designation.

White discussed the possible impact of the project on wetland areas which surround the site, and he said recreational activity on the river will also be impacted. He said the barges would obstruct the use of the river west of the site where the river narrows.

He also said traffic is a concern. He said additional truck traffic on N.C. Highway 37 could pose a threat to school bus traffic to and from nearby Central and Middle schools.

White added that the slow barge traffic along the river may also cause a problem, but Commissioner Lester Simpson and Nixon said that the river used to be used extensively in the past for commercial uses and the barge traffic did not cause a problem.

"What you are saying is the river can't be used for business anymore," Nixon asked. White said if any use of the river endangers its use as a recreational resource and may be an environmental concern should be looked at closely.

"It takes business to help make pleasure exist," Nixon said. "We have got to have a source to provide payroll for these other things to be."

White said though there is no indication on the permit application that the company plans to build an asphalt plant at the site, that has been a rumor circulating among the community.

Officials at the Outer Banks Contractors Inc., as well as the engineering firm of Bissell and Associates, could not be reached for comment at press time for comments on the rumors of an asphalt plant.

Reorganization

Commissioners re-elected Lester Simpson as chairman of the county and Durward Reed was named as vice chairman.

Committee appointments

Wayne Winslow was appointed to the Emergency Medical Services Committee. Annita Tillet was appointed to the Private Industry Council. Bobby Jones was appointed to the Industrial Development Commission.

Commissioners agreed to pay \$1,565 for the operation during the first year of the Welcome Center on U.S. Highway 17. Simpson said the General Assembly will be asked to fund the operation of the system in subsequent years.



Hertford Christmas Parade

Some strange creatures were wandering the streets of Hertford during the annual Christmas parade last weekend. Members of the Perquimans High School marching band were the hit of the show at the parade.



Gail Godwin is sworn in by Judge John C. Chaffin.

Godwin becomes clerk of court

L. Gail Godwin was sworn in as Clerk of Superior Court of Perquimans County at the office of the Honorable John T. Chaffin, Chief District Court Judge, at 9 a.m., December 5, 1988 in Elizabeth City, NC.

She assumed her duties immediately at 10:30 a.m. by swearing in the new County Commissioners,

Wayne Winslow, D. F. Reed, Jr., Thomas D. Nixon and Lester H. Simpson and Harriette Dail, Assistant Clerk and Annie Lou Chappell, Deputy Clerk. Later in the evening, she administered the oath of office to the new members of the Board of Education - Benjamin C. Hobbs and L. Wayne Howell.

Godwin was elected to this office Nov. 8, replacing Welly W. White.

Sound study officials boost public involvement

Officials of the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study want the public to be more involved in the study process.

Low public attendance at a recent project meeting has study officials concerned that not enough emphasis has been placed on involving the public, including local and state elected officials, in the study process.

Evaluators of the study also urged officials to involve the public more, and actions were taken this week to help study officials achieve that goal when Policy Committee members approved more funding for public participation projects.

Meeting at the College of the Albemarle on Nov. 28, the lead committee for the study agreed to increase allocations for public participation by shifting 10 percent of the study funds from research to public participation projects, increasing the allocation for public participation to 20 percent of the study funds. This is in conjunction with an effort in the third cycle call for research proposals to urge researchers to submit proposals for public involvement projects.

County action clears way for development

Perquimans County commissioners approved a change in the county's land-use plan Monday allowing for the 650-acre subdivision and golf course on the shores of the Albemarle Sound.

Commissioners then voted unanimously to approve the change of the land designation from "rural" to "transitional." A rural designation has a minimum lot size of 15,000 square feet, and lot sizes in the Albemarle Plantation development range from 6,000 to 10,000 square feet.

All this came after a public hearing last week in which more than 50 concerned citizens attended to voice concerns about the impact of the development on the environment and how the county will provide the additional services to such a large development.

"It will be up to the permit agencies to determine how the land is developed," said Chairman Lester

Simpson, adding that the county planning board had no objections to the change in the land-use plan.

The development is located adjacent to Holiday Island in the Bethel Township at the mouth of the Yeopim Creek. Plans in the initial phase of development include a bulkhead, 914 housing units, an 18-hole golf course, a club house, and a land-application sewer plant.

There are 15 state and federal agencies now involved in reviewing the project, and two of the agencies have already recommended that the Division of Coastal Management deny the permit until more information has been provided by the developers on the plans for the project.

Concerns about proposed ponds on the property and the impact of the ponds on the wetland areas were expressed by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the state's Division of Marine Fisheries.

Leary hired as new director of canal welcome center

Penny Leary has been hired as the new director of the Dismal Swamp Welcome Center. Ms Leary resides in Camden with her two children, Cynthia and Kelly.

She attended Kee's Coastal Business College and College of the Albemarle. She is chairman of tourism for the Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce and recently directed Leary the F.A.M. tour in Elizabeth City and Camden. She is president of the Executive Women's Network, member of the board of directors of the American Cancer Society, Al-

bemarle Area Community Concerts, Elizabeth City Business and Professional Women's Organization, Camden United Methodist Church and a "Rose Buddy."

The welcome center will begin operations in mid-spring. The North Carolina Department of Transportation built the 1,560 square foot facility for approximately \$1.1 million. DOT will maintain the outside area including a 150-foot dock with boat slips on the canal in back of the center.

Leary says she's looking forward to getting started. She said the center will make a major contribution to the tourism industry for the area. "We can all be optimistic that this visitors center will be the gateway to our area," she said.



Jason Harrell ... state winner in Swine Cumulative Record

Harrell headed to 4-H Congress December 2-8

Perquimans County 4-H'er Jason Harrell will attend the 67th National 4-H Congress December 2-8 in Chicago, Ill. He is the son of Tommy and Sherry Harrell of Route 1, Hertford.

Jason is the State Swine Cumulative Record Book winner. His trip is being sponsored by Pfizer Inc. and the Gary Stott Memorial Fund.

He is among some 42 delegates from 30 North Carolina counties who will attend the congress. The Tar Heel 4-H'ers will join about 1,600 delegates representing 4-H clubs across the nation.

Each year the National 4-H Council recognizes outstanding 4-H'ers by providing educational scholarships. This year some \$284,000 in scholarships in some 40 program areas will be awarded to 279 national and regional winners. The scholarships range in value from \$500 to \$1,500 each.

The National 4-H Council coordinates the annual 4-H Congress in cooperation with state extension services of land-grant institutions. About 60 corporations, foundations and other organizations provide funds to the council for trips, scholarships and other support.

This year's National 4-H Congress theme stresses 4-H involvement in guiding youth toward being self-directing, productive American citizens. A special congress highlight will be a celebration of the successful completion of The Campaign for 4-H - a five-year, \$90 million fund-raising campaign.

Horizons crowd cites little progress

Slow progress was cited as one of the reasons for the low turnout of residents at a meeting last week held by Hertford Horizons officials to inform the public about what has been done in the plan to build a better future for the town.

The project is designed to address three main issues: downtown revitalization, industrial recruitment and development, and the quality of life. The town's project is being conducted in conjunction with the state Division of Community Assistance. The division has established a Strategic Plan for Economic Progress, and Hertford is one of seven towns in the state selected to participate in the program.

Committee chairmen discussed what had been completed in the planning stages for the project, but several of the fewer than 30 members of the public who attended the meeting said that nothing concrete had actually been accomplished aside from generating planning

documents.

"Either you get off your butts and do something or sit down," said W.A. "Billy" White, referring to some plans in the past for the town to build a hospital or for the construction of a hotel that were not pursued. "That is all there is to it."

Program officials said they hoped what was presented last night was just the beginning of many good things to come. "We need all of your help to get the job done," said Mary Harrell, director of the Chamber of Commerce and co-chairman of the Hertford Horizons steering committee, adding that she invites and encourages residents of the town to inquire and show interest in what is going on in the project.

"Preservation of Hertford and orderly growth are our two main concerns," said Carl Terranova, owner of Apricot Industries and co-chairman of the Steering Committee. "Hertford Horizons wants to preserve what is best in Hertford

and build upon that, but the seven people on this committee can't do it alone. Hertford Horizons is your program, and we need your help," he told the audience.

John Christensen, chairman of the Downtown Revitalization Committee, said maintaining a viable downtown area is critical to the town's future. He said the goals of his committee, in order of priority, are:

- Renovation of the storefronts in the downtown area with an emphasis on restoring the original appearance of the buildings.
- Provide additional parking space by removal of the Broughton building on Market Street.
- Conducting a survey to determine the feasibility of extending downtown store hours and attracting additional businesses.
- Encourage more cooperation among downtown merchants, possibly by re-establishing a Merchants' Committee.
- Develop uses for existing vacant

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John Christensen, chairman of the Hertford Horizons Downtown Revitalization Committee, describes some of the plans to restore the storefronts in the downtown area.