

Roanoke Electric Cooperative expands internet service

From Staff Reports

AULANDER — Roanoke Electric Cooperative has announced the locations throughout its service territory where broadband internet construction and demand response device installations has started. Co-op member-owners living in those areas who

have already signed up, will soon begin receiving internet service and experiencing smart energy device cost-savings.

The project known as Roanoke Connect extends the co-op's fiber optic network deeper into its service territory, enabling broadband internet connectivity and operational smart ther-

mostats and water heater control devices. With home installations underway, subscribing member-owners in the locations listed will start receiving service as early as April.

"We are eager to introduce Roanoke Connect to our member-owners," said co-op CEO and President, Curtis Wynn. "Citizens liv-

ing in our rural communities deserve the same access to quality internet service and smart technology options enjoyed by those residing in America's largest cities. Through Roanoke Connect, Roanoke Electric Cooperative will enhance co-op member-owners' lives by providing the same high standards of reliability and

excellence it has provided its member-owners for the past 80 years."

Subscribing member-owners living in areas not yet listed during this first phase of construction and installations should continue to monitor roanoke.crowdfiber.com locations and schedule and zones map for updates and look

for co-op crews as work expands throughout the co-op service territory.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is the nonprofit electric cooperative with over 2,000 miles of line serving over 14,500 member-owners in parts of Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton, Gates, Perquimans and Chowan counties.

ELECTION

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wouldn't work. Nicanor has just 226 voters, while Bethel has 2,863 and New Hope has 2,237.

"My personal preference, at this juncture, would be to go to a system where we have three or four districts."

It would be some variation of Bethel, New Hope, and then one or two district(s) cut out from a hybrid of the East and West Hertford/Belvidere/Nicanor/Parkville precincts), and then three at-large seats.

"We would then have to decide whether the entire county votes for every district, or just residents of that district," Jones said. "Currituck and Dare do the former. Pasquotank has a version of the latter. My personal belief is that this system allows for fairer representation."

Jones, who has twice won election, also admits a change could have negative impacts

"It may result in a less-diverse board. This may be the case, or it may not. The other argument against a change is the potential for an increased partisan divisiveness in local politics, despite the fact that party affiliation is largely irrelevant at the county level."

Kyle Jones

Perquimans county commissioner

"It may result in a less-diverse board. This may be the case, or it may not. The other argument against a change is the potential for an increased partisan divisiveness in local politics, despite the fact that party affiliation is largely irrelevant at the county level."

What Jones does fear is a "a board full of partisan hacks" that would change the cordial relationship the board has enjoyed.

"Losing that board characteristic would be irreversible, and a travesty."

While Jones does think a change is needed, he's open to ideas.

"I have, since law school, had the belief (taken from a quote from my pastor in Lynchburg) that it's important to have a healthy skepticism of my own opinions, so I'm open to having my mind changed on the issue."

One thing is true. If the county changed the election system, it wouldn't have to first get permission from the Justice Department.

A 2013 Supreme Court decision held the requirement of pre-clearance was invalid unless they were covered by a separate court order under the Voting Rights Act.

PLAN

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District.

"Perquimans has a Voluntary Agriculture District ordinance that was adopted in 2009, however more farmers need to be aware of the benefits of enrollment."

■ Promote appreciation and awareness of the benefits of agriculture to Perquimans elected officials and citizens.

"Today the majority of the general population is

removed from farming and agribusiness. The public needs to understand the importance of agriculture to the local economy."

■ Expand and support youth agriculture programs.

"Agribusiness leaders, farmers and non-farm residents were all in favor of youth agriculture education as important to the future of agriculture in Perquimans County."

■ Develop technical, business and marketing training for the maintenance and expansion of

agriculture in Perquimans County.

"Perquimans County farmers expressed a need for training in numerous areas relating to changes, growth and opportunities in agriculture."

In terms of timelines, two are slated for late 2018 and the others are either under way or will be shortly.

The estate planning workshops should start late this year and it was recommended the program be presented annually.

HOUSE

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stamp for each point of interest visited in Perquimans County.

The 1730 Quaker Homestead will also be the location for the Perquimans County Schools' fourth grade Living History Day held on April 17 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.. In addition, the cruise boat Belle of Washington will be bringing history buffs to tour and dine at the Quaker homestead

on May 11. The PCRA annual Garden Party will take place on May 19. The fall Jollification ('making merr'y') with tours of historic homes in New Hope, followed by dinner, happens on Sept 29.

Volunteers are needed. Shifts are three-hours and volunteers are encouraged to help out for at least one shift per month. Volunteers work as receptionists, staff the gift shop, and as docents provide guided history tours of the house and grounds. Training will

be provided. Costumes are optional and can be provided.

To learn more about upcoming events and or to volunteer, visit the PCRA and NBWH websites at www.perquimansrestoration.org or call the NBWH at 426-7567. Someone will respond to your online inquiry or your telephone call.

The house and visitor's center are at 151 Newbold-White Road, 1.2 miles south of 17 on Harvey Point Road.

RADAR

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and patterning.

A magnetometer will be used this month as well.

This month's survey will cost \$10,000. While expensive, Ernest said the cost of

getting professionals in to dig is even more costly.

"The scanning is what you do before any digging."

Ernest said the scanning isn't being done on any random site. He said a previous survey showed the area near the entrance road showed promise as the

possible site for the Scott house.

The scanning should start on April 24, weather permitting.

Ernest is realistic that this month's efforts may not pan out.

"It's possible we find nothing."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kids could see tractors up close during Ag Night at Perquimans Central School last month.

Central hosts Ag Night

From Staff Reports

Combines, tractors, goats, pigs, food and games drew approximately 480 people to Perquimans Central School last month for Ag Night.

The event is sponsored by Perquimans County Farm Bureau through a \$500 agricultural outreach grant. The Ag in the Classroom, Going Local program provides students with real world learning experiences related to the industry.

Stephanie Crank, an Exceptional Children's teacher at PCS and three-time recipient of the grant, said she wanted to use the money to highlight local farmers and the agricultural industry.

"I am appreciative to Perquimans County Farm Bureau for funding this event so students can have exposure at an early age to local agriculture," Crank said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Logan and Brooklyn Griffin pet some goats during Ag Night at Perquimans Central School.

Church hosting 'Spring Miracle'

From Staff Reports

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Elizabeth City is holding their seventh annual "Spring Miracle" fundraiser event on April 14.

Doors open at 11 a.m. and the luncheon starts at 11:45 a.m. Tickets are \$10 and include a luncheon with chicken salad, pasta salad

and homemade desserts.

All proceeds go to community outreach ministries like the Food Bank of the Albemarle, Hopeline domestic abuse shelter, Ministry of Encouragement to those serving the public, feeding of the homeless/hungry, H. L. Trigg Alternative School, and Backpack Buddies for children in the

community.

There will be a fashion show by White's Dress Shoppe of Hertford, baskets for raffle, and door prizes.

For tickets, visit Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 501 Interpath Parkway Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. or call 338-6210.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

PERQUIMANS COUNTY SHERIFF

■ 3/24 Tim Lyton, Lake Road, failure to appear, \$3,000 secured bond.
 ■ 3/24 Denise King, Oliver Street, worthless

check.

■ 3/26 James Jordan, Swamp Road, failure to appear, \$500 secured bond.

■ 3/27 Jaeasha Williams, Wynne Fork Court, communicating threats, written promise to appear.

In need of Route drivers to deliver products to local grocery stores.

Apply in person @ Nixon's Family Restaurant 327 River Rd. Edenton

Nominations sought for 'Special Friend' award

From Staff Reports

The Friends of the Perquimans County Library is accepting nominations for the annual "Special Friend Of The County" award through April 13.

People are invited to nominate volunteers they know, and suggest outgoing citizens dedicated to enhancing the county and its people.

Nominations can be mailed to the Perquimans County Library, 514 S. Church St., Hertford, 27944.

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