



LESLIE BEACHBOARD / Bertie Ledger-Advance

The tradition of Way of the Cross continued in Windsor Friday afternoon.

Way of the Cross held



Father Mike Kerin (right) of Holy Spirit Catholic Church speaks at one of the stops.

BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - The Good Friday tradition continues.

Last Friday (April 14) about 35 citizens from Bertie County and beyond gathered for the Way of the Cross - a local tradition on Good Friday.

Participants gathered at the Bertie County Courthouse and took turns carrying the cross as they remembered what Jesus experienced on Good Friday.

The Way of the Cross journey continued from the courthouse, down the sidewalk of King Street, across the Cashie River Bridge and ended at the gazebo.

During the walk, participants would pause for 14 reflections on the life and death of Jesus. A participant led each stop.

"We used to walk around the town and made a stop by St. Thomas Episcopal Church for communion, but we decided to change the plan for the walk to the river. This is so anyone may feel comfortable walking with us," said Father Mike Kerin of Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

During the walk, participants shared thought, feelings and sang songs while on the journey.

Windsor United Methodist Church, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church and Holy Spirit Catholic Church sponsored the Way of the Cross.

Notification sought from CADA

BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD
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PERRYTOWN - Bertie County Commissioners heard an update from Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA) Director Sallie Surface at Monday night's meeting.

Surface explained some of the CADA programs have had budget cuts, and if all of the expected cuts happen then CADA will no longer resemble its present.

"The weatherization program will have changes due to the budget cut due to the cuts to the program that provides weatherization funding," said Surface.

Surface wanted to direct attention to the Individual in Poverty per County numbers.

"The studies use raw numbers and not percentages. Larger cities have more resources to assist the families," she added.

According to Surface, funding received for one grant in the 2014-2015 fiscal year was \$94,000. The same funding for the 2017-2018 fiscal year decreased to \$62,000, a 1/3 reduction.

Surface said she has questioned the state.

"Where do these numbers come from?" asked Commissioner Ronald Wesson.

"It is yearly data that is done nationally," answered Surface.

"Someone from CADA came before us in the past and said part of the numbers came from the census. We need to get everyone to participate in the census," Wesson added.

Surface also explained CADA received a Disaster Employee Program. The program assisted in temporarily hiring 27 individuals to help towns with clean up assistance due to last year's storms.

"We have applied for more money for the program because the funding previously received has been exhausted," added Surface.

Bertie County Commission Chairman John Trent advised Surface the commission board would like notifications of changes because it does help fund CADA.

"We were unaware that Andre Rowe had

been moved to Rich Square and someone had taken over his position. Will the job fairs and activities Andre was active in continue?" asked Trent.

"The job fairs will continue because it is part of the job description," Surface answered.

Surface also explained there were 14 applications received for a housing program to help those affected by Hurricane Matthew.

"We take the applications, then they are uploaded to the state. If you did not apply to FEMA, you cannot qualify. It is not going to be easy, but it is a resource for Bertie County. How soon a house will be rehhabbed will be a good question," she added.

Surface explained 155 families are being served in Section Eight Rent Payment Assistance Program.

"HUD requires a waiting list to close when the list reaches a certain point. When the list shortens, it will open back up. Homeownership opportunities are also available for Section Eight recipients," said Surface.

"How many individuals have successfully become homeowners?" asked Wesson.

"There have been some but not as many as we would like," replied Surface.

How many families come off of Section Eight?" asked Wesson.

"We sent out about 30 new vouchers a month so we have about 30 families coming off of Section Eight each month. The bottom line is HUD requires guidelines and makes the rules," replied Surface.

"Is there a program to help individuals on Section Eight find local jobs?" asked Wesson.

"We can try and get this information to the Section Eight and Smart-Start families. One of the biggest problems with home buying programs is people do not have the credit score. A financial literacy class should begin at a young age," said Surface.

"I understand the focus on housing but we should be concerned about getting the people on Section Eight better employment," added Wesson.

BCHD slates clinics

WINDSOR - The Bertie County Health Department has slated its clinics schedule for the remainder of the week.

There is a fee, based on income, for most clinics. Immunizations and General clinics are held every day, and other clinics are by appointment. They include:

Wednesday, April 19
Bertie: New Prenatal PM, General, WIC All Day
Thursday, April 20

Bertie: Adult Health AM, General, WIC
Friday, April 21
Bertie: General
Monday, April 24

Bertie: Women's Health Services All Day, General
Tuesday, April 25
Bertie: Child Health PM, General, WIC
Wednesday, April 26
Bertie: General, WIC All Day, DR PN PM

Thursday, April 27
Bertie: General
Friday, April 28
Bertie: General

Monday, May 1
Bertie: DEPO PM, General, WIC All Day
Tuesday, May 2
Bertie: General, WIC
Wednesday, May 3
Bertie: New Prenatal AM, General

Thursday, May 4
Bertie: General, WIC
Friday, May 5
Bertie: General
Monday, May 8
Bertie: Women's Health Services All Day, General, WIC All Day



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