

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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Zoning board gives nod to bed and breakfasts

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

Hertford's board of zoning and adjustments gave the nod to allow the conditional use of bread and breakfast facilities in R-10, residential zones, despite the protests of several R-10 residents.

The town council has final approval over the change and interim Mayor Billy Winslow said the council rarely goes against recommendations from the board of zoning and adjustments. The council will hear the issue during its next meeting on Aug. 12.

The board of zoning and adjustments held a public hearing on the issue last

Thursday in the town offices. Six of the seven board members approved the recommendation with Bob Clinkscales being the lone dissenter. If the rezoning is adopted, it would mainly impact neighborhoods along Market and Front streets and a portion of North Church Street.

Perquimans County's Economic Development Director Robert Baker, who said he was acting as a private citizen, requested the zoning change.

"It can trigger a clean-up, it can trigger a development" of Hertford, Baker said.

Baker said despite public perceptions that bed and breakfast facilities decrease

property values, an examination of several properties near bed and breakfast inns in Edenton show astronomical rises in property values. One property value tripled in a seven-year period. Rezoning opponents said bed and breakfast facilities had little to do with the dramatic increases in Edenton property values.

"We've got to become major players in the entire northeast," said Sandra Smith, Executive Director of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce. "We've got to look at Hertford. This is a dying little town. People who stay at bed and breakfasts are upscale travelers, they are looking for unique lodgings.

We've got to take steps to be ready for these travelers."

Rezoning opponents said they are not against the bed and breakfast concept, but believe the town, based on history, will not be aggressive enough in controlling people who might violate the conditions placed on a bed and breakfast permit.

"The purpose of a zoning ordinance is to sustain a quality of neighborhood," Jo Ann Morris said. "Perhaps if town officials had been more forceful in enforcing previous zoning we wouldn't be apprehensive."

Resident Brian Piontka, who moved to Hertford from New York, said a resident in

his former neighborhood ran a so-called bed and breakfast. Piontka did not say what the business was, but said, "She just murdered the system."

Iris Heatherington said several times the town had tried taking down or rezoning homes along Market Street but were stopped by citizen protest. One home the town tried rezoning was eventually bought by Piontka, who renovated the house and now lives there with his family.

Julian Winslow, who lived near the now-defunct Gingerbreak Inn Bed and Breakfast, said the facility never created problems for him and added that several empty houses along Market

and Front streets would benefit from being turned into bed and breakfast facilities.

"I and anyone in this room would be in favor of having a bed and breakfast next to them rather than the scum that lives next to me," Market Street resident Renee Skinner said.

Marge Ambrose, who fought the town council for several years over enforcing the zoning regulations impacting Stancil's Bi-Rite Supermarket when it was located on Dobbs Street, agreed with Morris that the council and zoning board's history did not support enforcement.

Council will meet in regular session on Monday, Aug. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Privatized garbage collection begins

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Garbage collection in Hertford will change hands next week.

Waste Industries Inc., the company contracted by the town to collect garbage, will pick up for the first time next Tuesday. Recycling pick-ups will start Thursday.

Company officials spent this week delivering 90-gallon rollable refuse containers and smaller recycling bins to Hertford residents, according to spokesperson Winkie Lassiter. Lassiter said in addition to the containers, the company is leaving brochures on Waste Industries' services and tips on recycling.

The brochures tell residents to place garbage in the rollable, curbside garbage containers only. The containers should be rolled to the curb and placed at the edge of the street with the handles facing the house on Monday evening to insure collection on Tuesday. The containers should not be near mailboxes, fences, lamp posts or other obstructions.

All normal household trash and garbage may be placed in the rollable containers. Waste Industries encourages using plastic garbage bags and hoisting out the containers periodically.

Items that cannot be placed in the containers are dirt; rocks or concrete; toxic or flammable materials such as oil, gas or paint; hot ashes; debris from construction, remodeling or demolition; and any hazardous material.

One container will be provided to each residence at no charge. The containers hold the equivalent of three or four normal garbage cans. Residents who regularly generate more refuse than the container will hold may purchase additional containers from Waste Industries. There is no limit on the number of containers a household may use; however, only the 90-gallon rollable carts will be serviced by Waste Industries.

Waste Industries encourages recycling through its Be Involved Now, or BIN, program.

The town of Hertford will continue to pick up dead animals and yard waste at no charge. There is a charge for town pick-up of items such as furniture and appliances.

MEET THE CHANCELLOR



The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce was busy last week. On Wednesday evening, the Chamber hosted a reception honoring ECSU Chancellor Mickey Burnim at Albemarle Plantation. The Chamber's Historic District Commission sponsored a picnic Sunday afternoon on the Front Street lawn of Lucille Winslow to raise funds to establish historic districts in the county to be included in the National Register of Historic Places. Both events were well-attended.

Chamber gears for Festival

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Layers of homespun fun iced with the famous Bill Deal and Ammon Tharp are being cooked up by the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce Indian Summer Festival Committee.

"We want to offer so many opportunities to people to have fun that they won't want to miss Indian Summer Festival next year," said executive director of the Chamber, Sandra Smith. "Festival chairman Paige Eure and vice chairman Diane Stallings are doing a wonderful job with Indian Summer '96. Many of our members have called and offered to help in any way they can. With all this enthusiasm and willingness to work, we think this year's festival will be the best ever."

Festival '96 will kick off on Friday, Sept. 20 at Perquimans County High School with a barbecue supper and Miss Indian Summer Festival pageant.

The format for Saturday will change from that of the past few years. Events will take place in historic downtown Hertford, where festivalgoers will be able to purchase a variety of handmade crafts, shop in the friendly atmosphere of hometown stores, and enjoy a wide variety of entertainment on the courthouse lawn stage. Hunger pangs can be cured at Corner Cuisine, a



Bill Deal and Ammon Tharp, the original Rhondels, will take the stage at the Indian Summer Festival street dance on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 8 p.m. The Virginia Beach duo boasts one of the most popular beach music bands along the East Coast.

food court featuring treats to delight the taste buds. Entertainers will include the Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates band, the Flatland Cloggers, local vocalists, bands, and dance groups.

Opening the festival downtown will be band, August, sponsored by CableVision.

Children and teens will love all the activities in store for them at the Waterfront Pavillion behind the Hertford Town offices.

Festival events will culminate with the most famous band ever to grace an Indian Summer Festival stage, Bill Deal and Ammon Tharp, the

original Rhondels.

"Engaging Bill Deal and Ammon Tharp is really a big step for us," Smith said. "But our Chamber board felt that bringing a big name group for the street dance will show our commitment to making the Indian Summer Festival one of the premiere small town festivals in the state. We want to bring people from all over to Perquimans County and let them see for themselves what a wonderful community this is, and therefore, encourage them to come back."

Applications to rent booths will be accepted until Aug. 10. For applications, call the Chamber office at 426-5657.

2020 Coalition gets incubator grant

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The county's economic development program received a boost with the receipt of a \$65,000 grant from Rural Economic and Community Development, formerly FmHA.

Perquimans 2020 Vision Coalition submitted the successful grant application, which will be used to help fund a business incubator.

According to Perquimans County Economic Planner and Developer Robert Baker Jr., the incubator project is called Albemarle Region Incubator and Business Enterprise, or ARISE. Business incubators, which have been successful in other areas of the state, provide space for several small businesses to get a healthy start under one roof. Incubator occupants share expenses for such items as copiers and computers.

As the business grows and is able to operate in its own headquarters, the business moves from the incubator, making room for another small business to get its start, Baker said.

"I'm a firm believer that the talent does exist (in the area) to start businesses and grow businesses," Baker said.

What Baker, the 2020 Vision Coalition, and the Perquimans County Economic Development Commission hope to see is an incubator in the county's commerce center. With success, businesses receiving assistance from the incubator project could become commerce center occupants, providing jobs and expanding the local tax base.

Baker sees the incubator project as an investment.

"If we invest in our own people, I believe we will see a big payoff," Baker said.

The economic developer said he would like to see the

approximately 500 people who drive to Virginia to work each day be able to get jobs locally.

"I'd like to see those people who go to Hampton Roads to work each day use their time and talents here," Baker said.

The initial grant is not enough to cover the cost of an incubator. A grant application for \$200,000 has also been submitted to the North Carolina Technology Development Authority.

Baker said the state agency has received six grant applications, but he believes Perquimans' application has the best chance of funding if the legislature makes the monies available.

Baker said he is asking everyone with any contacts in Raleigh to push for the county's funding.

"I see it (the grant) as seed money to jump-start the commerce center," Baker said. "It's a way of getting Perquimans County's share of our tax money back."

Baker is hoping the county can present itself well when 50 officials with the North Carolina Department of Commerce visit Northeastern North Carolina in September, along with some prospective developers.

"It's a great opportunity to show off who we are and what we have," Baker said.

Several areas of Perquimans County, including the downtown area, Hertford's industrial park on Don Juan Drive, the future commerce center site and Albemarle Plantation, will be on tour during the officials' visit.

Baker said he would like to see everyone work together to clean up and fix up the county. Pride in the county evidenced by well-kept businesses and homes is one thing prospective commerce center clients consider when deciding where to locate, Baker said.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 80s Low: 60s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 80s Low: 60s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 80s Low: 60s PARTLY CLOUDY