

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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Calling all students! The first day of school is August 21

Perquimans County an All of Us Community

August's theme: **Know who you are** focusing on

Asking yourself what you stand for; Personal values

Incorporate these Healthy HABITS into your daily life and help make our community a better place to live!

For **All of Us Care** information, contact Sandra Smith Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce 426-5657

Fate of causeway traffic undecided

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The Hertford Town Council is still in session.

After hearing proposals by Don Conner of the N.C. Department of Transportation on way to curtail heavy traffic on the S-bridge and causeway, council opted to recess its Monday night meeting until next Monday night to give council members time to decide what option they will take regarding the bridge.

Councilman Erie Haste said he did not want to wait until September's regular meeting to take action, but wanted council to have time to consider its options carefully before

making a final decision. Town attorney Walter Edwards advised the board that they could by statute recess the meeting at its conclusion rather than adjourn to avoid calling a special meeting.

The option presented by Conners that seemed most amenable to the board will require a combination of measures. First, Conners said, the town could request that the route of U.S. Highway 17 Business be changed. The business route presently turns off of U.S. 17 at its intersection with New Hope Road, runs south across the causeway and down Church Street, turns west onto Dobbs Street, then

south again onto Edenton Road Street. Edenton Road Street and the bypass route merge again at the town's southern boundaries.

Conners presented council with a map that showed a new route that would leave U.S. 17 bypass at the intersection of the highway and Church Street Extended, then turn west onto Dobbs Street and follow the present route back to the Edenton Road Street-bypass junction.

Step two would be to designate the portion of Church Street north of Dobbs Street a secondary road so that it can be restricted to light traffic. Enforcement would come

through a civil ordinance and fine.

The proposal would allow school buses to cross the causeway. Trucks weighing under 13,000 pounds could also still cross the causeway legally, Conners said. Trucks unloading at downtown businesses would also be allowed.

"I know of no way whatsoever to stop every truck," Conners said. "That's impossible."

When asked if the measure would help prolong the life of the historic S-bridge, Conners replied, "If you take some of the heavier traffic off of it, that's certainly valuable."

He added that the causeway

is actually more vulnerable to damage than the bridge.

Conners said other ways that could be chosen to halt excessive traffic on the causeway would be complicated, difficult to understand and harder to enforce.

Conners estimated it would take about 60 days from the town passes an ordinance to implement the plan.

"It's not some long, drawn-out process," he said.

While council opted to wait to make its decision, several residents attending the meeting indicated they thought council should act Monday.

Council will resume its meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESSES OPEN



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce welcomed two new businesses to Hertford with grand opening ribbon cuttings last Thursday. Riverwalk Gallery (above) is located on Courthouse Square and is owned and operated by Judy Christensen. Cindy's Crafts (below) is housed on Grubb Street in the former Morgan Furniture Building. It is owned and operated by Cindy Bowling.



Christensen, Bowling open shops

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Two new faces have joined the merchants in downtown Hertford.

Judy Christensen and Cindy Bowling, owners of Riverwalk Gallery and Cindy's Crafts, respectively, were welcomed to the business community by the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce with ribbon cuttings last Thursday.

Christensen offers a variety of items in her 302 Courthouse Square shop. Riverwalk offers the work of several local artisans. From paintings to rings, the quaint Riverwalk showcases local talent.

Christensen also has antiques, down-home cookbooks and collectibles.

Many of the items in the Riverwalk Gallery would make lovely gifts for most occasions.

The shop owner is not a newcomer to the

Hertford business community. She is the former co-owner and manager of Darden Department Store which closed earlier this year.

Riverwalk is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cindy's Crafts features a variety of craft items from fabric crochet to ceramics. Items in the store range from the purely decorative to those that can be used every day.

In addition, Bowling carries a limited supply of craft supplies for the do-it-yourselfer.

Bowling has offered her handmade pieces at craft shows and festivals, including last year's Indian Summer Festival. Her stock is a mixture of her creations and pieces she is selling on consignment.

Crafters interested in selling their work on consignment are invited to stop by and speak with Bowling. Store hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Existing officer will serve housing authority if COPs grant approved

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

If the Hertford Housing Authority's COPs grant application is approved, it will not mean a new officer will join the Hertford Police Department.

Rhonda Waters, executive director of the Housing Authority, spoke to council at the board's July meeting, telling them she has applied for a COPs grant. Waters said the grant is worth \$82,418 over a three-year period and would put a full-time law officer patrolling the housing projects. The grant requires that the officer be hired through the Hertford Police Department.

While the grant would cover the officer's salary and benefits, Waters said it would not cover the cost of outfitting the officer with transportation, a weapon and uniforms. She asked council to consider funding the cost of outfitting the officer.

Waters reminded council at that time that the housing authority had received grants in the past that funded law enforcement needs. She said the authority paid \$3,826 for pagers for the police department and helped both the police and sheriff's department by providing a \$7,200 grant to purchase the PIN system.

Waters said that while local law officers have cooperated with the housing authority, the police department does not presently have the manpower to dedicate one officer to the housing authority full-time.

"We cannot effectively do the job without an officer," Waters said of the authority's

efforts to improve the quality of life at the projects. She said removing those who sell drugs and cause problems at the projects is essential to improving the image and environment at the projects.

Council instructed Waters, town manager John Christensen, police chief Bennie Murphy and councilman Billy Winslow to meet to discuss the costs of the program to the town and report back to council.

Obviously, someone did not agree with Waters that the police department does not have the manpower to devote a full-time officer to the authority. On Monday, Christensen told council he recommended using an existing officer to cover the projects so that the town would not be required to spend the money to outfit the officer. The town would use the grant money to pay an officer to be designated to work housing authority facilities. There are presently eight officers on the force.

"I honestly don't believe we have enough with those eight (officers)," said King Street resident J.O. Gibbs.

Gibbs said she objected to the town using an existing officer to patrol housing authority properties. She said there is a need for an additional officer.

Murphy was out of town on vacation Monday and Tuesday, and was not at the council meeting.

Christensen could not be reached for comment by press time Tuesday. He did not say Monday night how funding through the COPs grant will affect law officers' schedules, the number of officers on duty at any given time or the town's budget.

Outside

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
High: 80s	Low: 70	High: 80s	Low: 70	High: 90	Low: 70
SCATTERED STORMS		SCATTERED STORMS		PARTLY CLOUDY	