



The Perquimans Weekly

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Building progress on target at both schools

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Progress remains on target at both Central School and Hertford Grammar School, M.C. Kahn Construction Company's Randy Range told school board members Monday night.

Work at Central is approximately 3-5 days ahead of schedule, Range said.

Floor slabs, underground plumbing rough-ins and underground electrical rough-ins are 100 percent complete.

Exterior masonry wall installation is 100 percent complete in wing A, 85 percent in wing C and 60 percent in wing B.

Actual construction has begun at Hertford Grammar School. The building pad was completed on April 30, and a pre-construction meeting was held on May 11. The first footings were poured on May 15.

Range said structural steel is expected to arrive on the site by June 12.

With most of the same contractors, including general contractor Blueridge General, working at both sites, Range said time will be saved.

Range wants to see the cafeteria at Hertford Grammar School complete by August.

"I'm still shooting for August," he told board members. "But we're not going to give up quality for quantity. We want it right."

In preparation for the completion of the building projects, Hertford Grammar School will house grades 3-5 next year, and Central, pre-kindergarten-second grad. Plans call for teachers at both sites to pack up and label supplies and equipment prior to the last work day in June. Things will be moved during the summer to the new rooms assigned to teachers, and unpacked during the first work days next school year.

Chamber drops annual festival

Downtown businesses take charge

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted recently not to organize and promote the Indian Summer Festival, a fall festival that has drawn throngs of people to Hertford

for 16 years.

"The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce has developed a 1998 Program of Work, as well as a new mission and vision statement. We have in a sense, reinvented our organization. The chamber has there asked the Hertford Business Association to take over ownership of the Indian Summer Festival. The HBS has accepted the opportunity. This has allowed the chamber to be free to focus on the Program of Work and implement the plans and goals of the organization," Chamber

Executive Director Sandra Smith stated in a written news release dated May 13.

Because the businesses downtown feel that the festival is an important tool for drawing people to the business district, business representatives have mobilized quickly to organize the 17th annual community event, according to Jennifer Layden of Hertford Savings Bank and Frankie Eason of Frankie's Hertford Cafe, spokespersons for the business group.

At a meeting held Monday afternoon, committees were

formed and plans put in place to insure that the festival does not die.

"I am very excited," Layden said. "I just feel good about the festival. It's important for our community and our businesses. Everyone seems willing to work together so that we can have a festival."

The chamber cited a lack of manpower, time and resources, as well as its change in focus, as reasons for dropping the festival. The chamber will focus on small business development and tourism development, accord-

ing to Smith.

Layden and Eason said the Hertford Downtown Merchants Association welcomes any civic, church or service group to join the festival team. There are a variety of ways in which groups and individuals can help with the festival, Layden said.

For information on the festival, which is set for Sept. 19 in historic downtown Hertford, call Layden at 426-5403 (work) or 297-2901, Eason at 426-5593 (work) or 426-5737, or Mary White at 426-2021 (work).

WALKING FOR A CAUSE



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS



Over 150 people from Perquimans County participated in last weekend's American Cancer Society Relay for Life at John A. Holmes High School in Edenton. Even after midnight, the track around the football field was full of those raising money for cancer research and education. Perquimans County raised almost \$28,000, far exceeding the goal of \$20,000. Teams represented churches, civic groups, businesses, schools and families. Entertainment, games and food were available throughout the 24-hour relay period.

Cancer relay exceeds goal

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

When Perquimans meets Edenton at the stadium at John A. Holmes High School, a fierce battle always takes place. This weekend was no different, except that teams from Chowan and Perquimans counties joined forces to battle cancer.

One hundred and fifty-nine walkers representing 11 teams from Perquimans were among the legions who walked around the track at Holmes at the annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Set-up began at 3 p.m. Friday, and walkers were on the track until 3 p.m. Saturday.

The work before the walk-a-thon was the big news, however. Thanks to the efforts of Relay team members, Perquimans County exceeded its \$20,000 fundraising goal by almost \$8,000.

"I thought we did really, really well," said county co-chairperson Brenda Newbern. "I was very pleased."

Team members raised funds for weeks prior to the event with bake sales, yard sales, auctions, raffles, door-to-door collections,

doughnut sales, and several other events, Newbern said. Teams represented churches, schools, businesses, civic groups and families.

"I thought we did really, really well."

Brenda Newbern
Co-chair
Perquimans Co. Relay for Life

Last year was the first year Perquimans County had its own Relay committee. Prior to that time, some Perquimans County residents participated with either Chowan or Pasquotank. Last year, there was sufficient interest to organize a Perquimans County committee. The local teams walked in

Pasquotank last year and Chowan this year because Perquimans does not have a lighted track.

Money raised through Relay for Life goes for cancer research and education.

In addition to those who walked to raise funds, at least a dozen cancer survivors from the county walked the survivor's lap Friday, a reminder to team members of why they participated in the program.

The final paperwork is being completed for this year's Relay, but Newbern said that doesn't mean Relay gets put on a back burner. Soon, the committee will get together to go over this year's event and begin planning for the 1999 Relay.

Hertford Savings celebrates 75th anniversary

For 75 years, people have been counting on a local financial institution for money to buy homes and a safe place to save hard-earned dollars.

Hertford Savings Bank will celebrate its 75th anniversary during the month of June.

According to Hertford Savings Bank President and Manager Gene Boyce, local business men met and organized Hertford Building and Loan Association on June 18, 1923. A.W. Hefren was installed as the first president, with J.L. Tucker and J.R. Jarvis as vice presidents and W.H. Hardcastle as secretary and treasurer.

In an era when financial institution mergers are headline news and small banks struggle to remain independent, Hertford Savings has managed to maintain its hometown ownership and personal service.

"Being a locally operated mutual savings bank allows us to serve the financial needs of Perquimans County," Boyce said. "Our board of directors are interested in the well being of our bank as well as offering specialized service to our customers. Many customers have expressed their surprise at the personal service they receive here."

Maintaining its home-

owned flavor has not meant that the bank has not changed with the financial industry. On April 1, 1993, Hertford Savings converted its charter from a mutual savings and loan association to a mutual state savings bank. The charter change allowed the organization to offer a wider range of services including mortgage loans, equity line loans, savings certificates, passbook savings, Christmas Club accounts and checking accounts.

Boyce joined the bank in 1974. Since that time, the bank has experienced a steady growth with assets now in excess of \$14 million, he said. Bank Secretary Bettye Winslow has been with Hertford Savings since 1984. Jennifer Layden, a teller, was employed in 1992.

To commemorate its longevity, Hertford Savings Bank will celebrate throughout the month of June with prizes, gifts and an anniversary party. A special drawing for an unset one-quarter carat diamond will be offered June 1-26 to those conducting transactions of at least \$50 to an existing checking, savings, or mortgage account, or any new account of at least \$100.

On Friday, June 26, refreshments will be served throughout the day.

Chamber grants available

Applications due by June 15

Applications are available for the first round of funding for mini-grants offered to business owners in the historic downtown Hertford district through the Chamber of Commerce.

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on June 15. Applications must include restoration/renovation plans and a time frame in which the

project will be completed. The funding process will include review and revision of the plans, approval of plans that meet criteria, on-site restoration work, review/audit of finished work and reimbursement by the Chamber.

"We hope that the business owners will take advantage of this opportunity," said Chamber Executive Director Sandra Smith.

For information, call the chamber office at 426-5657.

Outside

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