



Remember, April is Clean Up/Fix Up Month in Perquimans County. Participate in this effort to show off our county when the federal agencies send representatives here on May 5 and 6 and visitors arrive for Catfish Hunter/Old Timers Day on May 8.

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Hunter Day nears

The Historic Hertford Business Association will join the celebration of Jim "Catfish" Hunter Day May 8.

From 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., local artisans will demonstrate their crafts and entertainers will perform downtown.

Joyce and Wallace Hobbs will weave baskets, Tina McClannahan will paint and Viking Silver will demonstrate silversmithing. Also, the Perquimans Arts League will have a variety of items on display and for sale.

A trolley from Memorial Stadium at PCHS to the historic downtown area will be available.

Anyone interested in exhibiting or demonstrating crafts, bake sale spaces, volunteering or information should call Mary White at the Wishing Well.

Tickets are still available for the barbecued chicken dinners to be served from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the high school. They are on sale in several downtown stores and at The Perquimans Weekly office.

RIBBONS FOR RELAY



Rachel and Molly Newbern purchase purple bows from Dozier's Florist to display in honor of their granny, Edith Mansfield, who was diagnosed with cancer 14 months ago. Purple is the signature color for the American Cancer Society's RELAY FOR LIFE, an event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivorship and raise money to battle cancer. The local RELAY FOR LIFE planning committee and fundraising teams would like to see the counties of Chowan and Perquimans covered in purple bows during the week leading up to this year's event, which will be held on May 21 and 22. Residents can show support for the fight against cancer by displaying a bow purchased for \$3 from BJ's Unisex, Dozier's Florist, and Country Flair. All proceeds benefit RELAY FOR LIFE.

County and towns looking to heritage tourism for economic development

Federal visitors will discuss possible grant access in May

By Jeremy Desposito
The Daily Advance

The Perquimans area community could be facing its toughest challenge for heritage development—employing its own ideas.

Last Wednesday, state representatives visited Hertford and enjoyed a tourism and heritage tour and plenty of good cooking. Hertford was one of two towns chosen as a model community that state and federal agencies would visit and assist along the heritage highway. Hertford was chosen—along with Bryson City, in the mountains—for a variety of components, according to LuAnne Pendergraft. Besides being on the National Register of Historic Places, the Hertford area has three historic districts, and approximately 77 percent of structures are historical contributors.

Local tourism and heritage leaders used the state visit to gain knowledge of available grants as well as feedback on what they need to do to fulfill their vision of becoming a heritage haven. A federal resource team will visit May 5 and 6. Agents from the Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Commerce, Environmental Protection Agency, Smithsonian Institution and Library of Congress Folk Life Center have committed to visit. Representatives of other agencies may also be members of the federal team.

With the exception of grant

assistance, the state was impressed by the strides this area has already made and flatly advised the community—as the catch phrase goes—there ain't nothin' to it but to do it.

The state offered a few tips to enhance the area, but said Perquimans has an abundance of the right components, the two most important being cooperation between the towns and county, and a vision.

At Wednesday night's dinner at the Newbold White House, Amy Brennock, Arts and Tourism Director of the North Carolina Arts Council said, "To your credit, you're working so closely together. You already have a vision. The state can't do this for you, you have to do this for you. This is not a state presentation but a conversation," she said. "This (project) belongs to the community and it seems like you know what you want to do."

Brennock added, "I don't know a lot of communities where the town manager (Hertford's John Christensen) would spend the whole day driving the bus around."

Narrowing down the question of feedback, John Matthews, Perquimans County Attorney, asked the state representatives, "What did you see today that we take for granted, that my organization could work with to improve?"

Christensen added, "Anyone can say it's a beautiful town, but quite frankly, what are the things we're missing or not doing right?"

One of the state's recommendations is training public contacts that tourists are likely to meet initially, such as gas attendants, who could offer some local history as well as direct tourists to sites in town. "Educate the people on the

front line in hospitality training," said Carol Kline, "You can hold a series of community meetings, have incentives and award programs. And local businesses helping other local businesses—when a customer comes in you can tell them about a place down the block where they can find something else."

Pendergraft, Development Officer for the Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development assigned to the Newbold White House, suggested appropriate signs and landscaping to guide visitors into Hertford's downtown area. Perquimans County Restoration Association president Chris Lane suggested erecting uniform signs throughout the 19 regional counties to spread tourism strength.

"How can downtown be the best we can be and retain who we are, so we're not a cookie-cutter design?" asked Harriette Woodard of Woodard's Pharmacy.

Meanwhile, Brennock suggested the idea of assigning a symbol that visitors and the community could associate with Hertford.

"Whatever image you want to portray, make a mascot for official stationery that says 'this is who we are,'" she said. "The turtle is sacred and a sign of longevity in American Indian heritage. It's something to think about."

From what Beverly Patterson saw on the tour, the town has plenty of stories that could be focal points for in-depth history.

"The river must have lots of stories," said Patterson, Folklife Specialist for the state Arts Council. "And you have interesting place names—Drinking Hole Road, Missing Mill Park. We find these

names interesting. You have lots of wonderful place names. It all can be a focal point that tells a larger story of your community."

Other concepts formed by local involvement included the creation of a pedestrian pier along the water, so others besides boaters could utilize the water, and a center for performing arts.

Students can play a big role in coming up with ideas as well as planting trees and painting murals and smaller size art, Brennock said.

Kline stressed that data must be collected, even though it can be drudge work.

"I know research isn't very sexy," she said. "But data research is vital. Collect data about visitors, what they enjoy and don't enjoy, who they are...and that's related to marketing."

Jeri Oltman, president of the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce, felt the visit was successful and could lead to better things.

"Today's experience has been very positive, not only because we showed off our community, but also because we got to hear so many ideas from knowledgeable visitors," she said. "The federal agencies are going to be able to tell us how we might go about accessing federal grants and technical assistance. And you never know what side benefits pop up."

Lane also felt the state visit to be beneficial.

"It was an absolutely wonderful experience, both for the state heritage tourism team and the people involved in giving the tour. The town and county looked beautiful. Community support in this heritage effort was amazing. They were all very receptive."

May weekend to focus on county history

Tours, garden party, dinner on the green, art show and more set for event

The rich history of Perquimans will be highlighted during Perquimans Spring Weekend, May 21-23.

Sponsored by Preservation North Carolina and the Perquimans County Restoration Association, the weekend will feature a tour of some of the county's finest architectural structures, a pig pickin' on the courthouse green, entertainment and the annual garden party.

Perquimans was founded in 1668 and, according to Preservation North Carolina, is home to some of the state's most significant restored historic homes and structures.

"This tour will showcase some of the most historically significant structures in the entire state," said Peter Rascoe, director of Preservation North Carolina's Northeast Regional Office in Edenton. "Collectively, these beautifully restored historic homes and buildings represent a huge resource for Perquimans County—as well as the northeast region and all of North Carolina."

Perquimans County boasts three National Register Historic Districts: Historic Hertford, Old Neck Rural Historic District and Belvidere Rural Historic District. Many of the 24 homes and buildings on the tour are located in these districts.

Tour highlights include:

Land's End: Described as one of the state's most spectacular houses, the massive two-and-one-half story dwelling was built about 1830 by Col. James Leigh, a wealthy planter. The house was built of the finest materials and features two-tiered piazza and columns on the front and rear.

Richard Pratt House: Dating to about 1760, the Richard Pratt House was relocated to this spot in the Bethel community in 1974 by Ben and Jackie Hobbs. The couple have assembled a collection of pre-Civil War buildings on the site. Today, the house is the centerpiece of the Hobb's Beechtree Inn, a bed and breakfast inn.

Church of the Holy Trinity: Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this Episcopal church is a beautiful example of a simplified Gothic Revival featuring buttresses and arched windows and doors. The antebellum structure was built in 1848. Dan Kidd, an architectural historian by training and the heritage tourism manager for the N.C. Division of Tourism, Film & Sports Development, will deliver the lecture on the topic of historic churches in the Holy Trinity parish hall.

Also featured on the tour are some homes that currently are undergoing restoration. Architectural buffs are sure to

appreciate this insider's view of the historic preservation process. Many of the homeowners will be on hand to answer questions about the process and share their first-hand experiences. These homes include:

Mitchell Ward House: This house, one of the county's finest examples of Federal style, was included in the January 1998 issue of Old House Journal. Built in 1832 it was named "Snow Hill."

Gen. Jonathan Hill Jacocks House: Originally built in 1815, this house is one of the largest in the county. It is an uncommonly large six-bay traditional coastal house, complete with two-story front porch.

John White House, "Shady Croft": This two-story house, circa 1825, represents a house that was typical of the many Quaker families who lived in the area in the early 19th century.

Weekend events get underway Friday evening with dinner and music on the courthouse lawn. Dubbed Pig-Out in Perquimans, proceeds from the \$8 ticket price will be used to purchase 4th of July fireworks. The downtown shops will stay open until 8 p.m.

The Perquimans Arts League will also open its Spring Art Show on Friday, and will have its gallery in downtown Hertford open during the weekend. Many items in the show will be for sale.

Saturday features a highlight of the weekend—a Garden Party at Riverside Plantation from 6-8:30 p.m. Guests will delight in the beauty of the grounds of this 1813 plantation home. Music and delectable edibles will enhance the elegance of this seasonal tradition. Proceeds benefit the restoration association. Tickets are \$20 and reservations are required in advance.

Tour hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 1-5 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are good for both days. Tickets are \$20 per person.

To order tickets by mail for all events, send a check for \$48 per person to Preservation North Carolina, NE Regional Office, 420 Elliott St., Edenton, NC 27932. Call 482-7455 for information. Advance ticket orders must be received by May 14.

For the homes tour only, advance tickets may be obtained by contacting Preservation North Carolina at 482-7455 or at the Newbold-White House. Advance ticket sales do not require registration the dates of the tour. A map with sites will be mailed with tickets.

Tickets for the homes tour will go on sale at the Newbold-White house during the tour at 9 a.m. Saturday and 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets for Pig-Out in Perquimans: Dinner and Music on the Courthouse Green are available at Woodard's Pharmacy and the Wishing Well.

Call the restoration association at 426-7567 for garden party ticket information.