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Hertford raises price of plots at Cedar Wood

Future maintenance costs factored in new prices

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Departing this life and being buried at Cedar Wood Cemetery will get more expensive on March 12.

That's the date Hertford

Council voted to raise the price of gravesites in the town-owned cemetery in order to meet the costs of cemetery maintenance in the future. Gravesites will also be sold in one- and two-grave plots, rather than one-, two-, four- and eight-grave plots.

Now, the cost of a lot at Cedar Wood is \$200 for a Hertford resident, \$500 for a county resident, and \$800 for all others. Lots are 4' x 10'. Mausoleum lots are six times those prices because they mea-

sure 12' x 20' to accommodate the structure. After March 12, the price will rise by \$300 per lot across the board to \$500, \$800 and \$1,100. Mausoleum lots will continue to be charged at six times the rate for regular burial plots.

Mayor Sid Eley said there are 1,110 gravesites still unsold in Cedar Wood.

Maintenance costs and the fact that once all gravesites are sold, the town will receive no more revenue from the cemetery prompted council to con-

sider the price increase. Eley said for the past three years, the town has paid \$26,000 more in maintenance than it has brought in from gravesite sales. Officials said the situation will worsen once all lots are sold, shutting off all revenue. Based on average sales, Eley said the town can expect Cedar Wood to sell all its lots in about 14 years.

Council will discuss with town attorney Walter Edwards establishing a trust with a percentage of the proceeds from

the sale of gravesites. The interest from the trust could then help offset the cost of cemetery upkeep once all lots are sold. Council members Dan Daneker and JoAnn Morris both said they wanted to make sure the trust was established properly so that the funds would be used as intended. They voted to establish the trust, but said the particulars would have to be set with the help of Edwards, who missed the meeting due to illness. Eley recommended the

move away from four- and eight-grave sites because he said changing times have resulted in family members not being as likely to all be buried in the same plot. There are several multi-plot sites with only two graves in them, and the families of those buried are no longer in the area.

Council voted to hold off on the price increase to allow local residents a 30-day grace period to purchase lots at the old rates.

Hertford considers alarm system ordinance

SUSAN R. HARRIS

If you're not getting robbed, you may get fined.

An ordinance to regulate the installation, operation and maintenance of automatic alarm systems is under review by the Hertford Town Council. And it would institute fines for repeated false burglar and fire alarms.

Hertford Town Clerk Cindy Sharber said the ordinance is being considered because more alarm systems are being installed in businesses and private homes, and because more false alarms are being recorded.

Council tabled discussion on a proposed ordinance Monday night due to the absence of town attorney Walter Edwards Jr. But board members had earlier received a copy of an ordinance proposed by Town Manager John Christensen.

If passed, the ordinance would require anyone wishing to install an alarm system to file for a permit with the police department. The police chief would approve permit requests. By accepting the permit, the owner of the premises for which the permit is used would agree that the town, its agents and its employees would not be held liable for any damage to the premises caused by the entry of any member of the police or fire departments in response to an alarm initiated by the automatic protection system.

Further, the police and fire chiefs or their designees would have the right to inspect the alarm system "at reasonable times."

Finally, the ordinance would impose a fine for failure to get or renew a permit to install or operate an alarm system and for false alarms.

A \$50 fine would be charged for failing to obtain or renew a permit. For false alarms, the town would impose a fine of \$50 for the second one in a calendar month and \$100 per incident after two. The police department would keep records of alarms.

The proposed ordinance is similar to ones used in other towns in the area.

DAY OF ROSES... AND MORE ROSES



Employees at Dozier's Florist began their biggest days of the year Tuesday morning, arranging an array of flowers for delivery on Valentine's Day. Posies of all shapes and colors filled the florist's cooler, but the red rose is still the best seller on the day of love. Work at area florists was expected to continue late into the night and begin early on Wednesday morning. Deliveries will take most of Valentine's Day.

Historic site opens March 1

The Historic 1730 Newbold-White House will reopen for the 2001 season on March 1.

Newbold-White is the oldest standing brick house in North Carolina, and has much of its original structure intact. Inside the home, furnishings and household goods tell the story of a colonial family.

The house was built by planter Abraham Sanders, and served as an early meeting place for local and state government, including court, as well as religious gatherings.

In addition to the house which features walk-in fireplaces in the two downstairs rooms and dogleg stairs leading to the upstairs bedroom, the site holds more history. Expansive grounds feature Quaker gravesites dating back to the 1600s and a seasonal herb garden.

The David Newby Cottage was moved to the site and renovated, serving as the home of the site manager.

A building modeled after a historic barn serves as the visitor's center, gift shop and meeting room.

The Perquimans County Restoration Association oversees the site and plans interpretive and informative programming. Among the events planned for the site this year are the Spring Garden Party, Hearth & Harvest Festival, Jollification, and Christmas Open House.

Picnicking on site is encouraged and parking is plentiful.

Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sunday, 2-5 p.m. Call 426-7567 or email nbwh@inteliport.com for information.

Junk car pilot program funded by state grant

SUSAN R. HARRIS

If it's unlicensed, won't run, doesn't have tires, or is not inspected, chances are it's also against a county ordinance to have it on your property.

Thanks to a new tri-county pilot program, you can now probably have that junk vehicle removed at no charge if you live in Perquimans, Chowan or Gates counties.

The removal of unsightly junk cars is funded by a \$30,400 grant from North Carolina's Northeast Partnership and \$5,000 from Chowan County. There are additional grants pending from Gates and Perquimans counties and the town of Edenton.

Begun last spring as a volunteer effort by a few private citizens and government leaders in Chowan County, the project is now steered by a "Junk Car Task Force" made up of citizens, enforcement officers and government employees from the three-county area.

A news release issued by the Albemarle Regional Solid Waste Management Authority stated that not only are junk vehicles unsightly and unhealthy, but they hamper economic development efforts to bring new business, tourists and retirees to the area.

Perquimans and Chowan counties already have laws against junk and abandoned cars as well as ordinances regulating junkyards. But voluntary cooperation of the owners of the vehicles will be one of the keys to getting neighborhoods cleaned up.

The program is designed to demonstrate to the state legislature that the junk car problem can be fixed.

The Task Force will propose new legislation to change the North Carolina vehicle licensing procedure to try to prevent junk cars. They propose a permanent tag to be issued and remain with each vehicle throughout its life. If the fees for the permanent tag are not

kept current, no new tags will be issued to the owner. In effect, an individual will not be able to get a license for any new vehicle if they owe taxes on any old vehicle. To defray the cost of cleaning up junk cars and enforcement, the Task Force will propose that modest disposal fees accompany every vehicle title transfer, new and used. Disposal fees are already included in the prices of appliances and tires. State licensing of junkyards and stricter regulation will also be proposed.

Enforcement officers in each of the three counties are now ready to look for junk cars and notify property owners of the availability of free towing. Vehicles will be towed to the Perquimans, Chowan, Gates Solid Waste Management Facility, crushed and recycled as scrap.

The Task Force would like to have all designated junk cars by June of this year. Anyone who would like to have vehicles towed and recycled as part

of this project should call the enforcement officer in the county in which the vehicle is located. In Perquimans, call Zeke Jackson, 426-8283; Gates, Ron McDougald, 357-1380, and Chowan, Lynn Perry, 482-5618.

Perquimans officials are already working with three property owners/residents to clean up junk vehicles and other items in violation of the county's junk ordinance.

Failure to comply with county ordinances carries fines, including court costs if the case must be resolved in the legal system.

Residents who have junk vehicles that need to be removed, but did not have the funds to pay for removal can avoid fines by using the free towing service provided under the pilot program.

County residents and resident of the town of Hertford have appeared before the county commissioners and town council requesting that action be taken to remove junk cars.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 60s
LOW: 40s
SHOWERS LIKELY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 70s
LOW: 40s
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 60s
LOW: 30s
SHOWERS LIKELY