

Happy New Year!

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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## DRESSED IN HOLIDAY STYLE



PHOTOS BY SUSAN HARRIS

Perquimans is dressed for the holidays. Nativity scenes, Santa, reindeer, snowmen, wreaths, greenery drapes, bows and trees all decorate lawns, porches and businesses. The color draws our attention during the day, but once night falls, it is the thousands of twinkling lights shining in the night that catch the eye. Already, residents are beginning to put away the colorful decorations for another year, signalling the coming end to the holiday season.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hertford Mayor Sid Eley and Main Street Program Manager Belinda Washesky speak with surveyors doing preliminary work for the downtown lighting project.

## Lighting project moves closer

Surveyors were in downtown Hertford last week, bringing the town and county one step closer to the installation of new streetlights on the S-bridge and business district.

Replacing the 1960s-style street lights with poles and fixtures more appropriate to the town's history has long been on the agenda of those working to promote Hertford as a heritage tourism destination and revitalize the downtown area.

The Town of Hertford and Perquimans County were awarded a North Carolina Department of Transportation Enhancement grant — called a TEA-21 grant — in October 2000 for the lighting project. Although the application requested \$551,100 for the three-phase project, DOT approved \$240,320, which will cover two phases.

Funds were awarded to put lights on the bridge, noted as Area 1 in the project proposal, and Area 3,

which runs along Church Street from its intersection at Grubb Street to its intersection at Dobbs Street. Lights will not be placed between the bridge and Grubb Street, which is designated as Area 2.

"Surveying for the new streetlights is just one of many steps in the process of the Historic Hertford Streetscape Beautification Project," said Hertford Main Street Program Manager Belinda Washesky. "Even though we have not broken ground, a lot of work has already taken place on the street-light project."

Washesky added that since the Enhancement Program is actually a federal program administered by the state, there are federal regulations that must be followed prior to construction.

So far, a project agreement has been executed with DOT, many meetings have been held, the right-of-way has been certified and environmental documentation has been completed. Requests for proposals were solicited and HOBBS, Upchurch & Associates was hired as the consultant to handle the preliminary engineering. Meetings have been held with various lighting representatives, a design committee is narrowing the possible materials for the project, and most recently, the surveying was completed.

## Boone wants to start SPCA in Perquimans

County needs place where animals can be adopted, she said

SEAN JACKSON  
Correspondent

Andrea Boone wants to make a difference — but not just in the lives of her fellow Perquimans County residents.

Boone, 54, wants to help create a better future for stray and abandoned animals in the county. And she's hoping that the formation of a county chapter of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will get the ball rolling.

"Right now, we don't have any type of adoption program," in Perquimans County, Boone said during an interview this week.

Boone and her fellow animal lovers have scheduled a Jan. 8 meeting at 7 p.m. at the Perquimans



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This German Shepherd was found in the New Hope area of the county, suffering from neglect. Andrea Boone fed him and found the German Shepherd Rescue and Adoptions group in Cary who rescued him and found him a good home in Tennessee. Boone believes this kind of incident proves the need for an SPCA in the county.

County Library in an effort to form the county's first-ever SPCA chapter.

But exactly who does she want to get involved in the program?

"I want everybody in the

county to be involved," she said. "I just think our county needs to step up and do what the neighboring counties are doing."

Boone said Chowan, Gates and Pasquotank

counties have successful SPCA chapters, which provide adoption services for animals.

In addition to the lack of adoption services in Perquimans, Boone also hopes the SPCA chapter can partner with county officials in seeking to upgrade the county's current animal shelter.

The approximately 10-foot by 20-foot shelter, located next to the county's water treatment facility just west of Hertford, provides little comfort to stray and abandoned animals, Boone said.

"One of my goals is to build a new shelter," Boone said.

And she does not plan to take an adversarial approach with county commissioners. A cooperative spirit will accomplish more, she said.

"My position is, let's see what we can do together," Boone said.

Boone said her own recent experience with a stray German Shepherd opened her eyes to the need of adequate facilities and a full-fledged adoption pro-

gram.

For three months Boone tried to lure the dog to her. The dog, estimated to be about 18 months old, was suffering from visible neglect, Boone said.

"I would stand in the rain for three hours trying to feed him," she said.

Finally, Boone made contact with the dog and fed him along the side of the road for much of the summer. Members of the German Shepherd Rescue and Adoptions group from Cary found the dog a home in Tennessee, Boone said.

With an upgraded shelter — complete with "runs" and medical care — such dogs could continue to find good homes, Boone said.

Boone's other goals include spay and neutering services, educational programs, and a rabies clinic.

"I just think we need to put our house in order," Boone said. "I think there are a lot of people interested in doing this."

Anyone interested in this effort is welcome to attend the informational/organizational meeting on Jan. 8.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 58  
LOW: 33  
SUNNY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 58  
LOW: 33  
SUNNY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 57  
LOW: 38  
PARTY CLOUDY