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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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PHOTO BY ALICE BREWIN

Tires and other places where standing water can collect invite many thousands of mosquitoes to breed. Especially with the threat of West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses, health officials say getting rid of breeding grounds is the best way to control the mosquito population.

## Control mosquito breeding grounds

ALICE BREWIN  
Staff Writer

Dump out those containers around your home that hold standing water. Change the pet water dishes and birdbaths at least twice a week, and get rid of those tires that are practically inviting many thousands of mosquitoes to set up camp in your backyard.

According to Walker Rayburn, Mosquito Program Coordinator and Environmental Health Specialist with Albemarle Regional Health Services, these are simple steps that people can take to protect themselves. Unfortunately, not everyone heeding Rayburn's advice.

West Nile Virus seems to be on everyone's mind these days. The name conjures up images of the dark and exotic, something that Hemingway might have encountered on some big game hunting expedition, not something you can get from an annoyingly small bug that Southerners have learned to tolerate to some degree.

Mosquitoes aren't going anywhere and, unfortunately, it looks like West Nile Virus (WNV) is an established threat along with several other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes.

This doesn't mean to panic, or to drench yourself, your children and your yard in chemicals that may do more harm than good. Talk with your health care provider and read labels carefully before applying repellents.

Rayburn said he really wishes folks would take the time to get rid of the possible sources of mosquito breeding sites. According to Rayburn, containers breeding mosquitoes are most likely to carry the viruses that make people sick, and the larvae from a single tire can fill a yard with the bloodthirsty insects.

The health specialist thinks the elimination of container breeding sites

would have the biggest impact on the population of mosquitoes, saying many people don't realize what an effect ridding their yards and businesses of junk tires or other containers of stagnant water would have.

Rayburn also states that the fact WNV has not been found in Perquimans County bird specimens as of yet really is more of an indicator of how the county is rural, and birds sickened or killed by WNV are less likely to be seen and reported than in a metropolitan area.

Paul Gregory, Perquimans County Manager, reports that spraying for mosquitoes is done as needed. So far the areas that have been sprayed include areas along the Little River, Holiday Island and Albemarle Plantation. The spray used, Biomist™, is an artificial pyrethroid, which both Gregory and Rayburn consider to be safer than most insecticides. For more information on insecticides and their safety visit <http://npic.orst.edu/wnv/pesticideinfo.htm>.

Gregory does concede that an unfortunate effect of the spray is that it kills all bugs, including any helpful ones, and steps are being taken to notify beekeepers if spraying is to be done in their area.

Another problem with the spraying involves notification. Gregory states that it is practically impossible to notify everyone when spraying is going to take place in their area, but if spraying were to occur in a community, it would be in the early evening hours and the truck used for spraying is easily identifiable.

In the meantime, cut down on the number of adult mosquitoes using one of the safest and most effective methods - stopping them before they start breeding in the water containers in your yard.

Please see related story, page 12.

## Bids let on rec center

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The Perquimans County Commissioners awarded the \$1.475 million contract for the new recreation/community center project to A.R. Chesson of Williamston.

The commissioners were forced to trim about a half million dollars off the original price estimates in order to make the project work.

"We took out certain items that we could easily put in next year. For instance, a fence and bleachers that we can add into next year's budget," said County Manager Paul Gregory.

The contract calls for the project to be "substantially completed" by May 31, the county's deadline to spend grant funds received to help build the center. Gregory said Chesson indicated work could start on the project in about two weeks.

The recreation facility is being built on the waterfront in the Perquimans Commerce Centre off Harvey Point Road. It will include a gymnasium/community center with movable stage, lighted soccer and baseball fields, office and storage space for the Parks and Recreation Department, and parking lots. It represents Phase I of a three-phase project that is one of the county's long-term development goals.

Gregory said the baseball and soccer fields will probably be ready for play by the fall seasons of 2003. The building should also be ready for use by that time.

"It'll be a good beginning activity for the commerce centre," Gregory said of the project.

The project is being financed by a \$750,000 loan from BB&T, a PARTF grant of \$250,000, and funds that have been escrowed by the county for the past two years.

Future phases include a cardiac center with pool and par three golf course.

## Springfield ready to welcome guests

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Down a tree-lined drive flanked by a white fence sits Springfield, Perquimans County's newest bed and breakfast inn.

The renovations at Springfield took over a year, and for Joe and Mary White, the planning and headache were a labor of love. The plantation home featuring a front porch framed by delicate woodwork was once home to Joe's great grandparents, John O. White Sr. and Pasco White, who purchased the property in 1891 and built the present house. Later occupants were their son, Jacob L. Sr. and his wife Artemesia Towe White. To that union was born Joseph Towe White, father of Joe.

Joe and Mary White had dreamed of one day restoring Springfield and making it their home. The opportunity arose after the death of Artemesia.

"We had thought about renovating the house for years, ever since I've been in the family," said Mary. "It had been in the family for so many generations and Joe wanted to keep it in the family. And we really liked the house."

As the dream of renovating the house became a reality, the Whites decided to share the rich history of the farm by making it a bed and breakfast inn.

"We've gotten so when we go anywhere we usually stay in bed and breakfasts and we enjoy it," Mary said. "We've met a lot of nice people that way and it's really more comfortable than walking down a hall in a hotel."

Springfield features



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Joe and Mary White are joined by their children, Dena White Waters and Chad White, daughter-in-law Gerri White, grandson Clayton White and a host of well-wishers as they celebrate the grand opening of Springfield, Perquimans County's newest bed and breakfast inn, Friday afternoon. The Chamber of Commerce sponsored a ribbon cutting.

three guest rooms, each with a private bath and each with a theme that has meaning to the White family.

Downstairs is Grandma's Parlor, a tribute to Joe's grandmothers. The room was his Grandmother Artemesia's good parlor and overlooks his Great-Grandmother Pasco's flower garden. Its walls are violet in honor of his maternal grandmother, Violet Rogerson.

Upstairs are two guest rooms. One is yellow and features a bedroom suite original to the house. It is called Tama's Room in

## County: Residents should attend hearing

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Opponents of siting a military outlying landing field in Northeastern North Carolina are imploring county residents to show up en masse at next Tuesday's public hearing.

The hearing, to be held in the auditorium at Perquimans County High School, is being hosted by the federal government as an information session and opportunity for public comment.

"This is the one shot we get (to let federal officials see how many people in the county oppose an OLF)," said County Manager Paul Gregory. "This is all we get, one night. People have just got to show up and fill up that auditorium and foyer. That's what's got to happen Tuesday night. We're (county commissioners and manager) doing everything we can to encourage people to come out."

Gregory said county officials have made contact with several individuals and groups who sent the county copies of letters sent to legislators and military officials. Officials have asked those letter-writers to sign up to speak at the hearing to share their stances in person with military officials.

"We're encouraging groups, families and individuals to show up," Gregory said. "I've been to events at the high school that have filled that auditorium and flowed over into the halls and outside. The door is not shut on that OLF coming to Perquimans County. I'm afraid if we don't speak out at the hearing, we could end up with the OLF."

Gregory said he plans to attend hearings in Mattamuskeet and Bertie County this week, and the county has a representative going to the hearing at the Vernon James Center in Plymouth.

Information booths will be set up next Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. with the hearing scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Those who wish to speak must sign up in advance the night of the hearing and will be given two minutes to speak.

The Perquimans NO OLF Committee has also been working to get people to come to the public hearing, get first-hand information and speak out against an OLF in Northeastern North Carolina. The Committee held a hearing of its own two weeks ago, during which people who have been and would be negatively affected by an OLF in the region spoke.

Chad, who enjoyed riding in horse shows and for pleasure as children.

While the rooms are beautifully decorated and comfortable, the specialty at Springfield will be the breakfast. Mary, whose friends like to be invited for her homemade biscuits, will serve a full Southern country breakfast to guests.

The Whites will also offer the hospitality of the plantation home for weddings and receptions.

On the grounds of Springfield are a variety of chickens producing white, green and brown eggs. The White's horses will eventually come to live on the farm along with a mule. There are also several out-buildings on the property.

For information or reservations, call Springfield at 426-8741.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 89  
Low: 71  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
High: 93  
Low: 71  
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
High: 93  
Low: 71  
ISOLATED T'STORMS