

## Indian Summer, Hearth & Harvest festival guide

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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Festivals Saturday

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Organizers are praying for good weather as Saturday, the day of the annual Indian Summer and Hearth & Harvest festivals, approaches.

A full day of shopping, playing, food, entertainment, boat rides and a look at Perquimans' history is on tap.

New to this year's festival will be a talent contest and diversity sing at Missing Mill Park, sponsored by The Wishing Well and A&D Neon.

The talent portion of the competition will begin at noon. Contestants are Lindsey Casper, Holly Jones, Brittany Perry, Crystal Pulley, Jessica Townsend, Holly Winslow, Franklin Samuel, Deanna Evans, Tiffany Mills, Jessica Reynolds, Amy Williams, Tiffany White and Savina Vaughn, Razi Lane, Riaz Lane and Michelle Rogers. The winners will be announced just before 2 o'clock.

After that, many of the contestants and several other local talents will perform in what is billed as the Dueling Diversity sing-off. The program will feature music from the '50s through the present.

"Music is a big part of what makes America such a great place," said show organizer Connie Townsend of A&D Neon. "Every song tells a story and each era plays an important role in the ones to come. ... Our area is so rich in talent and we are all blessed to have such strong musical roots."

Music will be provided by Backroads Karaoke.

Another anticipated component of the festivals is the Hertford Main Street Program Window Decorating Contest. Judges will reward creativity in dressing store windows with this year's theme "Go Native American."

Marta's Style Sharing, Smith's Jewelry, Hertfordshire Antiques, Gregory's, RBC Centura, Inteliport, Frankie's Hertford Café and The Tin Rabbit have all dressed up store windows for the festival contest. The winners will be announced on Saturday.

Free buses will shuttle festival-goers between the five venues: downtown Hertford, the Newbold-White House: A Quaker Homestead, Municipal Park, Missing Mill Park and Winfall Landing Park.

Boaters are reminded the the Hertford boat ramps will be closed on festival day.

Indian Summer Festival kicks off with a street dance downtown Friday at 7 p.m.

For complete festival information, including vendors, venues, entertainment schedules, shuttle information and more, see the official festivals program book inserted into this week's Perquimans Weekly.

## Residents to navy: Keep out

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The speakers rotated to the microphone every 3 minutes for over 2 hours, but the message stayed the same: No OLF in Northeastern North Carolina.

The was the message heard by U.S. Navy officials and an overflow crowd of over 700 at a public hearing at Perquimans County High School last week. The hearing was held by the Navy to get comments from area residents on the environmental impact of an outlying landing field in Perquimans County.

Negative impact on migratory birds and wildlife were among the environmental issues pointed out to the Navy. However, the most overwhelming point made by speakers was the negative impact the noise of the Superhornets on the area will have on the quality of life here.

Government officials told of negative impact on quality of life, heritage tourism and economic development. Farmers and agribusiness representatives told of the negative impact of taking away prime farmland and consequences for poultry and livestock growers. Educators declared that the noise so near schools would not be conducive to student achievement.

Several who spoke had served in the military, and said they are patriotic and proud to have served. They stated that they appreciate the need for fighter pilots to train to be ready to defend the United States. However,



PHOTOS BY SUSAN HARRIS

Perquimans County residents attended an information session and public hearing about the environmental impact of a military outlying landing field in Perquimans County. During the information session in the Perquimans County High School cafeteria, residents learned exactly where an OLF would be located in the county and its impact, and could make written statements. The fan at right, however, tells how all who spoke at the public hearing feel: No OLF in Perquimans County.

they questioned the fairness of saddling North Carolina with the noise of the Superhornets while the Hampton Roads, Va. area would reap the economic benefits.

Retirees said their moves to Perquimans County had provided positive economic benefits for the county, a place they chose to retire because of

its tranquility. They warned that an outlying landing field would halt the development of subdivisions geared toward retirees, thereby negatively impacting the tax base and local business community.

Navy spokespersons said that full production of the Superhornet was authorized by Congress in 2000.

The Department of Defense proposed home-basing 10 squadrons plus fleet reserves of the fighter planes on the East Coast. Ten squadrons is 130 planes, with 32 reserve aircraft.

The Navy initially considered 77 sites for the Superhornets, but narrowed that down to 20 air-

fields. Three — Oceana, Cherry Point and Beaufort, S.C. — met most or all of the needs of the planes.

From there, officials noted siting alternatives, including putting the entire fleet at any of the three bases, or dual siting. They have determined that the best alternative is basing six squadrons at Oceana and four at Cherry Point, but said they have not precluded other alternatives. The preferred plan would call for outlying landing fields. While Fentress in Chesapeake could accommodate the Oceana squadrons, the Navy determined that building a new OLF would be better.

The planes will perform 51,000 operations each year.

Perquimans, Bertie, Washington, Hyde and Craven counties in North Carolina and Burke County, Ga. were determined to be prime locations for an OLF to support the squadrons. At present, officials said, Washington and Craven counties are the preferred alternatives.

Craven County is lobbying to host the OLF, and wants the planes at Cherry Point.

Navy officials said the OLF would create 300 temporary jobs during construction, and possibly 35-50 jobs with a payroll of \$1.2-\$1.5 million per year plus about \$90,000 in annual service contracts.

The end of the comment period is Oct. 2. A final Environmental Impact Study will be published in early 2003 and a record of the decision on the OLF will be made next spring.

## 911: We remember well

ALICE BREWIN  
AND  
SUSAN HARRIS

Last September, our lives changed. Millions of Americans were horrified by the news that terrorists had attacked the United States.

We gathered for prayer services, for salutes to heroes and America, for tributes to those lost, to support those who lost loved ones.

Juanita Bailey reflects about how she felt last year on Sept. 11.

"I didn't have anyone in New York, the Pentagon or the towers," Bailey said. "When I saw it, I couldn't believe it was happening. I was thinking to myself, 'I can't believe anyone would do that.'"

"It makes me empathetic to those who lost loved ones. It makes me appreciate life more...not take simple things for granted, like taking a child to a movie. It still bothers me that someone would dislike a country so much to do such a thing, but I guess that's what we're coming to."

"I personally think it's different if you have lost a loved one there. You're empathetic for those left behind. You feel helpless...how can you help?"

As days wore on and warnings of the possibility of more attacks, perhaps by contaminating a water supply or targeting a filled sports stadium, governments and school systems kicked into action.

Local governments discussed security for their water systems and were on heightened alert.

Perquimans County Schools, judged the fifth safest in the state, reviewed policies.

"(We made) no policy changes...We looked at our field trip policy. Currently, our policy for out-of-state field trips is fine but, let's say they were going to Washington, D.C., and we got a warning, we would cancel the trip. We just try to use common sense," said Superintendent Ken Wells.

Central School Principal Billy Stallings echoed Well's statements.

"Safety was always a concern to begin with," Stallings said. "Since Sept. 11 it is even more so now. We have taken time to recheck, re-look, revisit...our policies. We also have been making the children aware and are not hiding things from them."

At Perquimans Middle School, Principal John Dublin said students are handling the anniversary

of Sept. 11 well. His school, like all the others in the county, will hold an observance on Wednesday.

From a business standpoint, some owners have seen changes since Sept. 11.

"In our Antique shop (Grandma's Treasures) we have seen a drop-off in tourist traffic," said co-owner Gene Boyce. "It wasn't anything like the year before. We have seen a big difference. Most of our purchases are made by tourists."

There will be two public observances on Wednesday. The local Woodmen of the World organization will hold a tribute to the heroes and those lost on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Albemarle Commission Building. The day is being held in conjunction with President George Bush's designation of Sept. 11 as Patriot Day. A flag and flag pole will be donated to the Albemarle Commission and will be dedicated during the service.

At Perquimans County High School, an open house will be preceded by an observance at 5:30. The high school band and chorus will perform during the tribute.

The open house will follow.

## Main Street shows growth

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Main Street Program Manager Belinda Washlesky presented her program statistics for the past year to Hertford Town Council Monday night.

The summary noted that a total of \$820,697 was invested in the Main Street Program area last year, including \$400,582 in public money and \$420,115 in private funds. Private investment included the purchase of four downtown properties: 109 West Market Street by Robar Holdings, LLC; Market Street Antiques; 115 West Market Street by Steven L. Bembridge; and the former Gingerbread Inn and Bakery on the corner of East Market and Church streets. Interior and exterior renovations, signage, and painting were all components of the private investment.

The largest portion of public investment was the \$235,110 spent by the county to complete courthouse expansion. Natural gas installation, grants, Main Street expenses and Visitor Center costs made up other public money.

Main Street businesses netted 18 new jobs and seven business expansions last year.

Washlesky said high-

lights of the year included receiving grant funds, creating a full-color "Come Home to Hertford" brochure which has been distributed to all North Carolina Welcome Centers and 28 sites on the Historic Albemarle Tour, completing a 5-year strategic plan, continuing work on the period lighting and decorative traffic signals, landscaping the Visitor Center, and earning recognition for Best Public-Private Partnership in Downtown Revitalization for the Visitor Center project.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 77  
Low: 56  
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY  
High: 81  
Low: 63  
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY  
High: 83  
Low: 66  
MOSTLY CLOUDY