

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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MAY 14 2003

35 cents

State regatta hosted by PHI

Page 2

School volunteers honored

Page 3

Sports

Page 6

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## Hertford considers \$1.7 million budget

### Proposal by town manager maintains tax 2003 rate

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Hertford town manager John Christensen presented a \$1.7 million general fund budget for review by

council Monday night.

Councillors will meet on May 22 at 7:30 p.m. for a budget work session.

The proposed budget keeps the ad valorem tax rate at 48 cents per \$100 valuation, but does require the town to take \$34,971 from its fund balance for expenditures.

About \$440,000 of the general fund budget is TEA-21 grant funds for the Main Street lighting project.

The largest chunk of budget funds will go to the police department, at \$452,741.

The street department will take \$261,112, while the fire department will get \$217,532.

It will cost an estimated \$151,800 for town administration; \$93,100 for sanitation; \$56,820 for Main Street; \$33,231 for the DMV-license plate agency; and \$29,045 for the cemetery.

Grant funds account for

the greatest percentage of revenues at \$571,245.

State shared revenues should total \$452,411, while ad valorem taxes are expected to put \$364,150 in the town's coffers.

Payments from other funds will account for \$161,724, and sales and service should bring in \$106,000.

The water and sewer fund and electric fund, known as enterprise funds, have separate budgets. The

budget for the water and sewer fund budget is \$627,216 and the electric fund, \$2,466,095.

The water and sewer upgrade project budget is \$8,416,242. Most of the funds will come from grants, with \$2,842,242 coming from bonds and \$455,000 from the town of Winfall for the tap fee that allows Winfall's sewage to be piped to Hertford for treatment.

The ice plan renovation

budget is \$1,106,386. Only \$50,000 of that amount is expected to come directly from the town, the rest is a combination of grant and loan funds. Loan funds are expected to approach \$910,000.

By state statute, the town must pass a budget by July 1. Conversation about meeting to discuss the budget on May 22 indicated that council will plan to pass its budget ordinance at its regular June meeting.

## Grants help protect history

BEN DECK

The Daily Advance

A pair of grants announced last week will pave the way for the protection of 127 acres surrounding the Newbold-White house, the oldest brick structure in North Carolina.

The grants, one for \$236,000 from the North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund and another for \$345,000 from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, complete a plan developed in 2001 to acquire the farmland and wooded areas surrounding the house.

"It was a priority of the board of the Perquimans County Restoration Association to ensure that the (house) would always remain in a setting reminiscent of the 18th century," said Chris Lane, president of the association.

The grant from the Heritage Trust Fund will

Continued on page 8

## Storms can't wet spirit of Relay

SUSAN R. HARRIS

They were preparing for the survivor's lap and opening ceremonies at the Chowan-Perquimans Relay for Life Friday evening when weather bulletins indicated that the better part of wisdom would be to send the crowd running for safe shelter.

Severe thunderstorms, hail and even tornadoes were heading toward Edenton, and organizers knew those storms would play havoc with the tents, luminaries and electronic equipment set up for the event.

Around 6 p.m., the committee decided to secure everything possible on the premises, send participants to safety and delay the opening ceremonies until 9 p.m.

Brenda Newbern, a member of the Relay organizing committee, said Chowan County EMS arrived at the scene to inform Relay officials that a serious storm was moving toward Chowan County and should hit in about half an hour.

She said once the announcement was made, participants were very

cooperative and immediately began to secure their areas and get to safety.

The decision to delay events and ask those on sight to find safe shelter was a good one, as hail, rain and strong winds blew through Edenton, bringing damage to houses and vehicles in parts of Chowan County, but not bringing significant problems to John A. Holmes High School where Relay was held.

When the storm had passed, organizers began setting back up for activities scheduled for the event and participants returned to finish setting up the areas that would be their homes for the night.

Newbern said at last count Saturday, about \$90,000 had been raised for cancer research and patient support. Final numbers are not yet available.

Relay for Life is the signature fundraising event of the American Cancer Society. Millions of participants raise millions of dollars each year with a variety of fund raising activities, culminating in an overnight walk-a-thon to celebrate survivorship and hope for a cure.



Charlotte and Carter Stallings (above) decorate the Southern States "Grow Masters" tent at Relay for Life Friday afternoon, while Rachel Newbern and Megan Hurdle (below) put the finishing touches on the Great Hope Baptist Church "Scrubbers" area. The hot sunshine in these photographs soon turned to gray hail, wind and cooler temperatures.



## School memorial pays tribute to J.R. Winslow's life

RYAN BURR

The Daily Advance

One of J.R. Winslow's recent accomplishments was hitting a triple for his Belvidere Little League Baseball team. It is a memory his family is thankful to have.

Classmates, friends and family gathered at Hertford Grammar School Friday to recall the dreams and care-free personality of the 9-year-old, who was killed April 23 when his all-terrain vehicle was struck by a dump truck on state Highway 37.

"Let's remember the good things about J.R.," said Principal Edward Williams, adding that "this is a day to move forward. I believe in my heart that J.R. would want us to do that."

In Perquimans County, moving forward meant properly honoring a respected and loved individual. There were many tokens of remembrance to



Hertford Grammar School celebrated the life of J.R. Winslow last Friday with a memorial service and dedication of playground equipment to J.R., who died over spring break in an ATV/truck accident. His classmates released balloons as a tribute to his memory.

J.R., who lived on Belvidere Road. One was a picture he had drawn in February during art class of a baseball game, in which he knocked a three-bag hit. The image was framed and presented to the Winslow family during a memorial

held in the multi-purpose room for all grades.

PTA Treasurer Patty Bittner cited a pledge J.R. signed during "Character Education Week," which was for people who believe in embracing community and helping solve prob-

lems, even if alone. The pledge was given to the family, as well.

The school's Student Council dedicated a plaque entitled, "The Miracle of Friendship," to the memory of J.R., which will hang in the school entrance.

J.R.'s grandmother Becky Winslow spoke at the memorial, describing J.R. as a Christian who loved his community and enjoyed fishing, hunting and stargazing.

She complimented him for tackling many tasks on his own. She recalled him assembling a basketball hoop, completing every part of the project until it came to raising the pole.

"He needed the help from his father and grandfather," she said. "As young people, there may be things you need help with, and you need to ask people. They may not help you the first time, but you keep asking."

The school joined in singing J.R.'s favorite song

"That'll be Alright."

Also, classmate Tiffany Brandon wrote a poem about the "paradise" J.R. has found in heaven.

Family members wore T-shirts with J.R.'s face printed on the back. Hertford Grammar School is selling the shirts, and the proceeds will pay for books in the school's media center. Each book will pay tribute to J.R., Williams said.

After the address in the gym, everyone congregated outside by the playground, where a marker was dedicated to J.R. and his "Let's Play" attitude. A nearby cherry tree was also commemorated in his name.

"We can't let this be a sad day," Williams said. "J.R. would want us to be happy and enjoy life."

There was a moment of silence after the dedication.

J.R.'s mother said that the enormous turnout from the school was atonement to the fact that "the kids here really do care."

## Council to condemn properties

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Eight properties in Hertford are slated for condemnation.

The multi-step process to condemn and either force property owners to renovate or tear down buildings has begun on all eight properties.

Properties scheduled for condemnation are 317 Dobbs Street, owner Irene Deloatch; 320 Dobbs Street, owner Oliver Riddick; 110 E. Railroad Avenue, owner Joseph Bond; 106 W. Grubb Street, owner Mike Zarpas; 406 Cox Street, owner Lillian Spellman; 307 Woodland Avenue, owner Helen McFarland; the 600 block of West Grubb Street, owner Jesse Harris; and the old Keel building on the corner of Edenton Road and Grubb streets, owner Randy Lassiter.

Inspections have been completed on all the properties, according to town manager John Christensen.

Hearings have been held, orders for condemnation sent and ordinances adopted on the 317 Dobbs Street and 320 Dobbs Street properties.

Once properties are condemned, the owner is responsible for the costs of demolition. If owners do not contract to remove the structures, the town may contract for the work and place a lien against the property.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 73  
LOW: 60  
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 74  
LOW: 58  
CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 68  
LOW: 49  
PARTLY CLOUDY