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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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July 2, 2003

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Fireworks set for 4th

The 4th of July will bring family fun at Missing Mill Park.

The Historic Hertford Business Association and American Legion have teamed up to sponsor a Hometown America celebration complete with fireworks.

Vendors selling traditional fourth favorites will set up around 4 p.m.

Loose Change will take the stage at 5 p.m. Solidas, gospel singers, will perform at 7 o'clock, and Loose Change will return afterwards.

Fireworks will light up the sky over the river around 9 p.m. There will be collection jars on site to allow people to donate to the fireworks fund.

Construction moves festival

Lighting project moves Indian Summer Festival to park

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Indian Summer Festival 2003 will leave downtown and move to Missing Mill Park and the adjacent streets.

Mary White of Historic Hertford Business Association said this week that downtown construction taking place through the fall to install the new historic lighting will make it unsafe to hold the festival on Church Street.

"We're not going to place people and construction together," White said. "It's a safety issue."

Unfortunately, the move will

cause a cut-back in the large children's carnival-type games at the festival due to space limitations, White said. The games were extremely popular last year, with children and youth waiting in line to participate much of the day.

HHBA organizers had asked the town for permission to close Grubb Street from Covent Garden to Missing Mill Park for the day in order to set up vendor booths along that corridor and save park space for the games and rides. They also wanted to use both East and West Academy streets.

The town allowed HHBA to move ahead with those plans, but directed that residents on all three streets be polled and asked to agree with the plan. Residents on both Academy streets agreed, but one Grubb Street resident did not.

"I wish that resident would change his mind (and allow us to

close Grubb Street) just for one day," White said.

Grubb Street would have provided space for an additional 50 vendors, White said.

Not being able to use Grubb Street will also limit the number of space available to vendors. The good news is, HHBA has lowered rental prices this year due to the poor economy.

"We've lowered the rate because the economy has been hard on everybody," White said.

Booths will rent for \$35 and \$50. Items to be featured in booths must be approved by the festival committee. Those interested in renting may call White at 426-5973.

The U.S. Atlantic Fleet Band, which earned a standing ovation from festival-goers, will close this year's festival.

White said the band is just a sample of the quality entertain-

ment in store for the day.

The talent show, which featured incredible local talent in its premier last year, will be back again.

Also on tap the same day will be the Hearth & Harvest Festival sponsored by the Perquimans County Restoration Association at the Newbold-White House.

This hands-on event introduces visitors to life in the 18th century, when Quaker planter Abraham Sanders built the house, which is the oldest standing brick house in the state.

Period games, crafts, demonstrations and food are traditionally a part of Hearth & Harvest.

Winfall joined the festival last year, and plans to offer crafts and entertainment at the town's waterfront park.

Perquimans Heritage, Inc. will provide water taxis between Missing Mill and Winfall parks.

Be careful with fireworks

Some sold as toys are dangerous

With a tumultuous year behind the United States, officials predict Independence Day 2003 to be a highly celebrated event all over the country.

In North Carolina, backyard parties and family get-togethers are a given. In many of these cases, sparklers and fireworks figure prominently into the celebration, and many citizens disregard the potential danger of these "toys."

Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Jim Long cautions North Carolinians against the incorporation of fireworks into their July 4 ceremonies.

"Fireworks can pose a more dangerous hazard than most people think," said Long. "Because they're sold as toys and so cheaply, anyone, even children can get their hands on these items. Unfortunately, the sellers do not provide detailed information about using fireworks and they don't promote firework safety, either."

Fireworks merchants may be selling illegal prod-

ucts as well. Long said parents should make themselves familiar with the types of pyrotechnics currently banned in the state, and to remember that is illegal to purchase banned fireworks from another state and transport them into North Carolina.

"These rules are not in place to put a damper on anyone's Independence Day celebration," said Long. "They're to protect consumers, consumers' property and nearby foliage and structures."

The types of fireworks permissible for use in North Carolina include sparklers, fountains and novelty fireworks that do not explode, such as "snap and pops" and "glow worms."

Fireworks that are illegal include firecrackers, ground spinners, roman candles, bottle rockets, mortars and any pyrotechnic that is intended to spin, leave the ground or fly through the air.

Should you choose to use legal fireworks at home, keep the following tips in mind:

- Fireworks are not toys and should only be handled by responsible adults. Even sparklers burn as hot as 1200°F and cause hundreds of injuries every year.

- Never point or throw fireworks at people, pets, cars or buildings.

- Always use fireworks outdoors on a paved surface, away from dry grass, wooded areas and dwellings.

- Never alter fireworks or attempt to make your own.

- Light one device at a time and move away from it quickly. Never approach fireworks that have not functioned or have "fizzled."

- Have a hose or bucket of water nearby in case of a fire emergency.

- Read and follow all directions before lighting fireworks. Do not buy any devices that lack instructions written in English.

- If you have questions about fireworks legality, contact the fire marshal.

LIFE ON THE FARM



The 4th of July is associated with fireworks, picnics, watermelon and, in Perquimans County, fresh, sweet corn on the cob. Tommy Harrell and his family have been providing that corn for folks up and down the East Coast for many years. At the Bear Swamp farm he and his wife, Sherry own, the next three weeks will see crews on site sun-up to sun down, picking, crating, cooling and loading corn for shipment to markets near and far. The Harrells truck a variety of vegetables in partnership with their daughter and son-in-law, Leah and Dennis Robertson. In fact, after crews finished the first day of corn on Monday, they crated cucumbers until 2 a.m. In addition to trucking the corn, it is for sale to the public at the crating shelter on Bear Swamp Road, just off Center Hill Highway.



Sheriff charging for fingerprints

Free fingerprints from the county sheriff's department are now available only to those who are arrested and printed.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said after speaking with county officials over the past few weeks, a charge of \$10 was decided upon for those people who request fingerprints.

Tilley said the charge was necessary due to the time it takes to fingerprint and the increasing number

of requests.

The department has received up to eight requests per day recently, Tilley said. When there is no officer in the sheriff's office to handle the request, a duty officer who may be out on patrol or serving papers must be called back into the office to perform the fingerprints, Tilley added.

People who apply to live in apartments overseen by the Hertford Housing

Authority, to be day care providers and for government jobs requiring security clearances are the most likely to request fingerprints, Tilley said.

While people are generally directed to go to law enforcement agencies in their own counties for fingerprints, Tilley said people from other counties come to Perquimans for the service because agencies in other counties charge for the service.

Please note: Our email addresses have changed.

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 85
Low: 72
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
High: 90
Low: 73
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
High: 94
Low: 73
SCATTERED T'STORMS