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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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August 22, 2007

Vol. 75, No. 35 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Town orders house demo

Site subject of chronic crime complaints

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The Town of Hertford will tear down a condemned house located at 329 Market Street.

Members of town council approved the demolition order last week. The home, owned by William T. Davis and Claudia C. Davis of Elizabeth City, was condemned months ago after town officials received numerous complaints of criminal activity. Complaints included open-air illegal drug sales and murder.

Town Manager John Christensen said he would seek bids for a turnkey operation from contractors for the demolition project. Once the bid is awarded and the contractor schedules demolition, the project will include not only tearing down the house, but clearing the property afterwards as well.

The town will pay for the project, including tipping fees for disposal of the discarded material. The town will bill the owners for costs and give them an appropriate time to pay. If payment is not received, the town may take a lien on the property.

In other matters, council also approved a zoning ordinance change allowing sand and gravel mining one mile from the town limits. A public hearing on the matter was held last week during which no one spoke in favor or against the proposed changes. The ordinance change goes into effect immediately.

Christensen said one person has expressed an interest in opening an old sand pit located off U.S. Highway 17 south of town.

The mining ordinance requires a buffer between the mining operation and any adjoining properties, restricts hours of operation, and mining traffic cannot use the town's marginal streets such as subdivision streets.

Also last week, council members agreed to seek cost estimates for improving several streets in town including Newby Street, Hyde Park from Market Street to Dobbs Street, Perry Street from Grubb Street to Dobbs Street, and King Street from Hyde Park to Church Street.

Once costs are determined, Christensen said council will decide whether those costs will fit in this year's budget.

All knotted up



PHOTO COURTESY PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS



New teachers try to untie a human knot — an icebreaker to help introduce teachers to one another (above). The group then tries to communicate without talking. Susan Cox, former teacher and AD, facilitated the sessions.

Town gets water grants

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The town of Hertford has received over \$770,000 in grants to help pay for its new water plant.

The funding package has been completed for the \$4.8 million dollar project that will nearly double its current 322,000 gallons per day capacity. Included in the funding package is \$1,063,000 in loans from the United States Department of Agriculture.

Receiving the grants will certainly help the town reduce its debt service on the project.

"The grants were a great offer," said Town Manager John Christensen. "We didn't project any grants."

Plans and specs on the project have been submitted to the state for approval, and once the town receives the official authorization to construct from the state, which could come at any time, the town will then seek bids on the project.

The new water plant will be built on the same site as the current plant. The proposed plant will be able to pump 610,000 gallons per day.

Water rates increased last month. Town officials expect a future increase in water rates associated with the debt service on the proposed plant.

Festival stage to feature favorites, newcomers

From Staff Reports

The 26th annual Indian Summer Festival will feature a variety of entertainers, from the familiar favorites to a couple of new melody-makers.

The ever-popular Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates will kick off festival 2007 at 9 a.m. on Sept. 8. Under the direction of Chris Whitehurst, the band always brings a fantastic show and lots of fans to downtown Hertford.

At 9:30, a new-to-the-festival band will make its debut. "Uphill" brings a touch of blues, soul and rock and roll to the stage.

Adam Nixon, also known as "Deacon Blues," is a Perquimans High graduate known to his classmates as a musician. Nixon has played a variety of music, but really enjoys blues.

Isaiah Hunter and Tim "Bighouse" Orton add their collective talents to Nixon's, and the trio is sure to please for an hour at Indian Summer Festival.

They'll be followed by Kim Kalman, making her third appearance at the Indian Summer Festival. The acoustic guitarist

has a fantastic voice and earthy honesty that makes her original material come to life. Kalman will take the stage at 11.

"Connected" will delight jazz lovers with music from the traditional New Orleans sound to the more contemporary tunes of

Vocalist Jo White will make her second appearance at Indian Summer Festival, with The Lowlanders, a country/bluegrass/gospel group from Wanchese. White has a dynamic voice and was well-received last year. She'll be up at 2:30.

The growing-in-number-and-popularity Albemarle Chorale will perform at 4:15. The chorale is composed of 54 experienced singers from the Albemarle area, who perform under the direction of Belvidere's Lynwood Winslow. Jackie Copeland accompanies the group on piano.

Albemarle Chorale is offered as continuing education course at The College of The Albemarle and class meets each Monday night at 7 p.m. in Edenton.

At noon, there will be an observance of the 20th anniversary of the Baseball Hall of Fame induction of Perquimans pitching great Jim "Catfish" Hunter.

Bring a lawn chair and plan to sit a spell in downtown Hertford on festival day.



FILE PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Jo White of Belvidere is one of the entertainers set to go on stage downtown during Indian Summer Festival 2007.

today.

Formerly known as Jazz Connection, the band features Wayne James, Dennis Figgs, Ellard Forrester, Maurice LeFlore, Chabra "C.J." Mercer and Andrea Morris. Connected is scheduled for 12:30.

The Perquimans Weekly staff has new e-mail addresses.

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 89, LOW: 74
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 95, LOW: 75
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 95, LOW: 76
PARTLY CLOUDY