

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

## Board okays zoning change

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

A Greenville partnership has plans to construct river-front luxury condominiums and townhouses on Church Street Extended.

Tugboat Properties, LLC is planning to create Hertford Bay Marina, a project that not only includes townhouses and condominiums, but a protected harbor and boat slips as well. In addition, they hope to create commercial acreage that faces U.S. 17 to include a motel, restaurant, and retail stores.

But, the town's zoning ordinance needs to be amended first before the project gets underway. Members of Hertford's Planning Board started that process last week by recommending changing the zoning district in both areas.

Planning board members agreed to recommend that Hertford town commissioners consider rezoning approximately 17 acres located near 700 Church Street from R-10 to TR, which basically allows smaller sized lots per acre. They also recommended that 15 acres at 200 Ocean Hwy. South be changed from residential to commercial.

Hertford Town Council members are expected to take action on the planning board's recommendations next month.

Jim Midgette, one of six partners involved in Tugboat Properties, LLC, said he is very excited about the project, but noted no time line has been developed for construction yet. Zoning issues have to be resolved and then the project goes to the engineers for planning.

He envisions over 100 luxury condominiums and town homes as well as 120 boat slips on the property that kisses the Perquimans River. The artist rendition of the project also shows a pool, tennis court and clubhouse.

The commercial project on Ocean Highway calls for a motel, restaurant, a retail strip center and a boat storage facility on five acres. The rest of the property is wetlands.

"We see a real need there for a motel," Midgette noted. "That message has also been relayed to us by the local town officials. We are hoping that a motel will anchor the retail area in the project."

"We see this project as beneficial to the town," he added. "It will present a wonderful entrance to the town."

One of Tugboat's partners is a developer who has extensive experience in developing such projects, Midgette said.

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## PCHS SAVED



Photo courtesy BRENDA LASSITER, PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND VOLUNTEERS tear down ceiling tiles, remove damaged furniture and pack and remove books for drying Sunday after a fire on the school's roof was extinguished (above).

Perquimans Weekly Photo by SUSAN HARRIS  
FIREFIGHTERS CLIMBED ATOP THE media center at the high school, removing smoldering debris after extinguishing the blaze. Those who entered the building used air packs to protect their lungs from the smoke.



## PCHS damaged by Sunday blaze

SUSAN HARRIS  
Editor & Publisher

Hertford Police Department's routine patrols may have averted a true disaster in Perquimans County.

An officer riding by the high school early Sunday morning spotted fire on

the roof of the building housing the media center, computer labs, a distance learning classroom and administrative offices around 6:50 a.m.

Within minutes the empty campus was crawling with firefighters and school personnel. Hertford, Winfall and

Bethel fire departments were first to respond, along with Emergency Management Coordinator Jarvis Winslow, town of Hertford Maintenance Supervisor Melvin Jackson, Superintendent Dwayne Stallings, PCHS Principal James Bunch and schools Maintenance Director Jonathan Nixon. Belvi-

dere-Chappell Hill, Inter-County and Durant's Neck fire departments responded later.

Nixon responded immediately, arriving at the school before fire units, according to Schools Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter, who was on the scene Sunday.

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## Schools treated to prevent MRSA staph

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

With the spread of the methicillin-resistant staph aureus, better known as MRSA, the local school system is taking steps to try to prevent it from occurring in schools.

Last Saturday, school custodial staff cleaned all schools with disinfectant even though no reports of children infected with MRSA have been received. Custodians were originally set to do the overall cleaning during the teacher workday scheduled for Monday.

"It's about keeping our children safe, and waiting until the originally scheduled date of Oct. 29 (teacher workday) was no longer feasible," said Brenda Lassiter, Perquimans County schools' public information officer. "We completely disinfected all schools including restrooms, locker rooms, weight rooms, cafeterias, desk tops, etc... The administration felt it imperative that we begin disinfecting schools daily beginning immediately.



Photo courtesy BRENDA LASSITER, PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS  
THE MAINTENANCE STAFF OF Perquimans County schools met Friday and learned how to disinfect local schools in an effort to prevent the MRSA bacteria. Custodians worked Saturday to disinfect the entire school system.

"Compensating custodians to work overtime is a small price to pay for the health and well-being of our employees and students," she added.

The spread of MRSA is apparently growing statewide, including in school systems. Many school systems nationwide have been closed for disinfecting, and one 14-year-old boy in Virginia has died from the

bacteria. As of last week, one student in Currituck County has been diagnosed with MRSA as well as 10 students at Elizabeth City State University.

Perquimans County School Superintendent Dwayne Stallings called a meeting Friday morning with Maintenance Director Jonathan Nixon, Chemical Specialist Buck Bunch,

and Lassiter to develop a proactive plan for treatment of the schools as well as informing parents. Custodians were trained that afternoon on how to properly clean and disinfect the schools with Anolyte, a cleaner 100 times more efficient against bacteria than bleach.

One reason school officials didn't hesitate to take action is due to the sports activity in the schools.

"As you know, student athletes travel from school to school and visit locker rooms, weight rooms, etc for athletic events. This increases risks for our students," Lassiter added.

Jill Jordan, health education director and public information officer for Albemarle Regional Health Services, said her department works closely with schools and other agencies in educational and preventive measures related to MRSA.

Staph bacteria are common bacteria that can be found in the nose and on the skin of about one out of every three people. MRSA bacteria, however,

## Public: Rethink veteran marker

SUSAN HARRIS  
Editor & Publisher

Everybody agrees that it is needed in Perquimans County. But where a veterans monument should be placed is drawing several opinions.

The commissioners voted in June to front the money — estimated at about \$7,000 — to a Veterans Monument Committee the county had appointed last winter to study placing a monument to veterans in the county. Those who lobbied for a monument said Perquimans was the only county in the state without a structure dedicated to veterans, and that one was deserved by those who have served in the armed forces.

The committee designed a monument bearing the insignias of all branches of service and proposed placing it on the right side of the brick sidewalk leading to the court house door (as you face the court house) near the sidewalk along Church Street. The group said they would pay for the monument from donations, including funds raised from the sale of bricks for walkways leading from three existing walkways to the monument.

With what appeared to be the county's blessing, the committee ordered the monument for installation before Nov. 12, Veteran's Day. On that date, a monument dedication, to which numerous local, state and national officials have been invited, was planned.

Over the past couple of weeks, however, there has

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### WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 73  
Low: 62  
FEW SHOWERS  
FOOTBALL FRIDAY  
High: 79  
Low: 65  
FEW SHOWERS  
SATURDAY  
High: 81  
Low: 57  
SCATTERED T'STORMS