

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

## Town wants water access funds

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The town of Hertford has sent a funding proposal for a waterfront access project to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

If awarded, any grant from DENR would help pay for a feasibility study to determine what can be done to tie in the waterfront with the downtown area. The town would like to develop a new public marina on town-owned property along the Perquimans River. Two public waterfront parks just blocks from the downtown area, Missing Mill Park and Municipal Park, would anchor the site.

Town officials believe the marina would increase public access to the Albemarle Sound as well as the river; provide a new gateway and hopefully spur tourism in the town's downtown area; stimulate plans to revitalize the downtown area through private investment; leverage other planned public projects near the proposed marina; and improve links between the waterfront and proposed pedestrian trails.

Members of Hertford Council endorsed the funding proposal Nov. 14.

"Our preliminary market scans indicate a growing demand for more and larger waterfront access points and storage facilities in Hertford," stated Town Manager John Christensen in a letter to Louis Daniel, director of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. "Our current public access points — one boat ramp, pier and canoe launch — will prevent our town from capturing an appreciable portion of this market."

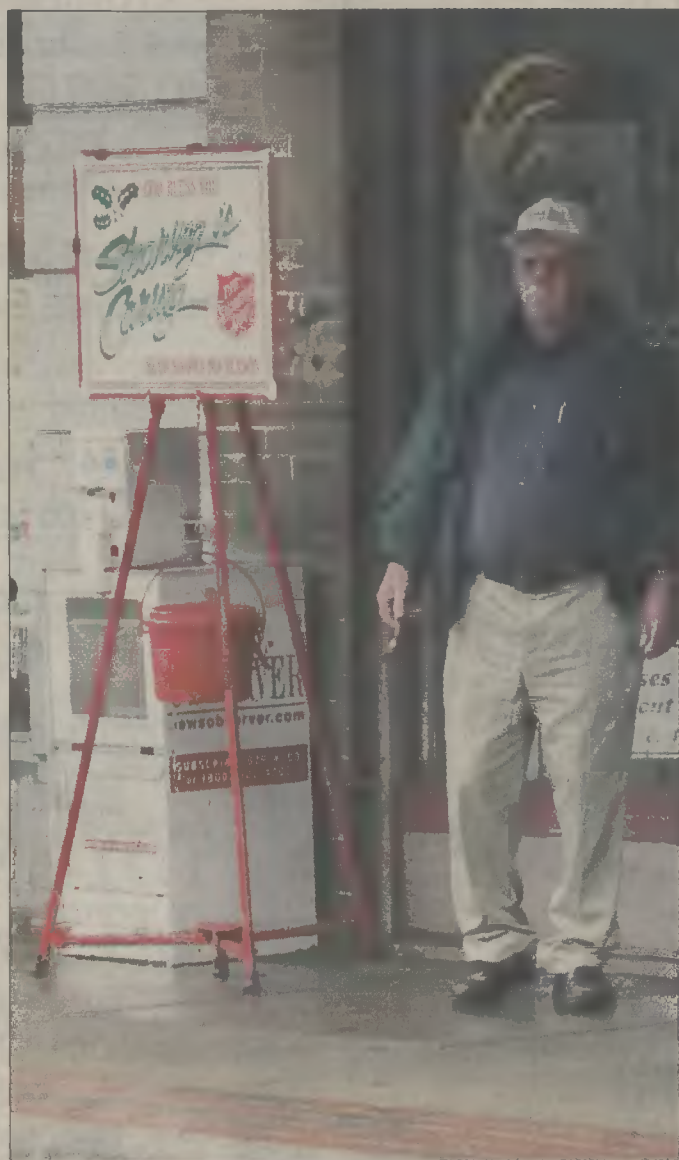
Boating access to the proposed marina area will be excellent with the exception of sailboat traffic taller than the 35 ft. clearance under the US 17 bypass bridge.

Temporary boat storage or slips would be available for tourists and residents alike.

"We envision the public marina as the catalyst for future waterfront development and, in turn, the waterfront development project as the cornerstone of the downtown's renewal," Christensen continued. "The proposed project will include a public marina for attracting recreational boaters and other tourists, adjoining facilities for supporting recreational and commercial fishing, kayak/canoe facilities, adequate parking and pedestrian amenities that are connected to the town's other planned pedestrian trails."

Town officials believe the marina will eventually lead to more commercial enterprises like shops and restaurants to enhance the

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



FROM THE TINKLE OF the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive bell to the growing number of holiday decorations, it's obvious that Christmas is coming to Perquimans. Activities to help ring in the season will begin Thursday in downtown Hertford. For a holiday activities wrap-up and gift ideas, please see stories on page 3.



Perquimans Weekly Photo by PHIL HARRIS

## County to mull room tax

6 percent tax on hotel, B&B rooms and condo rentals proposed

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

County commissioners will hold a public hearing Dec. 3 on a proposed 6 percent occupancy tax on hotel rooms, bed and breakfasts' rooms, and condominium rentals located in the county.

The proposed tax would be collected on any lodging in the county that is subject to sales tax. The North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation this past summer authorizing the creation of a local occupancy tax up to 6 percent.

County Manager Bobby Darden said the state estimates a proposed 6 percent tax would generate \$28,000 annually which would have to be spent on local tourism-related activities.

The Perquimans County Tourism Development Authority will be established and charged with the responsibility of spending the funds collected from the occupancy tax. That authority will consist of six members, including two members appointed by the county, one from Hertford, one from Winfall, and two from local businesses that actually collect the tax.

While county leaders have talked about imposing an occupancy tax in the past, local efforts met with opposition and those efforts never got to the state legislature until 2007.

The public hearing will be held in the Courthouse Annex Building, second floor courtroom, beginning at 6:45 p.m.

The public hearing will be held prior to the board's regular monthly meeting.

## Schools have bully policy in place

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

While bullying is not a big problem in Perquimans County schools, each local school has bullying prevention and intervention strategies in place to deal with the problem when it rears its ugly head.

The Perquimans County Board of Education adopted an anti-harassment, bullying and discrimination policy three years ago which terms "bully" as the repeated and deliberate verbal and physical abuse of one student by other students. Bullying generally occurs, the policy states, in a context where there is a real or perceived imbalance

of power, physical or social, between the bully and the victim. The aggressive behavior is unwelcome, unprovoked, and intended to do emotional harm.

The policy prohibits students, teachers, administrators, or any other school personnel to harass, bully or discriminate against any person based on any differences such as race, color, sex, religion, creed, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, socioeconomic status, height, weight, physical characteristics, marital status or disability.

The policy also states it is a violation for any student,

teacher, administrator or other school employee to tolerate such harassment, bullying or discrimination.

To help prevent bullying from occurring, and to help deal with it when it does, each school has its own plan of action. All plans are similar in nature, but geared to the different age levels.

According to information provided by Brenda Lassiter, the schools' public information officer, Perquimans County High School students sign a school anti-bullying pledge, and the school's anti-bullying plan is detailed in the student hand book. In an effort to achieve a zero tolerance, the students and teachers have been given a

way to report acts of bullying to school officials.

"Our interventions will focus on changes within the school and classroom climate to increase awareness about bullying, increase teacher and parent involvement and supervision, form clear rules and strong social norms against bullying, and provide support and protection for individuals bullied," states the high school's plan of action.

A survey is usually conducted in the English classes during the first two months of school asking students if they have seen, heard or experienced bullying, where it occurs, whether or not faculty intervenes

CONTINUED on page 14

## NEW BUSINESS



Perquimans Weekly Photo by CATHY WILSON

LITTLE RIVER ANTIQUES MALL & Collectibles & Good Stuff held its grand opening and ribbon cutting Saturday morning. Owner Deborah Snyder offers up to 53 vendors displaying a variety of antiques and collectibles. Yard sales are held every Saturday in the parking lot, and auctions are held on the premises once or twice a month. The mall is open Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. until 6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Sundays 1 p.m. till 5 p.m. For more information, call 264-4002.

## Hertford supports water conservation

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

While the town's water supply is more than adequate, town residents are urged to voluntarily conserve water.

Hertford council went on record recently encouraging town residents to voluntarily conserve water in light of the current drought being experienced throughout most of the state. Experts forecast drought conditions to continue into early 2008.

"We're not saying Hertford is in any dire need right now," stressed Mayor Pro-Tem Horace Reid Jr. "We just don't want to get into the same situation as other areas around the state. We're just asking our citizens to conserve."

"Compared to other places in the state, we're in good shape," added Commissioner JoAnn Morris.

The resolution passed by council supports Gov. Michael Easley's request for all state citizens to voluntarily conserve water and hopefully result in a 50 percent reduction in water use. Conserving water now will also lessen the load on the aquifer which provides water for the town.

While county commissioners have not passed such a resolution, County Manager Bobby Darden pointed out that the county has water conservation information on the county's website as well as in their billing department.

Darden said most of the critical water shortages

CONTINUED on page 14

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 66  
LOW: 36  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 53  
LOW: 35  
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 59  
LOW: 37  
PARTLY CLOUDY