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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

Zoning board OKs auto repair garage

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Just six weeks after shutting down one auto repair garage at 302 Dobbs Street, members of Hertford's planning board have approved the opening of another garage in the same location.

This time, planning officials hope the business owner will abide by conditions imposed by the town. If not, they'll shut this one down, too.

"We'll be riding herd over this one tightly," said Robert Clinkscales, chairman of the Hertford Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments.

Last week, board members approved a conditional use permit allowing business owner Ike Evans to open Coastal Carolina Auto Repair in the same Dobbs Street location in which he runs his home maintenance business. Evans may operate his auto repair business Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. — 6 p.m. and all work must be done either inside the garage, or behind the fenced areas.

Up to three vehicles may be left on the property overnight, and no scrap transmissions or auto parts may be stored outside the building.

Back in December, board members revoked the conditional use permit previously issued to Billy Boblit of Billy's Auto after Town Planner Brandon Shoaf testified that Boblit consistently violated standards set by the town back in April 2007. Shoaf received numerous complaints from area citizens about how the property was kept, ranging from working on vehicles at all hours of the night, multiple cars parked on the property, old car parts and transmissions dotting the landscape, to playing loud music. Despite several attempts by the town to correct the problem, the business owner resumed violating the town's operating conditions until the planning board finally revoked Boblit's permit in December.

Billy's Auto has since moved out of town.

Evans, however, says he intends to keep his auto repair shop clean and operate it only during the approved hours and will abide by the conditions set by the town.

"I don't want to do engine and transmission changes," he added. "I'm not interested in having junk cars around. I just want to utilize the bays in the building to help pay some of my expenses since the economy is not the greatest right now. The services Carolina Auto Repair will do includes oil changes, changing batteries, alternators, and working on starters. I've been in the auto business for 15 years. I'm not interested in working all night. The place has been painted and power washed. We're there to do maintenance on cars."

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Hollywood, here we come!



Perquimans Weekly photos by CATHY WILSON

PERQUIMANS COUNTY WALKS ACROSS America kicked off Saturday at the Parks and Recreation Department. About 140 people have signed up to participate in the fitness program designed to promote cardiovascular health and improve overall fitness. Most are walking in teams of four, with some individual participants and a few teams of more or less than four. The goal is for each team to walk 2,684 miles, the distance from Hertford to Hollywood, in eight weeks. The program is a cooperative effort of Albemarle Regional Health Services, the Recreation Department, and The Perquimans Weekly with financial support from Healthy Carolinians of the Albemarle. The Perquimans County Rescue Squad was on hand to perform complimentary blood pressure checks at the event (top right). Before walking, participants were taught how to stretch to avoid injury by regional health department educators (bottom right). Some opted to stretch, while some opted to skip the warm-up (bottom left). Sign-ups are still being accepted at the recreation department.



Rogerson named new fire marshal

Elizabeth City firefighter Mark Rogerson will become the county's new fire marshal beginning Feb. 11.

Rogerson replaces John Long, who has served as the county's fire marshal since 1991.

County manager Bobby Darden said Rogerson was

appointed to the part time position by county commissioners Jan. 28.

"The board felt it was time to make a change," Darden said.

Rogerson, 39, served as fire marshal with Currituck County for 18 months. He has a total of 16 years

experience as a firefighter with Elizabeth City.

He is a state certified level II firefighter, received hazardous material training, and a level III state certified fire inspector. He is a certified car seat installation technician, a former emergency medical techni-

cian, and a former member of the North Carolina Regional Hazardous Materials team out of Williamston.

Rogerson, who resides in Elizabeth City, will work part time for Perquimans County while remaining a full time firefighter with Elizabeth City.

PCRA needs help to keep Newbold-White open

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Donations have been smaller, membership is down, and attendance numbers were lower last year.

The Perquimans County Restoration Association needs help to continue to operate the historic Newbold-White House.

"Remarkably, each year the PCRA volunteers raise most of the required \$100,000 operation budget through charitable donations and fundraising events," said Sarah M. Weeks, Heritage Tourism Development Officer for the North Carolina Department of Commerce. "They do this without state subsidy. Unfortunately, it is beginning to take more funds

than volunteers have the capacity to raise."

In addition to tax deductible donations needed for the non-profit organization, the association also needs supplies to help maintain the historic home's yard and gardens. Items needed include a reliable old pickup truck for hauling trash, weed eaters, large wheelbarrows, small chemical sprayers, two large bags of composted cow manure, two large bags of composted mushroom soil, heavy four mil. plastic, salt treated posts, Roundup, Seven dust, slow release fertilizer, lime pellets, landscape fabric, a box of wire staples, one inch PVC pipe and fittings for irrigation, a bundle of 250 bamboo growing stakes, a box of 200 Snap & Grow

tubes and landscape fabric protection Geodiscs 10 inches in diameter.

The Newbold White House is the oldest brick house in North Carolina and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The expansive grounds feature a Quaker gravesite dating to the 1600s, a vineyard, recreational trail and a seasonal herb garden.

"No other site is so representative of North Carolina's formative years," added Weeks.

The site is also home to the periauger, a replica of a double-masted colonial workboat.

Katharine Paulhamus, former site manager, left the position at the Newbold-White House back in Decem-

ber. The PCRA is currently seeking a replacement for Paulhamus who had been with the historic property for less than a year. McKenzie Falvo is currently serving as interim manager.

The PCRA, which owns and operates the historic property, educates and promotes an awareness of this region's history, heritage, and the preservation of Northeastern North Carolina's architecture. The group is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code so donations are tax-deductible. In addition to monetary contributions and items needed, ways to donate include endowments and volunteering, or more information, contact Weeks at 426-5123.

County accepts access grant

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The county has accepted an \$81,000 grant from the North Carolina Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program for a fishing pier and boat launch to be constructed behind the county's Department of Parks and Recreation building. But construction on the project can't begin until the county receives a shoreline stabilization permit approved by CAMA.

Monday night, county commissioners approved a resolution agreeing to add \$20,250 of county funds to the \$81,000 grant, along with \$6,000 in kind services, to fund the 200 ft. fishing/observation pier. The construction will provide a small boat (canoe/kayak) access to the Perquimans River as well.

"Hopefully, we'll receive the permit from CAMA in the next budget year," said County Manager Bobby Darden. The grant contract runs until mid 2009.

Funding for the project comes from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

In other matters, commissioners awarded the contract for the new HVAC system at Hertford Grammar School to ZBZ and Associates, Inc. for \$1,717,700. The county will fund the construction from the general fund reserve and the land transfer tax reserve.

A contingency fund of \$25,000 was also established for the project, which is expected to begin over the school system's spring break and last into fall.

Occupancy tax board organizing

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The county's new occupancy tax is now being collected, and the board that will decide how that money is spent is nearly organized.

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 55 LOW: 36
SUNNY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 57 LOW: 37
SUNNY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 54 LOW: 36
FEW SHOWERS