



THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

County wants chunk of stimulus package

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Perquimans County has submitted a \$17.4 million economic development/infrastructure package in hopes of snagging a tidbit of the state's estimated \$6 billion portion of the federal economic stimulus package approved last week.

The project would fund the construction of the marine seafood industrial park planned for the Commerce Centre. Design and engineering work for the project should be completed by the end of March.

The county is seeking \$12.6 million to construct a 17.5 acre inland basin and Perquimans River access channel; \$2.75 million to increase Hertford's sewer plant capacity from 700,000 —1 million gallon per day; \$1.05 million to construct an elevated water storage tank in the park; \$200,000 to extend water and sewer lines in the proposed marine park; and \$800,000 to widen existing roads, construct one new service road, and build an additional marine park entrance.

Last year, the county signed a letter of intent with the state Seafood Industrial Park Authority to provide 70 acres in the commerce center to the authority and enter into a partnership to develop a marine park. County officials expect an operating agreement to be signed this year.

Officials estimate that the park, when fully developed, will include over 20 businesses with approximately 400 employees.

The Commerce Centre was created in the mid 1990s when the county bought over 400 acres of land next to the Perquimans River less than a half mile from Hwy. 17. Infrastructure was implemented over the years, and today, the county's main economic development focus has nine businesses operating there with over 50 employees.

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Photo courtesy PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS

U.S. SENATOR RICHARD BURR recently visited Perquimans High School to congratulate Principal James Bunch on the success of staff and students at Perquimans High by earning the highest overall student composite for all high schools in the turnaround program. During Burr's hour-long visit, he spent the majority of his time with staff, discussing the need for strong public schools. He also engaged in a question and answer session with teachers providing details of the economic stimulus legislation. Here he speaks with school board chair Wallace Nelson and county commissioner Tammy Miller-White, also a faculty member at the high school, about the federal economic stimulus package.

Bill paid

Winfall pays Hertford part of \$35K bill; deducts \$18.5K for expenses

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The town of Winfall has paid Hertford a portion of the almost \$35,000 Hertford was seeking for treating Winfall's waste water for almost a year.

The \$16,286.82 check from Winfall to Hertford reflects deductions for engineering services and equipment installed.

Hertford officials were seeking \$34,867 from their neighboring town, saying Winfall had not paid them since March 2008.

Winfall's mayor says if Hertford doesn't accept the lower amount as payment in full, officials will seek the help of USDA in resolving the matter.

"The Town of Hertford will examine the accuracy of the gross amount due and the deductions to determine if they are appropriate under the terms of the contract and respond to the town of Winfall within 30 days," stated Hertford Town Manager John Christensen in response to receiving the check last week.

Mayor Fred Yates, in a letter to town customers recently, stated that while both Winfall and Hertford agreed on the amount owed, Winfall deducted from that amount the cost of engineering services and equipment needed to accurately measure Winfall's wastewater volume.

Winfall contends that the wastewater treatment contract between the two towns required Hertford to furnish, install and maintain at its own expense, necessary metering equipment and other required devices of standard type satisfactory to both seller and purchaser for properly measuring the quantity of wastewater delivered.

"The Town of Hertford did not install equipment which properly measured the wastewater flowing from the town of Winfall which led to inaccurate billing," Yates stated in his letter. "In addition, under paragraph 9 of the contract, the town of Hertford agreed to indemnify the town of Winfall against any loss, costs or expenses related to failure of the wastewater system.

"Because of the failure

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Two local road projects may be funded

Two county roads on state highway plan are 'shovel ready'

From staff reports

Perquimans County has two highway improvement projects included on the state highway department's "shovel ready" projects that may be funded by the federal economic stimulus package.

North Carolina received

\$838 million for transportation improvements through the federal economic recovery plan approved by Congress on Feb. 13 and signed by President Barack Obama. The total includes about \$735 million for highway and bridge projects and about \$103 million for transit, including aviation, bicycle and pedestrian, ferry, public transportation and rail projects.

"This funding will help us move forward with needed transportation improvements as well as create and sustain job opportunities for North Carolinians," Transportation Secretary

Gene Conti said. "We're in the process of working with communities across the state to determine which projects would best help us meet both these goals."

Included on the list is a \$4 million project to strengthen the pavement on Highway 17 between SR 1227 to SR 1101. In addition, replacing a bridge on the county line between Perquimans and Chowan counties is also on the list. The bridge project on Rt. 37 is estimated at \$500,000.

NCDOT plans to let highway and bridge projects funded through the first half of its share to contract

by June.

In November, NCDOT began identifying about \$5 billion in highway/bridge improvements and about \$1 billion in projects for other modes that could be ready quickly, and is now working to narrow down the initial list. Projects ultimately selected for funding will benefit communities across the state and help a wide range of industry partners.

Last week, the department added \$92.8 million in highway and bridge improvements that would be funded through the stimulus plan to the list of projects.

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Phase II offers quality consignments

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Don't call it a thrift shop. The bargains discovered at Phase II Consignments are selected from a variety of quality new and used items found in this upscale consignment shop.

The Perquimans Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting Feb. 19 at the new shop located in the Ken-Nix Plaza just outside of Elizabeth City on Hwy. 17 South.

Owner Linda Strobel offers men, women's children's clothing and accessories as well as home decor, household items, furniture, linens, dishes, silver, crystal and china, collectibles, toiletries, gifts, and even toys.

Consignments are accepted daily and remain on the floor for 60 days. Sales are split 50/50 with the store.

"This is a win-win situation," said Strobel. "The consignor earns needed cash and the consumer gets a bargain."

The store, managed by Brad Strobel, opened in January and has signed approximately 100 consignors so far. Gently used quality in-season clothes are accepted if freshly cleaned, pressed and on hangers.

Purses, shoes, belts and jewelry are also accepted any time. No appointments are necessary to place an item on consignment.

The shop sets the selling price, and the consignors can receive their split from sales at any time.

With the June bridal season just around the corner, the unique store has wedding dresses, party dresses, prom dresses and even mother-of-the-bride dresses also in stock.

A precious baby room includes clothes from Felton and Peaches & Cream,

among other name brand items, a baby crib, and even a twin-stroller.

Furniture pieces available included a wing chair, dining room set, Bombay chest and mirror, among

others. Delivery can be arranged for large pieces.

Phase II Consignments is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.—6 p.m. For more information, call 333-1334.



Perquimans Weekly photo by CATHY WILSON

THE PERQUIMANS CHAMBER OF Commerce held a ribbon cutting at Phase II Consignments Feb. 19 for the unique upscale consignment shop located in the Ken-Nix Plaza just outside of Elizabeth City on Highway 17 South.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 65 LOW: 51
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 68 LOW: 46
T-SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 50 LOW: 41
FEW SHOWERS



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