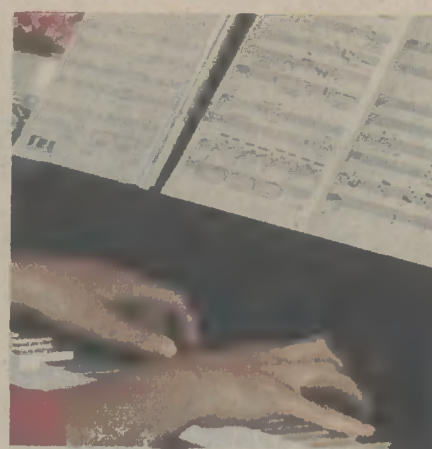


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

APRIL 22 - APRIL 28, 2009



Albemarle Chorale to perform Sunday at PCHS

pg. 4

35 cents

County approves waterfront housing

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

A new subdivision offering up to 140 single family residential lots is planned at the end of Snug Harbor Road.

Point Pleasant on the Albemarle was approved last week by county commissioners.

Owned by Enterprise Realty, the nearly 100-acre planned unit development located on the Yeopim Creek and river near the Albemarle Sound is adjacent to the Snug Harbor community.

It will receive water from the county and have a central wastewater treatment plant and disposal system. All other utilities will be buried underground.

In addition, a 100-plus slip marina, boat storage area, and community center are planned.

"I still have a lot of design hoops to jump through," said Derrick Smith of Greenville, one of the three owners of Enterprise Realty.

Other owners include Dean Sinatra of Charleston, S.C. and Dan Girouard of Richmond, Va.

"We anticipate getting the preliminary plat approved in the next three months," he added.

Lots are expected to be ready to market by fall. Each lot will be at least 15,000 square feet. The developers anticipate custom-built homes using local builders, he said.

The property is now farm land that includes one house built in the early 1800s. Property owners say they intend to preserve the house for its historical significance and either use it as a residence or let it become part of the Property Owners Association.

There is also an existing boat ramp on the property that is currently used by the public for a daily fee, as well as an abandoned building once used as a marina store.

The owners propose to renovate the store building and convert it into a boat house complete with lockers, ice machine, and sitting areas.

The boat ramp is slated to be upgraded and maintained to ensure continued access for the community.

The subdivision will have walking trails and open space available to residents.

A marina that would provide water access to the interior lot owners is proposed for the south side of the property, providing both the state and county give approval.

A ROCKING BOAT SHOW



SUSAN HARRIS/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Top, Carolina Robertson was the first to try to climb the rock wall at the 8th Annual Northeastern North Carolina Boat Show Saturday at the Perquimans County Recreation/Community Centre.

From kayaks to fishing vessels to luxury cruisers with sleeping and cooking accommodations, boats of all sizes and prices were on display at the boat show over the weekend.

Hertford opposes new proposed S-bridge rules

Coast Guard, DOT want to shrink opening times; have two-hour advance notice

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

The town of Hertford has gone on record opposing the Coast Guard's plans to require a two-hour advance notice in order to open the historic S-bridge for boat traffic for seven months of the year.

Last week, members of Hertford Town Council unanimously expressed opposition to the new regulation that would not only require two-hour advance notice, but would reduce the times the bridge could open as well.

Currently, the draw bridge opens for boat traffic on signal from 8 a.m.—midnight April 1 - Sept. 30, and from 10 a.m.—10 p.m. the rest of the year. The new regulation would allow the draw bridge to open on signal from 8 a.m.—10 p.m. May 1—Sept. 30, and from 10 a.m.—8 p.m. with two-hour advance notice the rest of the year.

"As you can see the proposed schedule will



Christensen

eliminate a bridge tender from being on premises for seven months of the year," Town Manager John Christensen said. "Historically during this seven months, one-third of the openings has occurred."

According to the USCG proposal detailed on the federal register, the request to require advance notice and cutting back on the hours is sought by the North Carolina Department of Transportation due to the decreased number of bridge openings annually. According to NCDOT figures on the registry, the draw bridge opened 363 times in 2006, 451 times in 2007, and only 266 times in 2008. The draw bridge itself, however, was forced to close to boat traffic for about two weeks last year for repairs.

According to the registry, changing the regulation would allow for more efficient use of the bridge during months of infrequent transit.

Council members, however, believe the town has several reasons why the regulations should not be changed. The town proposes to build a public marina west of the S-bridge in

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Visitors center creates a Jim 'Catfish' Hunter mini-museum

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

The Perquimans County Visitors Center/Chamber of Commerce is creating a small museum devoted to the legendary National Baseball Hall of Famer Jim "Catfish" Hunter.

The former New York Yankee pitcher, originally from Hertford, was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. in 1987 after beginning his career in the major leagues in 1965. He died in 1999 following complications from ALS. His family still resides in Perquimans County.

"We have visitors who come into the Visitors' Center asking to see things pertaining to him," said Sylvia Wyatt, secretary. "There are many people who followed his career and are interested in seeing memorabilia from his baseball days."

The mini-museum will feature artifacts dis-



Hunter

played in antique oak and glass cases. Donations of memorabilia will be accepted or can be offered on loan for the public to enjoy, Wyatt explained.

The size of the mini-museum depends on the amount and size of memorabilia given, pointed out Sid Eley, director.

He hopes to have the museum in place by Perquimans County Day at the Edenton Steamers baseball game slated for July 25. This year marks the 22nd anniversary of Hunter's induction into the Hall of Fame. He is also remembered in the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

According to the state library, Hunter rose to superstar status in baseball while maintaining his down-home character. He was an out-

See MUSEUM on Page A2

Code enforcement process begins

Four homes chosen from substandard properties list

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Four properties deemed substandard have been targeted for code enforcement by the town of Hertford.

Members of Hertford Town Council last week approved beginning the code enforcement process on the four properties based on recommendations by Town Manager John Christensen.

Christensen based his selections on criteria used to prioritize 19 properties currently on the town's substandard properties list. Christensen visited and graded each property with the top or worst-scored properties suggested to the council for code enforcement.

Those properties include: 320 King Street, owned by William D. Ferebee; 315 W. Market Street, owned by Gladys Thompson Hill; 319 W. Market Street, owned by Thomas E. White heirs; and 221 King Street, owned by Thomas A. Riddick.

During the code enforcement process, owners may either improve the property or the town can demolish the house, place a lien on the property and then recover the cost of demolition from

the owner. Criteria upon which each property was judged includes: the location of the property, and its visibility and neighborhood; whether it houses criminal behavior; the condition of the house and yard; and the number of years since the house was last occupied.

Each of the four houses scored high in criminal behavior and poor condition of the house and yard. The house at 320 King Street has been vacant for a year, 221 King Street for 12 years, 315 W. Market Street for five years, and 319 W. Market Street for 11 years.

According to Christensen, the house at 320 King Street has deteriorated, but the roof is okay. The doors are open, the yard is trashy with building materials stacked in the back yard, and, while the grass has been cut, the bushes are overgrown.

The house at 221 King Street has a deteriorated roof; the windows and doors are boarded up, with the exception of the back door, which is broken in and open; and the back porch is falling down.

The two homes on Market Street are deteriorating as well. The roof on the house at 315 W. Market Street is falling off, the front door is unsecured, and heavy brush covers the uncut yard. A dog

is chained to a tree in the back yard. Since the house is unoccupied, Christensen believes someone is using the yard to keep the dog.

The house at 319 W. Market Street is located on a lot that is heavily overgrown with a lot of trash and debris in the yard. The doors and windows are open and broken.

Christensen said abandoned houses can become havens for crime.

Police Chief Joe Amos agrees.

"The main thing with all the locations is that they are used by people as a place to gather as well as some people breaking and entering to have a place to stay," said Amos. "The problem with that is, of course, when you have people living in an abandoned house, they tend to use fires to keep warm and that can lead to a house fire that might threaten a house next to the vacant house. Also, when you have people gathered up at a house or breaking in the house, you tend to see drug or alcohol abuse and that can lead to other problems as well."

These four houses are the latest in the town's efforts to rid the area of substandard properties. Five years ago, 43 properties in town were identified. Since then, 24 have either been improved

See CODE on Page A2

DOT releases traffic accident statistics

Crashes

Perq. '07 - 233	'08 - 232
Chowan '07 - 249	'08 - 263
Pasq. '07 - 46	'08 - 806

Injuries /Fatalities

Perq. '07 - 96/0	'08 - 74/1
Chowan '07 - 108/1	'08 - 110/2
Pasq. '07 - 368/3	'08 - 444/1

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Perquimans County didn't follow the state's trend in lower traffic-related fatalities last year, but has seen significant decline the past two years.

While traffic deaths decreased by more than 17 percent last year statewide, Perquimans County actually saw an increase.

According to figures provided by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, no lives were lost on county roads in 2007 yet one person died in a traffic accident in 2008.

Chowan County also saw an increase in traffic fatalities, going from one in 2007 to two in 2008.

In Pasquotank County, however, the number of fatalities fell by two.

NCDOT qualifies its figures by pointing out that many traffic crashes go unreported for a variety of reasons.

The number of highway crashes that occurred in Perquimans County actually remained fairly steady. Crashes

here totaled 232 in 2008 and 233 in 2007.

The number of injuries resulting from those crashes, however, decreased from 96 to 74.

In Chowan County, NCDOT figures show that 263 crashes occurred in 2008 with 110 injuries and two fatalities compared with 249 crashes in 2007 which caused 108 injuries and only one fatality.

There were 806 crashes reported in Pasquotank County with 444 injuries and one fatality compared with 846 crashes in 2007 causing 368 injuries and three fatalities.

An eight-year analysis of highway crashes, injuries and fatalities overall shows that, for the most part, while there were more crashes in Perquimans, the number of those injured or dying decreased.

"Safety is our top priority," State Transportation Secretary Gene Conti said. "This decrease is significant and demonstrates what can be accomplished when state and local agencies work together to make North Carolina a safer place to travel."

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 69 LOW: 52
SUNNY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 72 LOW: 52
SUNNY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 73 LOW: 55
SUNNY

