

DOT

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Prohibiting farm equipment might be one thing in an urban area, but Perquimans County it is an issue, said Frank Heath, the county manager.

"It (making an Interstate) is a good idea, but it has big challenges, with the farm equipment being one of them. We're a rural county."

"What happens, we don't know, but you'd have to have some road for accessibility," Welch said. "This is a long-range vision, 25 years out."

Welch stresses it is far too early for people to speculate what a new US 17 would look like. She does believe that if Congress approves of the concept — even if it doesn't earmark money — it could have a positive impact.

"Even if it's 25 years out, with the designation that there will be a future interstate — just knowing that — businesses will take notice."

The projects, especially the ones involving sidewalks, bike lanes and multi-use paths, won't happen unless they score well enough on a state formula. That hasn't happened, and Welch said that it's difficult to predict.

Her point was that if a project isn't in the transportation plan, there is no chance at all it will get funded.

"These are in the plan," Welch said.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Angela Welch, Rural Planning Organization (RPO) coordinator for the Albemarle Commission (right) points out features of a proposed plan to upgrade U.S. 17 to Interstate standards last week in an open meeting. Also pictured is Fred Yates, the mayor of Winfall and Farhan Javed, a transportation engineer for N.C. DOT.

The DOT often doesn't have the right way to tackle pedestrian and bike paths. Multi-use paths — areas that allow both walkers and bikers to use the same area — are wider than a typical sidewalk and have to be separated from the traffic lanes.

Welch said she'll know more when the next round of funding is announced in December 2016.

There have been mixed signals out of Raleigh. The General Assembly has removed transportation spending from a proposed \$2 billion bond issue. It did however agree to quit putting \$216 million a year in general tax revenue in the general fund budget.

"Over the next two years, the budget will increase spending for construction projects by \$337 million, replacement of substandard bridges by \$147 million, road resurfacing by \$147 million and state ports by \$70 million," Welch said.

DOT provided visitors with a three-page handout listing all the projects in the comprehensive plan. Some larger ones like widening Woodville Roads, Perry's Bridge Road and New Hope Roads. Some work on those has already happened. The list also includes the replacement of the S-Bridge in Hertford. It is in the final stages of planning and public hearings on mitigation are expected.

A bulk of the handout lists bike lane, sidewalk and multi-use path locations.

Some of Hertford has sidewalks, but portions west of the railroad track are lacking. Bike lanes in Winfall on Main Street do exist but upgrades are needed.

"The comprehensive transportation is long-range, and it looks at overall broad concepts," Heath said.

The plan includes bike lanes along 11 roads in the county, plus 12 in Hertford and six in Winfall that should be improved or created. There are six roads in Hertford that are recommended for multi-use paths. Twenty-four roads in Hertford are listed for sidewalks as well as 10 in Winfall.

Habitat accepting applications now

From Staff Reports

Habitat for Humanity is now accepting applicants for homes to be built in both Chowan and Perquimans County in 2016.

The minimum gross income requirement for family of four is \$2,200 per month. On Oct. 24 informational sessions will be held at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church Parish Hall (entrance next to parking lot), 207 S. Church St. in Hertford and at 2 p.m. at the COA/Culinary Bldg (Cafeteria - Blade Street side), 800 N. Oakum St. in Edenton. You can also call 396-5006.

Lobster sale is Oct. 9

From Staff Reports

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Hertford will hold its annual lobster sale on Oct. 9. Live or cooked Maine lobsters will be delivered curbside at the church between 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

The cost is \$15. Tickets will be sold in advance and will be available at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 201 N. Church St. Monday through Thursday mornings between the hours of 9 a.m. to noon. Checks may be made out to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Bark For Life set

From Staff Reports

The annual Bark For Life will be held on Nov. 7 at Meyler Farms, 233 Woodville Road. Registration is \$12 and includes a t-shirt for all pre-paid registrants. Call 455-1600 for more information. Bark For Life is a fundraiser for Relay For Life. There will be costume, best trick, nekkid dog and ice cream eating contests and an obstacle course. There will also be prizes for the biggest and smallest dog.

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BONNER

Continued from 1

and for families. A lot of teaching has gone on."

He's also been able to take a larger role in the regional Episcopal Church.

"I've done a lot of work in the diocese. He was a dean for the 16-member Albemarle Deanery. He rose the "dean of the deanery."

"That meant instead of Rev. John Bonner it's the Very Rev. John Bonner," he said with a

smile.

The local vestry will name his replacement.

"The first thing the church has to do is have a search committee," he said.

Barbara Kehayes is the senior warden of the vestry of the parish.

There are two traditional ways to proceed. One is bring in temporary ministers to lead the Sunday services and the local congregation will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the church.

Another option would be

if the church asked for a full-time temporary minister to come in and serve for a year or 18 months. During that process the church has time to find a permanent replacement. With that process, Bonner said the temporary minister cannot be hired as the permanent replacement — even if both sides want to do that.

Bonner isn't ready to give up the clergy altogether. He has the option to just "walk away" but the church allows ministers a chance to still

preach from time to time on a fill-in basis for other congregations.

After the movers come in October, Bonner and his wife will be moving to Chattanooga, Tenn. Both he and his wife have brothers and sisters there, and Bonner has one of his children there.

"We're not just going somewhere, we're going home," Bonner said.

If you don't believe it, he's already transferred his North Carolina license plates to the new Tennessee versions.

FAIR QUEEN

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In fact, she said, "I already am."

For the talent competi-

tion in Saturday's pageant, Jordan performed an interpretive dance number that incorporated moves from ballet and gymnastics.

Jordan, who started dancing while still a toddler, drew

on that extensive dance experience in Saturday's performance.

Jordan hopes to attend East Carolina University and major in elementary education and special education.

That goal shone through clearly during the communication or question-and-answer phase of the pageant, when she answered a question about her dream by saying it would be working in education.

The question-and-answer session was one of three pageant segments, alongside the talent and evening gown competitions.

Chappell was asked how young people could improve their community. She said

young people could have a big voice in the community by helping people, including visiting people in nursing homes.

White was asked about her dream job, and said it would be a veterinarian because she loves animals.

Becky Wilder served as pageant director. Laura Beth Anders was in charge of sound, while Tara Lane and Michelle Riddick were responsible for stage decoration.

Judges were Rhonda Cobb, Beth Stanley and Mary Morris. The tabulator was Linda Drage.

Jordan received a cash prize of \$300, Nance received \$200 and Kelly-Goss received \$100.

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