

SIGN DEDICATED



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Downtown Beautification Committee dedicated the new "National Register of Historic Places" sign at the corner of Market and Church street to Jeanne White, a long-time member of the beautification committee. All her children were in attendance, Reggie White from Raleigh; David White from Atlanta and Dianne White Stallings from Belvidere. The sign was partially funded with contributions from Jeanne White Memorial funds with the rest from Historic Hertford, Inc.

Chamber expo is set for Thursday

From Staff Reports

The Perquimans Business Expo will be held Thursday at the Perquimans Recreation Center from noon to 4 p.m. A Country Hoedown, featuring food from 15 restaur-

ants/caterers in the area, follows from 5-7 p.m. This year's theme pays tribute to the county's agricultural/country heritage: Cultivating Business - Planting Seeds for Success. Admission to the Expo is \$1. Admission to the

Country Hoedown is \$10. Tickets are available at the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center at 118 W. Market St. in Hertford. Activities include vendors, entertainment, demonstrations (butter churning, wreath making, winter gardening, solar energy), health screen-

ings, free windshield washing, free spa, Hollerin' Contest, antique farm equipment, and a Chefs/Sweets Challenge as a fundraiser for the Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation.

For more information, see www.visitperquimans.com or call 426-5657.

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Habitat looking for applicants

From Staff Reports

The Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity is currently accepting applications for the 2016 homes that will be built in both Perquimans and Chowan County.

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical Christian organization that builds simple, affordable homes in partnership with families in our community who currently live in sub-standard housing and could not qualify to receive standard mortgage loans through commercial banking or lending institutions.

Habitat sells the houses at no profit to Habitat and charges no interest to the partner family. To qualify, a family must be willing to work alongside our volunteers on local Habitat projects including the construction of their new home, must currently live in sub-standard or inadequate housing and must

have lived in either Chowan or Perquimans county for a year.

The Partner Family must repay Habitat over a 20-plus year period, so there is a minimum monthly gross income of \$2,200 based on a family of four. The minimum income requirement varies depending on family size. The monthly mortgage includes taxes and insurance and Habitat attempts to keep the payments under \$500 per month. New homeowners also must be able to make a down-payment of \$1,200. There will be two informational meetings on Oct. 24. The first begins at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church Parish Hall (entrance next to parking lot) 207 S. Church Street, Hertford. The second begins at 2 p.m. at the COA/Culinary Building (Cafeteria - Blade Street side) 800 N. Oakum St., Edenton.

For more information, call 396-5006.

SAFETY RULES

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who ignore the flashing lights and the stop signs when buses let students on or off. The problem appears more severe when students have to exit the right side of the bus where the doors are and then cross in front of the bus through potential traffic to reach their destination. "We've done everything we could in each situation to try to prevent students from having to cross the street," Miller said. Still about 300 of the 1,000 riders do cross the street at least once a day.

Under the new policy, a bus driver has to shift into neutral and put on the parking "brake." Then "students would be directed out of the bus and be expected to wait. When the driver believes all is safe, he or she will use hand gestures to tell the students it's OK to proceed.

If the exiting student can just exit the bus and go directly home without crossing the street, the special procedure isn't required.

"So far I've had positive feedback," Miller said.

Students who use electronic devices with earplugs are

told they have to quit using them during the process of entering and exiting so they can hear the bus driver.

The new process will delay the process, Miller said.

"It doesn't seem like a big thing, but if you do it 50 times a day, it is," Miller said.

The new policy also addresses activity buses that are used to take students on field trips or athletic events. There is a new form that shows students have been instructed in the safety exits and other features of the bus so they'll know what to do in the event of an emergency.

Since some sporting teams make multiple trips each season and the fact that the school system has more than six different-style buses in use, Miller streamlined the process. For sports teams he took one day and then acquainted all members of that team with all the different buses and documented it on one form. That form can be used the entire season, and won't have to be duplicated each time the team travels.

Miller said it took them about 25 minutes to cover the entire football team.

TEENS

Continued from 1

and Ames to the grand jury in Camden County on Nov. 9.

A conviction on first-degree murder in North Carolina can carry either life imprisonment or the death

penalty. Womble said his office has made no decision yet whether to seek the death penalty against Brunson and Ames.

Elizabeth City police, who investigated Graham's death, said Friday they would have no comment on the case.

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