THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door" THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020 $1.00

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NEWS

State officials and regional environmental groups are warning residents to keep out of local waterways as algae has been found in Chowan River, Albemarle Sound — A2

COMMUNITY

Hertford Rotary Club installs new officers and raised money for efforts to eradicate polio — B1

Group Challenges Petition Drive

Rejects Call for Jackson, Norman to Resign

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

A new group has formed to challenge a petition drive that seeks to change Councilmen Frank Norman and Quentin Jackson's conduct and asks for their resignations if civility doesn't return during Hertford Town Council meetings.

Uptown Making A Difference (U-MAD) was formed recently to counter Friends of Hertford whose door-to-door petition drive has gathered hundreds of signatures from residents seeking an end to council meetings they contend have been "an embarrassing mockery to our community" because of Jackson and Norman's "combative, disrespectful and unproductive behavior."

U-MAD rejects the idea of Norman and Councilman Jackson resigning.

"The councilmen were elected through the democratic process," said Lawrence Jackson in a letter to the editor submitted Monday night during another marathon length council meeting. "If they are to be removed, it should also be through the democratic election process. We want to make this perfectly clear that the petition being circulated does not reflect the opinion of all Hertford citizens. What arrogance of certain citizens to suggest that all citizens must have the same opinion."

See **PETITION,** A3

Committee OKs Plans for Charter School

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

RALEIGH — NC Charter School Advisory Committee unanimously recommended Tuesday to the NC Board of Education that Elaine Riddick Charter School be open for classes when the new school year starts in August.

Advisory committee said the charter school meets all the guidelines needed for state approval to move forward.

School's charter has already been approved by the NC Board of Education.

School leaders assured the advisory committee that they are confident that necessary upgrades to the the 22,500-square-foot facility would be completed before school starts.

Located at 1054 Harvey Point Road, the school was granted a conditional use permit in June by the Hertford Planning and Zoning Board.

In June, the state advisory committee told the school's organizers that the school needs to meet at least 75 percent of its enrollment goal of 120 students — 90 students — before the committee issues its final approval.

Tuesday, school proponents said at least 105 students plan to attend the tuition free grades K-3 charter school this fall and recruitment remains active.

The school will be managed by Torchlight Academy, a Raleigh-based charter school.

There was no comment from school leaders in time for this report.

According to the school's website, ERCS will serve grades K-3 in its first year of operation (2020-2021), and the school will add one grade level per year until reaching Grades K-8. Any student may apply.

The school selects students using a random lottery. Once a student is accepted in the school, the student is not required to reapply each year.

For example, a student who is accepted in kindergarten may remain enrolled in the school until the completion of Grade 8 without having to submit a new application each year.

The charter school is governed by a volunteer board of directors that meets each month.

School's website lists the Board of Directors as Mary Felton, who will serve chairperson, Tony Riddick as secretary, Hortense Dodo as treasurer, along with Kofi Konan and Archie Aples as board members.

FUN FOURTH PQ STYLE

PHOTO BY KIM ULLOM

Wouldn't be the Fourth of July without some fireworks. Though the bright lights were in short supply, Steamers' game Friday showed "the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

PHOTO BY ANNETTE PARR

Uncle Sam, John Mazur, with his mask on, leads the Holiday Island Yacht Club's 4th of July Golf Cart Parade.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dressed in red, white and blue on July 4, Gary Lico represents the best that Perquimans County has to offer in terms of character, a friendly smile and patriotic spirit. See more Fourth of July photos on page B1.

PHOTO BY ANNETTE PARR

Many decorated carts participated in the Holiday Island Yacht Club's Fourth of July parade.

PHOTO BY SARA WINSLOW

American flag hangs high above the Perquimans River.

ROUND-UP

Gar and Algae

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County...

According to court documents, Councilman Quentin Jackson celebrated a birthday July 3 – he turns 35 years old. Bless his heart; that means Jackson is old enough to be eligible to run for president. Imagine a debate between Jackson and Trump! That'd be must-see TV! **Happy Birthday** Councilman Jackson.

J.P. Burket of Hertford recently caught a longnose **gar** about 45 inches long. That's something. These fish have long sharp teeth and are ferocious predators in the shallows around our waters. On occasion when I see a bleached Jurassic-era skeleton washed up on a sandy beach, I thank my lucky stars I wasn't swimming in that spot by the Albemarle Sound.

Met **Ellen Haring** – thx for

See **LAYTON,** A3

PHOTO BY ANNE BURKET

J.P. Burket caught this 45 inch gar Sunday in the Perquimans River. His 10-year-old daughter Anne called it a monster fish.

Mike Ervin to lead Albemarle Commission

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON AND REGGIE PONDER
Adams Publishing Group

On Thursday, July 2, Edenton Historical Commission said farewell to Executive Director Mike Ervin with a send-off at the Barker House.

Ervin, 69, started his new job at the Hertford-based Albemarle Commission on Monday, July 6, after serving four and a half years as head of the history-focused nonprofit.

The commission focuses on the Area Agency on Aging, senior nutrition, rural planning, workforce development and economic development.

Edenton Historical Commission President Joy Harvill said she will serve as executive director until the group "can find the right person for the job."

Tom Newbern will become commission chair while Harvill takes a leave of absence to fulfill the executive director abilities.

During Ervin's time as executive director, the Edenton Historical Commission has grown and the demands of his role have changed. Within the past few years, the commission completed renovations to the Chowan County Jail and received a donation of the oldest house in North Carolina. It also took over operations of the Edenton trolley.

Because of these changes, Harvill said she wants to do the job

See **ERVIN,** A3

NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Mike Ervin stands in the Penelope Barker House on Thursday, July 2, as he works his last day as executive director of the Edenton Historical Commission. He is now executive director of Albemarle Commission, based in Hertford.

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Vol. 86, No. 28

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