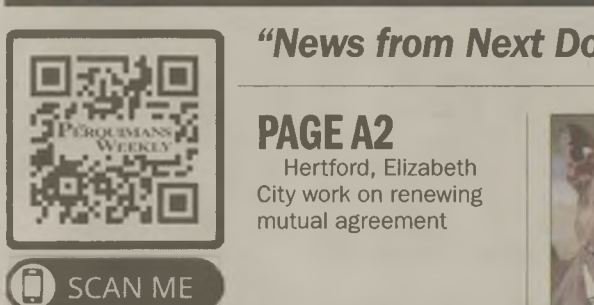


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

\$1.00

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Hertford, Elizabeth City work on renewing mutual agreement



PAGE A6

Tri-County Animal Shelter's Pets of the Week



PAGE B1

Pirates' football team hopes to build on last year's success

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Vision in the Making: Developing Hertford's Waterfront

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Progress remains ongoing in efforts toward formulating a plan to improve Hertford's historic downtown, neighborhoods and northern riverfront.

In an effort to reach as many people as possible during the pandemic, the consultant team is using a digital platform (publicinput.com/HertfordPlan).

The Community and Riverfront Advisory Committee is assisting with this effort by distributing pa-

per copies of the survey, collecting them, and entering the data on the site.

Advisory Committee provides outreach to the community for the plan, and provides guidance to assure that the consultant team is hearing and responding to the

voices, goals and objective of the community. Often, such volunteer groups will continue after the plan is complete, advocate for it, and help to ensure its implementation over time.

This Committee does not manage the project, rather they advise

the consultants, provide outreach to the community for the plan, and provide guidance to assure we are hearing the voices, goals and objective of the community. Often, such volunteer groups will continue after

See VISION, A2

Nominations Open for Women of Excellence Awards

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce invites residents to nominate women for the annual Women of Excellence Awards.

Nominations close at 5 p.m. March 4.

"We are doing women of excellence awards for women in business conference," Chamber Director Katrina Leary Mann said. "I will have a link on our website if they would like to nominate someone. I also have a Facebook event set up with all the information on it as well. We are the 'Land of Beautiful Women.'"

They honor the accomplishments of women who have achieved success in their careers and demonstrated commitment to the success of other women and/or girls. Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce selects honorees for their vision, courage, compassion, and proven success. Nominations are encouraged from Perquimans Chamber Members and Perquimans Residents.

AWARD CATEGORIES

One Woman of Excellence is chosen for each of the following categories. PECO encourages nominators to choose up to three categories for which your nominee might qualify. Please note that PECO reserves the right to change the award category of your nominee.

Woman of Achievement is a woman who has attained a high rank (CEO, President, Chair) and uses her position, stature, and expertise to break down gender bias

See AWARDS, A3



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Left photo: The Hertford Hub won the spark plug award that was presented to Pamela Morrissey, who co-owns the business with husband Patrick. Right photo: Planters Ridge, Inc has received 2020 Business of the Year. Award which was presented to Natalie Brown, owner of popular florist and garden center, even has a cafe.

PQ Chamber Honors Excellence

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Perquimans Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet paid tribute to business and community leaders at Sunday's virtual banquet at the Crawfish Shack.

"Our award process is we ask for nominations from all chamber members," Chamber Director Katrina Leary Mann said. "Then who gets most nominations receives the award. Nonprofit of the Year and Spark Plug award received the most. Business of the Year was a finished vote on from the board. The Ambassador of the year is run off the most points from activity and volunteering at chamber."

The Hertford Hub won the Spark Plug award that was presented to Pamela Morrissey, who co-owns the business with husband Patrick. This award goes to a member business (usually a new business) or a person who has shown an extra "spark of enthusiasm" for our community or Chamber in the past year through activities, proactive business practices, or forming positive relationships that benefit the community and the Chamber.

Planters Ridge Florist and Garden Center received 2020 Business of the Year. Award was pre-

See CHAMBER, A3



Perquimans Arts League received 2020 Nonprofit of the Year. PQ Chamber Director Katrina Leary Mann (right) presented the award to PAL President Ed Sanford and PAL Program Director Sheryl Corr.



PQ Chamber Director Katrina Leary Mann (right) presented Cyn Owens of Taylor Mueller Realty the 2020 Ambassador of the Year.

A MESSAGE

FROM THE MAYOR

Update on Hertford Efforts

BY MAYOR EARNELL BROWN

As I frequently drive the neighborhoods of Hertford, I see much to be proud of. Things are quiet in our beautiful town.

The streets are mostly clean and citizens are safe.

Yes, we have some blighted houses and potholes, unemployment, the pandemic, curfews, embarrassing Council meetings and negative press, but we are not unique. These are issues prevalent across the country.

Because of these unsettling events I believe it's time for Hertford to receive some good news and provide an update that focuses on the positive and shares some of the initiatives that support the progression of Hertford.

Over the past 14 months there were many initiatives relative to infrastructure, housing, beautification, citizen safety, community outreach, the COVID-19 pandemic, communications, policies and personnel, waterfront development, Community planning and economic development. Provided is an update of what was accomplished. This is the first of a series of GOOD NEWS - Unity in the Hertford Community updates:

Infrastructure, Housing and Beautification:

- Approved Forgiveness Policy that provides a fair and equitable process when forgiveness of town debt is requested. We

See HERTFORD, A3



EARNELL BROWN

NC Association of Educators Visits PQ Schools

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The North Carolina Association of Educators' We Love Public Schools Tour visited Thursday at Perquimans County Schools.

Listening tour session was an opportunity for NCAE to reach school staff and hear their stories about why they love our public schools.

"Yes, I do believe the event was successful despite the rainy, cold weather," Superintendent Tanya Turner said. "It was great to see past and present community leaders hon-

ored for their contributions to Perquimans County. Our school system is successful because of the partnerships that have been built and the heroes that have gone before us."

North Carolina Retired School Personnel members Brenda Dail, Rebecca McGough and Brenda Hollowell-White assisted with the tour to help out Perquimans County chapter of NCAE.

"A cold day but so exciting to see the We Love tour's RV pull into the school driveways! Many lovable leaders were recognized at each School," Hollowell-White said.

Beginning at Perquimans Middle, former Hertford Town Councilman Sid Eley and Douglas Layden were recognized; at Perquimans Central, Winfall Mayor Fred Yates, EMS Director Jonathan Nixon and EMS Public Information Officer/Grants

Manager Julie Solesbee; Central School principal Tracy Gregory and Asst. principal Ginny Ambrose, were recognized. The tour progressed to Hertford Grammar where Hertford Mayor Earnell Brown was honored. Ending the tour at Perquimans County High School, Superintendent Pat Harrell and Superintendent Dr Dwayne Stallings were honored in memoriam as Lovable Leaders.

Other recipients were BOE Chairperson Anne White; chairperson of County Commissioners Wallace Nelson; former District Court Judge Janice Cole and her husband, District Court Judge JC Cole; and Superintendent Tanya Turner.

"What a breath of fresh air to see the We Heart Our RV drive up to each school to support public school education and our local leaders," Hollowell-White said.

MB Taylor Day Ahead

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Mark your calendars for MB Taylor Day, next Thursday, March 4.

March 4, 1984, then Mayor Bill Cox declared a proclamation in Hertford as the "MB Taylor Day."

Fast forward to 2021, March 4 will again be celebrated as MB Taylor Day!

Dr. Minnie Bess Edwards Taylor served over 30 years as a Home Economics Extension agent for Perquimans County; the first African-American to serve in that role.

Before Taylor passed away in December of 2017, she had a love for the culinary arts and enjoyed preparing meals for the community.

The March 4 celebration will kickoff at 1 p.m. with a hot meal, sponsored by her family, being delivered to senior citizens who are

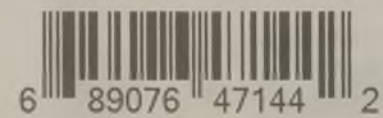


MB TAYLOR

homebound.

Then at 2:30 p.m., there will be a food distribution and balloons will be released in front of her home on 303 Dobbs Street.

For information, contact Minister Connie Brothers, a former 4-Her under Taylor's leadership, at Ctbros2003@yahoo.com. 252-333-8959.



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