

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022

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SCAN ME



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Bridge work gives Larry's Drive-In a boost



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Edenton DAR chapter wins award for July 4th event



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Thach homers, Steamers win 3rd straight, downing Clayton

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## 'Today is Freedom Day'



PHOTOS BY REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

A Community Mass Choir performs at the town of Hertford's first-ever Juneteenth Freedom Day festival Saturday. Roughly 300 people attended the event.

## Hertford holds first Juneteenth event

Event began at soldiers monument, proceeded to park

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

The location of the Juneteenth festival in Hertford on Saturday was evidence that "change has come," local historian Keith Rouse said.

Rouse said when he was growing up, he and other Black children "dared not come onto this ground."

"This ground" Rouse was talking about is the green space located behind the Horace C. Reid Jr. Community Building. It recently was named "Central Park,"

and Hertford officials have high hopes for the park as a site for community events in the future.

Around 11 a.m. Saturday a group of 15-20 people gathered at the Colored Union Soldiers Monument for an opening ceremony and then walked a few blocks to Central Park for the rest of the Juneteenth festivities. The crowd grew exponentially as the day's activities continued, eventually reaching about 200.

Winfall Mayor Fred Yates was one of the speakers for a brief ceremony held at the park.

See **HERTFORD, A3**



Participants in a Freedom Walk head from the Colored Union Soldiers Monument toward Central Park at the start of the Juneteenth Freedom Day festival in Hertford Saturday.

## Artists eye more Hertford mural projects

LaPerrier, Robertson putting final touches on PAL mural

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Correspondent

Snug Harbor artist David LaPerrier wasn't searching for a wall to paint a mural on when he happened to walk into The Hertford Bay Tap House.

He was searching for Guinness on tap.

LaPerrier found not only draft Guinness at Hertford Bay, he also struck up a friendship with Anna Robertson, a fellow artist who also works the tap house's stick most nights.

The two began to talk art, as LaPerrier had a hand — and brush — in the rejuvenation of Norfolk, Virginia's arts district, the last port he was stationed in while in the U.S. Coast Guard.

"I volunteered with the Norfolk Art Committee to help assist with their art district," LaPerrier recalls. "In the time I lived there I saw a big change in the Neon District. The section of Granby Street and Brambleton Street were just closed shops and no traffic, per se. Once they started the rejuvenation art project you could see

See **MURALS, A3**



JOHN FOLEY PHOTO

Artists Anna Robertson (left) and David LaPerrier stand in front of the rear wall of the Perquimans Arts League building where they're putting the finishing touches on a mural Robertson designed. The pair hope to undertake other building mural projects in Hertford's downtown.

## Commissioners OK budget with \$10 hike in solid waste fee

Board also approves \$6.8M contract for marine park basin

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Perquimans County commissioners have adopted a \$30.1 million budget for the next fiscal year that holds the line on taxes and water rates but increases residents' solid waste fee.

The Board of Commissioners voting unanimously for the spending plan Monday night that keeps the property tax rate at 61 cents per \$100 valuation. The budget also maintains the water rate at \$17.50 for the first 1,000 gallons of water used, plus \$9 per each additional 1,000 gallons used.

The county's annual solid waste fee, however, will increase by \$10 to \$160 per household.

Two people spoke

See **BUDGET, A2**



HEATH

during the public hearing on the budget Monday evening. Pete Perry expressed concern

that inflation and the overall state of the economy could hamper county revenues. He recommended that the board adopt a "continuing resolution" that would keep all spending levels the same until more is known about what county revenues will be in the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Perry also questioned whether it was a good idea to fund the Perquimans Board of Education's request for an additional English teacher at the high school.



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Winfall Mayor Fred Yates (center) hugs Hertford Councilwoman Connie Brothers and thanks her for her role in putting together the Juneteenth observance in Hertford, Saturday.

## Winfall Council seeking to limit Yates' dual role

Winfall mayor now also serves as town administrator

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

WINFALL — Winfall Town Council reportedly has taken steps to limit Mayor Fred Yates' dual role as mayor and town administrator.

Yates confirmed last week that members of the council seem interested in scaling back his role in the

town government, including removing funding for the town administrator position from the budget.

"Based on the system (we have) I think it's a bad idea," Yates said.

The "system" Yates refers to is an arrangement by ordinance in Winfall that makes the mayor responsible for the town's day-to-day administration.

Since 1995 the mayor has had those duties in

See **WINFALL, A3**

## Sheriff starts talks with Winfall to take over policing

Perquimans sheriff began policing Hertford last year

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

The town of Winfall could be poised to seek a policing contract with the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office similar to one the town of Hertford

reached with the sheriff last year.

Hertford made the change last summer, dissolving its police department and signing a contract with the Sheriff's Office to provide policing within the town's limits. Now Winfall officials have reached out to the county sheriff's office to start similar discussions.

"They have contacted us about wanting to sit down and talk," Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White confirmed last week.

White explained that



WHITE

YATES

sheriff's deputies already have extensive experience patrolling Winfall at times when the town's officers are not on duty.

Mayor Fred Yates said last week that he has spoken to the sheriff about providing additional help in certain situations, but not about taking over the

vice entirely in Winfall.

Yates said he believes members of Winfall Town Council may have approached the sheriff about taking over policing in the town. He referred questions about the future of the police department to Carol Cooper, a member of council.

Cooper declined to comment on the matter when reached — other than to encourage The Perquimans Weekly to cover the next meeting of the Winfall Town Council. That meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 11.

The Perquimans Week-

ly also sought a response from Winfall Mayor Pro Tem Preston White but did not hear back from him by the deadline for this story.

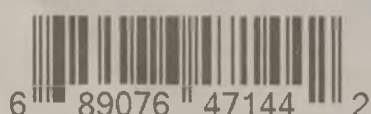
Last year the town of Hertford contracted with the Sheriff's Office to take over law enforcement service in the town limits for \$350,000 a year. The agreement, which led Hertford to disband its police department, took effect July 1.

The sheriff's budget for 2021-22 included four deputy positions, an investigator and an administrative assistant to assist with Hertford's policing.

Hertford Mayor Earnell Brown said at the time that

dissolving the town's police department was a difficult decision, but consolidating law enforcement services would provide equal or better law enforcement protection to the town.

The Perquimans Weekly reported in June 2021 that a town council study had shown the police department's "effective" budget request for the coming year exceeded \$1 million, or 50% of the town's general fund revenue for the third straight year. The police department's \$768,000 budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year consumed nearly 39% of the town's projected general fund revenue.



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