

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023

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SCAN ME



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 E-Chowan foundation raises \$4.5K at Mardi Gras bonfire



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 ECU Health funds concussion testing for student athletes



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 Tripp new principal at Columbia Middle

'Why is it taking so long?'



PHOTOS BY TYLER NEWMAN/CHOWAN HERALD

Dawson Tyler, (right) co-owner of Down East Preservation, talks with Bob Howsare, (center, left) director of business development for Outer Banks-based SAGA Construction and Development, about the company's lack of progress renovating the former Hotel Hinton during a community public forum at the King Street Marketplace in Edenton, Saturday. Nearly 100 residents attended the event.

Residents confront SAGA over hotel rehab

Howsare: Owner applying for fed tax credits for project

BY TYLER NEWMAN
 Staff Writer

EDENTON — Tensions flared as residents from both Edenton and Elizabeth City confronted an official with Outer Banks-based SAGA Construction and Development over stalled commercial projects in the two communities during a public forum on Saturday.

At King Street Marketplace in Edenton, just steps away from the long vacant Hotel Hinton, residents and

community leaders questioned SAGA Director of Business Development Bob Howsare on what they described as a lack of progress on the project.

The event, coordinated by Edenton residents with the help of Marketplace owners Lorrie and Patrick Dablow, drew a crowd of nearly 100.

The Hotel Hinton project has been in limbo for nearly a decade. Chowan County sold the building to Preservation North Carolina, who then sold it to SAGA Construction and Development.

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Residents from both Edenton and Elizabeth City are shown gathered across the street from the former Hotel Hinton in Edenton, Saturday. The residents were attending a community public forum with a representative of SAGA Construction and Development, the former hotel's owner, to discuss the lack of progress on the building's redevelopment.

AWARE offers spaying/neutering vouchers

Residents of Perquimans, Chowan, Gates qualify for aid

BY TYLER NEWMAN
 Staff Writer

Volunteers at the Tri-County Animal Shelter want area residents to be "aware" of financial assistance that's available for spaying and neutering their pets.

The nonprofit shelter, which formed in 2009 and serves Chowan, Gates and Perquimans counties, offers a voucher initiative called AWARE, an acronym for Animal Welfare of the Albemarle Region Every Day.

Residents of all three counties are eligible for the vouchers through AWARE to help with the cost of spay/neuter surgery for their pets at local veterinary offices.



VERNON FUESTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Dana Comer, director of the Tri-County Animal Shelter in Tyner, holds Jelly Bean, the shelter's mascot, "boss," and official greeter. The animal shelter is trying to raise awareness of its AWARE initiative that offers financial assistance to help area residents afford to get their dog or cat neutered or spayed.

With the help of the AWARE voucher initiative, nearly 4,000 animals — 2,778 cats and 1,175 dogs — have been spayed or neutered in the three counties since June 2009.

Nearly 150 of those spaying or neuterings — 112 cats and 35 dogs — have hap-

pened in the past three months, according to a shelter volunteer. AWARE has also contributed to a 63% decrease in the number of animals coming to the shelter and an 81% drop in the number of animals euthanized at the shelter.

Animal advocates say the need for spaying/neutering services is growing.

According to the Humane Society, more than 70,000 puppies and kittens are born every day in the United States. Because there aren't enough homes for them all, each year more than 12 million dogs, cats, puppies and kittens are left at animal shelters around the country and nearly 8 million of them have to be euthanized.

Spayed and neutered dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives and are better, more affectionate companions, according to a press release from the Tri-County Animal Shelter. Spayed and neutered pets are also less likely to bite and neutered males are less likely to roam, run away, or get into fights. Neutered cats are less likely to spray and mark territory.

There are two AWARE voucher programs, one for dogs, the other for cats. Both require an approved application and proof of residency in either Gates, Chowan or Perquimans counties.

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Hertford eyeing preservation law in historic district

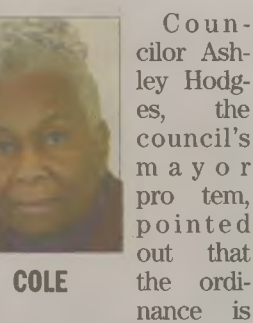
Owners would have to make 'structural integrity' repairs

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

HERTFORD — Town of Hertford officials took a first look Monday at proposed rules requiring owners of property in the town's historic district to maintain the structural integrity of their buildings.

Town Manager Janice Cole presented a proposed Prevention of Demolition by Neglect Ordinance to Hertford Town Council at Monday's work session.

The ordinance, based on a similar one in place in nearby Edenton, would empower the town to mandate repairs to buildings in the historic district when they're deemed necessary to maintaining the property in good condition.



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Councilor Ashley Hodges, the council's mayor pro tem, pointed out that the ordinance is called "prevention of demolition by neglect" because it is intended to prevent structures from falling into such a severe state of disrepair that they end up being demolished.

Cole told the council that the proposal was spurred by recent concerns about buildings, in the historic downtown area that have not been maintained in good condition by their owners.

The ordinance would enable the town to

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Chowan to spend \$350K in ARPA funds to boost broadband

County spending matching amount as upfront payment

BY TYLER NEWMAN
 Staff Writer

EDENTON — Chowan County commissioners voted unanimously last week to wire \$350,000 to FOCUS Broadband to help jumpstart the installation of fiber optic broadband in northern parts of the county.

The funding, which came from Chowan's share of American Rescue Plan Act funding, represents the entire amount of county matching funds needed for the project.

Prior to the vote, Chowan commissioners consid-

ered several options presented by County Manager Kevin Howard.

Option 1, which commissioners ultimately chose, pays the entire matching amount upfront. Option 2, which Howard emphasized was not ideal for FOCUS, would have paid FOCUS the amount matching fund amount after construction was complete.

The third option would have had the county pay 50 percent of the matching amount upfront and the remainder at the end of construction. The final option would have been a percentage, 7.4 percent, based on an approved amount by

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Edenton increases underground electric installation charges

Customers to bear more of cost for underground install

BY TYLER NEWMAN
 Staff Writer

EDENTON — Utility customers will now pay more to install underground electric service following a recent decision by Edenton Town Council.

Town councilors unanimously approved a proposed rate change for underground electric services at their March 14 meeting. Under the change, 100 feet of 200 amp service will now cost \$900, while 100 feet of 400 amp service will cost \$1,000.

Previously, rates for underground service were

\$500 for up to 100 feet of 200 amp service that included installation of a 4/0 underground triplex and conduit. Anything over 100 feet cost an additional \$4.85 a foot.

The previous rate for 400 amps was \$600 for up to 100 feet. That included installation of a 350 mcm (thousands of circular mills) underground triplex and conduit. Anything over 100 feet was an additional \$5.85 a foot.

The previous charges were significantly less than the town's charges for installation. According to town documents, the town's installation costs were \$1,950 for 100 feet of 200 amp service and

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