

# Implications Discussed At Hearing Council Delays Zoning Vote

Edenton Town Council has delayed until May 30 a decision on two petitions to rezone property around U.S. 17 by-pass to allow development of shopping centers. One of the opponents in the audience called the delay "harrassment".

Councilmen heard lengthy presentations and arguments at public hearings Tuesday night to consider the request of Tom Francis to rezone 12 acres at Mexico Road from Highway Commercial to Shopping Center, and the request of W.J.P. Earnhardt, Jr., and Bernard Burroughs to rezone 10 acres on the town side of the by-pass from R-20 to Shopping Center.

Before the Earnhardt & Burroughs hearing, council voted on motion of Dr. Allen Hornthal and James P. Ricks, Jr., to delay a

decision on either petition until May 30. The motion came after Councilmen Jesse L. Harrell and W. Herbert Hollowell expressed the feeling that no action should be taken Tuesday night.

Earlier, Councilman Gil Burroughs had questioned the wisdom of taking action until final determination is made on the Earnhardt & Burroughs tract on the south side of Virginia Road which has been in litigation for some time.

Mrs. Grace Griffin, a vocal opponent to rezoning in the area, told councilmen: "This is harrassment. Can't you complete this?" Later she said, "I think it is sad."

Warren Twiddy, representing Edenton Village Shopping Center on North Broad Street, asked councilmen to consider the "economic situation", saying if they "open the gate" there will be closed stores.

Speaking for Francis, Merrill Evans, Jr., local attorney, said the developer is ready to put together a "complete shopping center...built now." He said if they are ready to do it then they should be allowed to do so.

He said his client would not object to being annexed, the same position taken by Earnhardt.

Mayor Roy L. Harrell said the Earnhardt & Burroughs tract had been considered from time-to-time for three years. Later Earnhardt pointed out that the petitions had been approved by the Planning Board on five different occasions.

He said it is unfortunate that he had become involved in "political wars over our potential site."

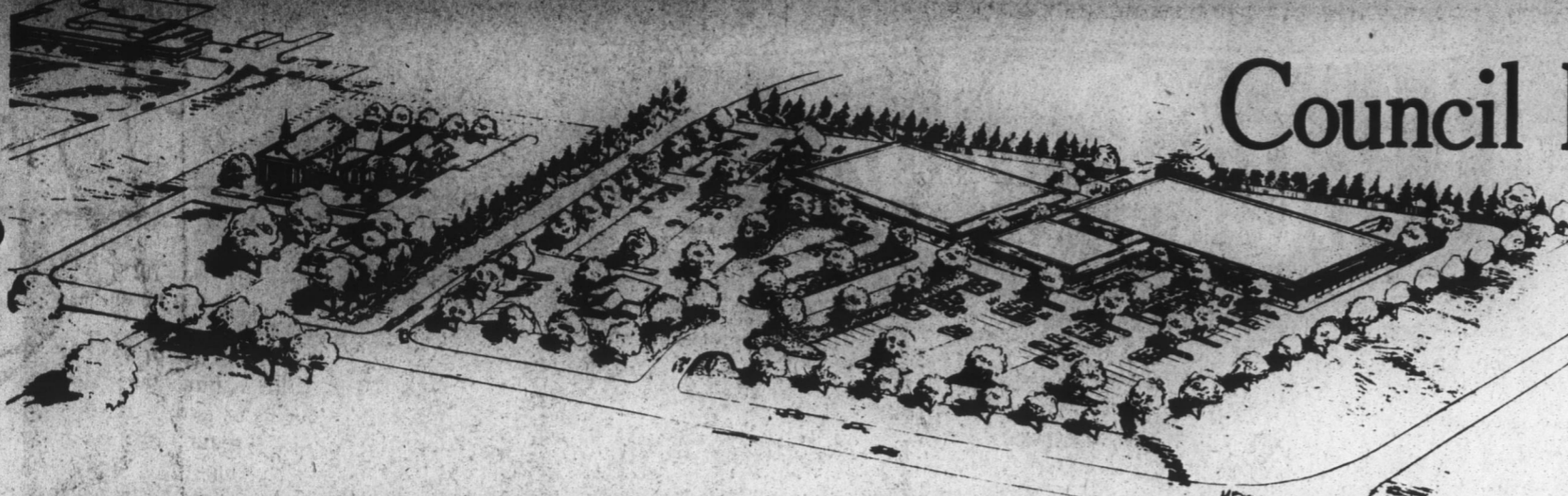
Howard Capps of Elizabeth City, a professional planner, made a presentation of the proposed Hewes Square center. He said a decision has been made for a cluster development rather than a strip. He called the site very attractive and one which would attract further development.

Capps listed the advantages as: provide additional revenue for Edenton and Chowan County, in taxes and utilities; new jobs (158); draw additional shoppers; and draw new housing.

Clarence Shackelford questioned what effect a new shopping center would have on the downtown area. He and others expressed concern that key

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**PROPOSED HEWES SQUARE**—W.J.P. Earnhardt, Jr., and Bernard Burroughs showed the site plan for their proposed Hewes Square Shopping Center at Tuesday night's Town Council meeting where a public hearing was held on a request to rezone

the site. At far left is Chowan Hospital and between the medical facility and the cluster development is the proposed Edenton United Methodist Church. Council took no action on this request or another one from Tom Francis on the opposite side of U.S. 17

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## Public Parade No Rain Stopper

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., made his first post election jaunt through Northeastern North Carolina last Thursday. All reports are that it was a successful mission. Had he been able to stop the rain it could be labeled "super".

Mayor Bill Cox of Hertford said the area is glad that he is not only "our governor, but our friend." Wayne Ashley, president of the Albemarle Area Development Association, said he was glad Gov. Hunt could find his way back to his most fertile political ground.

In the past we have been critical of the chief executive surrounding himself by assistants who tell him only what he wants to hear. If that is the case, he took a page from his own book by telling the people in the Albemarle Area what they want most to hear.

There has been talk about improvements to U.S. 17 and 158 from at least four governors. Gov. Hunt is putting the words into action, which is welcomed.

There has been talk about special emphasis on economic development in the rural reaches of this state from at least the same four governors. Gov. Hunt is putting the words into action through special teams within the Department of Commerce. This, too, is welcomed.

There has been talk about the reservoir of leadership in Northeastern North Carolina from the same governors. Gov. Hunt is putting the words into action through involvement of these leaders on boards and commissions where critical decisions are made. This also is more than campaign rhetoric.

Gov. Hunt was speaking to a friendly audience and the meeting was reported by a friendly press. He appeared to be more relaxed than our last occasion to be in his presence.

One can always be more relaxed and candid in the Albemarle Area than in Raleigh. So, we guess Gov. Hunt is human even to the point of not being able to stop the rain.

## Valuable Addition

They are putting the big pot in the little one, so to speak, out at Chowan Hospital in observance of National Hospital week along the Public Parade. It got off to a good start Sunday with dedication of a spacious inservice education annex.

The annex has been a long time in coming but it is worth the waiting.

In addition to a bright, cheerful, space for training, the annex gives the hospital a new medical records department, new quarters for the medical staff, a new emergency room entrance, and expanded parking space for the emergency room.

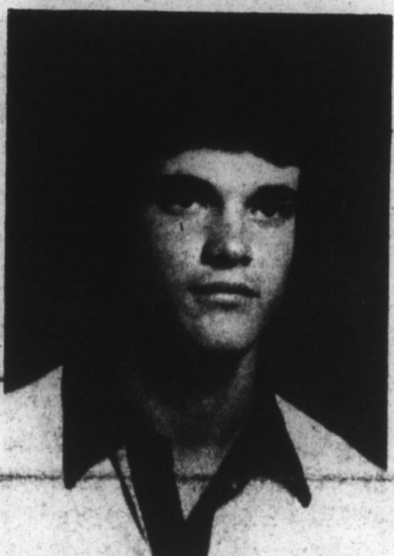
Construction of the annex began in August, 1976, after a complex

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## Columbia Mayor, Others Facing Fraud Charges

**HERTFORD**—The Mayor of Columbia, his son and two other Edenton Negroes were indicted Monday by the Perquimans County Grand Jury on charges growing out of what has been described as "a well organized fraud scheme" involving insurance.

Dist. Atty. Tom Watts announced from his office in



Bob Jordan

## Jordan Winner

By Murray L. Goodwin  
Agricultural Ext. Agent

Bob Jordan, a member of Ryland Senior 4-H Club, has been declared state winner in 4-H Wildlife Project. He is one of 29 4-H'ers who will be awarded a trip to National 4-H Congress in November.

Bob has been a 4-H member for 10 years and has been active in projects, activities, and leadership roles.

He has taken the wildlife project for eight years. He gave a wildlife demonstration five years and was district winner three times. He visited the Edenton Fish Hatchery and Lake Mattamuskeet Wildlife Refuge.

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Elizabeth City the subsequent arrests of George Raymond Rowsom, 66, Railroad Street, Columbia; George L. Rowsom, 28, Tyler Lane, Edenton; Clarence L. (Barney) Badham, West Albemarle Street Extended, Edenton; and Joseph Earl Dixon, 32, 220 West Gale Street, Edenton.

Arrested in Edenton, where the investigation began nearly 12 months ago, the men were carried before Magistrate R.A. Tarkington. Badham's bond was set at \$2,000 while bond for the remaining three was placed at \$1,000. The bonds are returnable in the August Term of Perquimans County Superior Court.

Dist. Atty. Watts who called the operation a "well organized fraud scheme which took advantage of many citizens," is continuing the investigation and further indictments are expected.

Badham is charged with seven counts of representing himself as an agent for various insurance companies when in fact he was not licensed; two counts of false pretense; three counts of embezzlement; and a count of conspiracy to commit embezzlement.

The senior Rowsom, owner of funeral homes in Edenton and Columbia, is charged with three counts of aiding and abetting an unlicensed agency; aid and abet in false pretense; accessory after the fact of embezzlement; and conspiracy to commit embezzlement.

His son is charged with a single count of conspiracy to embezzle.

Dixon faces charges on two counts of embezzlement and a count of conspiracy to embezzle.

The arrests were made late Monday afternoon by Gene Hartsell of Henderson, investigator with the Investigative Division of the State Department of Insurance, and Deputy Sheriff Glenn Perry of Chowan County Sheriff's Department, who has

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**DISCUSS HIGHWAYS**—A major statement on improvements to U.S. 17 was made by Gov. James E. Hunt, Jr., last Thursday during a meeting in the area. Left to right are: Wayne Ashley of Hertford, AADA president; J. Gilliam Wood of Edenton, former state highway commissioner and chairman of the State Board of Natural Resources & Community Development; Joe Nowell of Perquimans County, former highway commissioner; and Baxter Williams of Currituck, chairman of AADA's Highway Committee.

## Gov. Hunt Reveals Plans

By L.F. Amburn, Jr.

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., rekindled his political base in Northeastern North Carolina in his first post election swing through the area, announcing a stepped up schedule on improvements to U.S. 17 and 158 as well as unveiling special plans to boost economic development.

Speaking to an enthusiastic audience of nearly 200 who crowded into Angler's Cove Restaurant for a rare noon meeting of the 10-county Albemarle Area Development Association, Gov. Hunt appeared relaxed and was candid in his remarks.

He cast aside the first portion of his prepared text to brag about the numerous appointments he had made from this area to state boards and commissions. He endorsed creation of a special group to boost the 400th anniversary of the settling of the new world at Roanoke Island in 1584. "There is only one state that can celebrate this and that is us," he said proudly.

Gov. Hunt said if "we are bold in our thinking we can make this the

biggest event ever in our state."

Later he said he had found he couldn't do everything just like he would like to. "It takes a team effort and many of you are on that team," he said. Then he added: "When you are critical (of how things are being done) we won't think hard of you," and that if you go to Raleigh to see him you might end up seeing Joe Pell, his senior assistant, but that is the way

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**RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE**—Gladys Sawyer Wills is shown at a banquet Monday night after she was recognized for 20 years of service in Edenton-Chowan Schools. At right is Rep. Sam Bundy of Pitt County, speaker, with Gilliam Underwood, NCAE president, at left.

## School Personnel Are Honored

A cafeteria employee at D.F. Walker Junior High School, Gladys Sawyer Wills, was recognized Monday night for 20 years of service in Edenton-Chowan Schools. The event was held at Edenton Jaycee Community Building on Base Road.

At the same time, Cecil W. Fry, Daisy Bembry and Sandra Askew were honored upon their retirement from the local system.

Special recognition was given Carolina Banks of White Oak Elementary School, Teacher of

The Year locally who went on to win District PTA honors.

During the second annual banquet of N.C. Association of Educators and Association of Classroom Teachers to honor school personnel in the system, parent organizations were also given citations, including the PTA's at five schools, the Aces Athletic Association and Band Parents.

Gilliam Underwood, NCAE president, presided and in-

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**BLOODMOBILE HERE MONDAY AT EDENTON BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
12 NOON 'TIL 6 P. M.  
**QUOTA—150 PINTS**