

## Members To Be Elected In A District System

# Board Votes To Change Election System

The school board unanimously voted Monday night to follow the county's example in seeking to change the present at-large voting system that now elects board members.

County commissioners

and school board members would be elected in a district system that requires all but one of seven members to reside in the district from which they are elected. Only voters in the three planned districts could vote on candidates for

two seats in their respective district. The seventh member would fill an at-large seat with all county voters casting ballots.

The county board of commissioners presently has five members and would be in-

creased by two. The school board currently has seven members.

District one would encompass the northern end of the county from a line just above Valhalla. There is a minority population of just under 29 per cent in the district.

District two would comprise almost the rest of the county with the exception of the town. Its minority population is almost 32 per cent.

District three, comprising most of the town, has a minority population of 63 per cent.

The voting plan is designed to more readily assure minority representation on the two boards.

The NAACP has success-

fully forced other counties to re-district for this reason. Elizabeth City fought a losing and expensive legal battle to retain its at-large system. Perquimans County last year was threatened with litigation before plans were made to change that system.

Conversely, Chowan County Commissioners began voluntarily formulating the new district system last year and have requested enabling legislation from the General Assembly. The First District delegation will sponsor the legislation.

School board members may be elected to two consecutive six-year terms. The terms are staggered to allow for continuity on the board. Superintendent John Dunn said that the limited term concept will not change under the new plan.

### Kinder Or Gentler?

It looks as if President-elect George Bush's promise of a kinder, gentler America is falling on deaf ears insofar as S. Paul O'Neal of Edenton is concerned.

Judging from his letter in the Christmas edition of the Chowan Herald, Mr. O'Neal left the Democratic party to find a home for his conscience in the GOP. But the litany of evils he cites as the reason for his shift are not the exclusive property of the Democratic party, especially the Democratic party of North Carolina.

He says "our whole country is still rich in Christian values"... "the very thing that the Democratic party resents and has tried to take away." Surely, the members of the Republican party do not have a monopoly on Christian values, else there would have been no indictments pending in Washington, no S & Ls unable to repay funds they have held in trust, no sick and hungry homeless on the streets of our large cities.

He says to Senator Sanford that "your party supports abortion." Many members of the Democratic party abhor abortion, as did Jimmy Carter when he was president. The same can be said for many members of the Republican party, but not for President-elect Bush's newly appointed Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Dr. Louis Sullivan. In any event, the abortion issue was created by the U.S. Supreme Court, not the Democratic party.

Not allowing our children to "pray to God when and where they want to," Mr. O'Neal continues, "takes away one of our basic rights. Mr. Sanford, your party supports this." Here, again, it was the U.S. Supreme Court that abolished state-directed school prayer, not the Democratic party. And, again, that decision is supported by members of both parties, not to mention mem-

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**CONGRATULATIONS, PREACHER** -- Chowan Herald General Manager Pete Manning, second from left, congratulates Rev. George Cooke, first-place winner in the newspaper's 1988 "Pride" campaign. Joining with Manning in expressing good wishes are (l. to r.) Chowan County Commission Chairman Joe Hollowell, Edenton Mayor John Dowd and Chamber of Commerce President John Cuthrell. The 1989 "Pride" campaign gets underway this week. Nomination forms (available from the Herald business office) and photographs will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Monday, February 27. (File photo)

## Pride Campaign Underway

The Chowan Herald will be conducting its "Pride of 1989" campaign for the next several weeks. This special annual event will culminate in an election in which the community at large will have a chance to choose that person held in highest regard by the people.

In 1988, winners included Rev. George Cooke, a local minister; Mrs. Ruth Spencer, a volunteer at the Chowan Senior Citizens' Center; and Dr. James Slade, a family physician who specializes in pediatric care.

Beginning with the Chowan Herald's next edition on Thursday, January 19, space will be made available in the newspaper for nominations to be announced. Final deadline for receiving nominations will be 5 p.m. on Monday, February 27.

A photograph and brief profile of each nominee will be published. Then, when all the nominations have been received, an entire special section will be printed on Thursday, March 16 containing pictures and biographical sketches of the candidates.

Each nominee will be assigned a number, and voters can make their choices known by filling out a ballot which will be included in that

week's edition. Blank ballots will be available at The Chowan Herald office for those who are not subscribers.

Voting will be by numbers and, in order to avoid any duplication, each ballot must carry the signature of the person casting the vote. When all the ballots are in, they will be tabulated by members of the Herald staff and several independent observers.

## Banquet Scheduled

The Fall Sports Awards Banquet will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the John A. Holmes High School cafeteria on Thursday, January 12 (tonight). The public is welcome to attend.

Among the honorees will be the girls' tennis team, the football cheerleaders, and the Varsity and J.V. football teams.

Special guest will be Robert Brown of the Green Bay Packers. He is a graduate of Holmes High School.

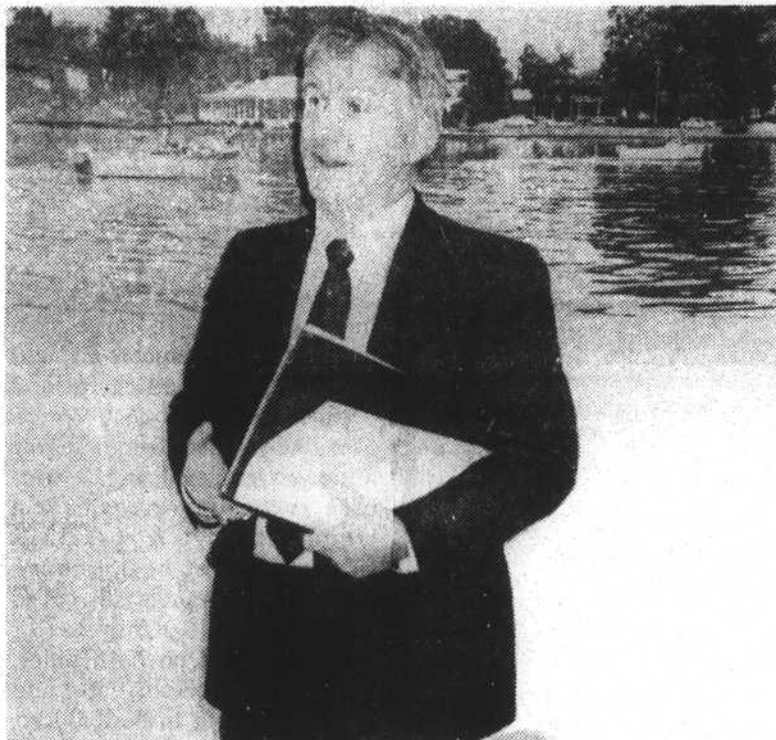
Tickets are priced at \$5.00 each, and can be purchased from the office at the high school.

Awards will be presented to those persons receiving the first-, second-, and third-highest number of votes.

This event is intended to give an individual the opportunity to place in nomination the name of one person in Chowan County who has distinguished himself or herself through outstanding service to the community. The names of those making nominations will remain confidential.

The nominee does not have to be an elected official, a business executive, or a professional person, although he

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**NO PUBLIC SKATEBOARD RAMPS** --Harvey R. Mathias, Dir. of Risk Management for the N.C. League of Municipalities, explained to town council members Tuesday night the prohibitive cost of liability insurance for skateboarding on public property. Council reluctantly shelved planning for a new public skateboard facility.

## Town Observes Holiday

The Town of Edenton, Chowan County, schools, the state and nation all will observe Martin Luther King's birthday, Monday, Jan. 16.

Town officials had originally planned to drop one of the three days of the Christmas holiday as a trade-off. Town Manager Ann-Marie Kelly said that the daily employee payroll amounts to about \$5,000. There are nine paid holidays per year.

At Tuesday night's town council meeting, the manager said that she had received a

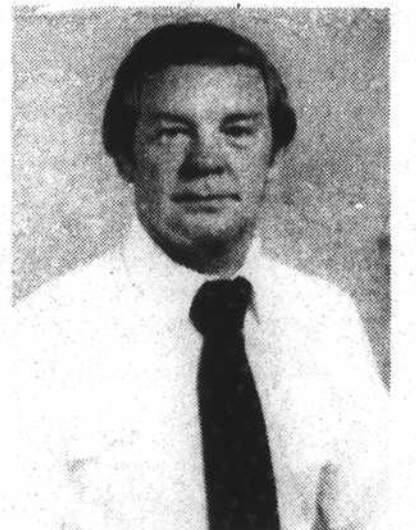
petition signed by 39 of the 80 employees asking to retain the three-day Christmas holiday. With the concurrence of council, Ms. Kelly will work with employees seeking another holiday to drop.

The announced town trash pick-up schedule is:

Mon., Jan 16 - no pick-up  
Tues., Jan 17 - East and West side;

Wed., Jan. 18 - Limbs, bushes and other debris;

Thurs., Jan. 19 - East side;  
Fri., Jan 20 - West side.



Tom Bass

## Director Selected

John A. Holmes Athletic Director Tom Bass has been selected as the 1988 Athletic Director of the Year for Region One by the N.C. High School Athletics Association.

According to Rick Strunk, Assistant Executive Director for the NCHSSA, Bass was chosen at the regional conference attended by superintendents, athletic directors, principals and coaches. They selected a peer who had best promoted high school athletics.

Bass is now eligible for the statewide competition in May.

He came to the school system as a teacher and a coach in 1967. He was appointed athletic director in August of 1985.

Reacting to the award, Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Dr. John Dunn said, "I think it's a well-deserved recognition. I feel that Tom has been an asset to the conference for a long time.

"He's provided leadership among the coaches and athletic directors in the district in establishing integrity in competition between schools. He's always kept the best interest of the athletes in mind, in the growth of young men and women."

Holmes' Principal Rob Boyce agreed. "Tom is a dedicated and conscientious teacher, coach and athletic director. His leadership is grounded in a philosophy of making sure there is a proper and harmonious relationship maintained between athletics and the rest of the school's activities. He is truly deserving of this award."

Bass said Wednesday, "It's a great honor. When you receive something from your peers, you cherish it. Any award that I receive, I certainly have to share it with all the coaches here at the school because they make my job so easy. Our staff works extremely hard."

## Caller Sought

The Edenton - Chowan Crime Line has an urgent message for one particular area resident.

Recently, someone called the Crime Line and anonymously provided information about a break-in and robbery on South Broad Street in Edenton. A television and VCR were taken.

Thanks to this report by a concerned citizen, Crime Line was able to relay information to the Edenton Police Department which resulted in the recovery of the stolen items and the arrest of a suspect in the case.

Unfortunately, because the call came in after business hours, the caller was not assigned a number (routine in such cases) by which a reward could be collected.

Crime Line would like for this person to call back during office hours, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., so that a reward in the case can be paid. The caller may still remain anonymous.

Crime Line's telephone number is 482-5100.

## Dealer Challenges Purchasing Procedure

A local car dealership has challenged the town's procedures in purchasing public vehicles.

Early last October, the town advertised for bids on a 1989 3/4 ton, cab and chassis, 4-wheel drive truck. The George Chevrolet Co. responded with a quote, which a company official said would be honored the same as a bid. Subsequently, in a memo to Tom Palmer, general manager of the firm, dated Nov. 2, town manager Anne-Marie Kelly stated that "financial restraints" forced a cancellation of the bid offer and that, instead, the town would install a rebuilt transmission in a 1980 truck.

The memo further thanked the firm for its bid and stated

that quotes would be solicited in the future.

In a Dec. 13 memo to council members, Ms. Kelly said that two trucks and two police cars would be purchased. "Funds are available for these purchases" according to the memo and "The purchase from state contract represents a savings of approximately \$3,000 over local purchase.

Nick George took issue with the conflicting statements in the two memos. On one point, he said that specifications for the vehicle his company received had more expensive parts than the state vehicle. These included a V-8 engine, versus a V-6 engine; a spare tire; a 6,000 lb. rear axle, versus a 4,670 lb. rear

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