



Town Hall Open For Business

When people have business to conduct in person with the Town of Edenton, they should no longer think of the "Municipal Building." Instead, they will be doing business at the "Town Hall."

Town offices were closed Monday while employees moved from the municipal building into new offices at the old Peoples Bank building.

Tuesday morning, town officials, employees and contractor personnel gathered in front of the Town Hall for a ribbon cutting and official opening.

Visitors to the sparkling new offices will see a lowered ceiling, brass chandeliers, new carpeting, drapes, a service desk and offices leading off the service area.

At the beginning of renovations, the cost was estimated at \$125,000. In an interview Tuesday, Town Manager Anne-Marie Kelly said actual costs have amounted to around \$220,000. This does not include needed work on the exterior of the building.

She said that the planned move of the police department into the municipal building

will take place in eight to ten weeks after minor renovations are completed. These include partitioning, added security measures and access for the handicapped.

When the present police building is vacated, "We have been operating around the premise that the recreation department would move in there." She said that no renovations would be required and that it would operate as a satellite facility for uses such as crafts and adult education. Recreation offices would remain at the old armory.

Some 30 applications have been received by the town for the position of police chief. Ms. Kelly said that applicants have been narrowed to ten and that interviews will begin in early March. "My goal is to have the new chief sworn in by early April," she commented.

Applicants are currently being interviewed for the vacant position of building inspector. There were some 15 applying for the job, five of whom are still being considered. "We expect to have the new inspector on board by early next month."

Trash Recycling Envisioned

Edenton Town Council moved their regular monthly meeting to Monday night this week to prevent a conflict with the Tuesday evening performance of the N.C. Symphony.

Concerned about running out of room at the landfill in the not too distant future, council has called for the establishment of a trash recycling task force. The task force would identify recyclables such as newspapers, aluminum cans and glass containers and seek markets for them.

Town manager Anne-Marie Kelly has requested

interested citizens to volunteer to serve in the effort, especially those who have had past experience in recycling.

The town and county have already joined in an oil recycling plan to help clean up the area. It has been noted that many people who change their car's motor oil, dump the used oil along fence lines or in ditches. This, in turn, can leech into local waterways during heavy rains.

Used oil containers will be purchased jointly using state grant funds, matched by local money. Residents can then bring used oil to tanks located



TOWN HALL OPENED--A bank building that stood empty and desolate for several years was given a new lease on life when it was renovated for use as the the new Edenton Town Hall. Town officials, employees and construction workmen gathered Tuesday at 8 a.m. for the traditional ribbon cutting. Mayor John Dowd did the honors with the scissors.

EMS To Provide Information

Tornado Knowledge Urged

Tornadoes took a heavy toll in lives, injuries and property on March 28, 1984 as they roared up from the South Carolina line as far as Snug Harbor in Perquimans County. A woman was killed there. The twisters killed 44 on that day.

On November 28 of last year, severe property damage was caused by a tornado that

ripped through west Raleigh.

Emergency Medical Services Coordinator Doug Belch noted that Chowan County did not get by unscathed. A tornado touched down at Nixon's Beach, causing a loss of trees and damage to two homes.

On November 28 of last year, severe property damage resulted from a tornado that ripped through west Raleigh. That was considered an "off-season" storm.

Gov. Jim Martin has designated the week of Feb. 19-25 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in the state. Belch said the week has been set aside as a period in which North Carolinians should make a special effort to become familiar with tornado safety measures.

He said, "I feel that it is a good time to consider these questions: What would I do if a tornado threatened Chowan County? Do you know where to find the best shelter for yourself and your family?"

The main focus of the week will be a statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, Feb.-22. In the event of inclement weather on that day, the drill will be held on Friday, Feb. 24.

Belch said that local radio stations will likely broadcast drill warnings of severe weather on Wednesday. He urged local citizens to have their radios on.

"We at Chowan Emergency Management will be happy to work with any person or group that wants information on tornadoes and how to survive them. We are here to help before a disaster strikes, as well as after," Belch stated.

He said that brochures on tornado safety are available at his office at the Rescue Squad building in Edenton. Those that can't drop by his office can call 482-4365 and a brochure will be mailed to them.

The brochures offer some of the following information:

- Tornado Watch - Means that conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop;

- Tornado Warning - Means that a tornado has actually been sighted;

- Best shelter in a building is a basement under something sturdy, like a workbench. If there is no basement, seek shelter in a small interior room in the middle of the building, like a closet or a bathroom. Always stay away from outside walls and windows;

- A mobile home is never safe in a tornado. If you're in a mobile home when a tornado watch is announced, leave and go immediately to a safe structure or be prepared to take cover in a low area, covering your head and the back of your neck;

- Opening windows to equalize pressure during a tornado is ineffective in reducing damage. Don't worry about the windows; worry about protecting yourself; and

- Don't try to outrun a tornado in a car. A tornado is unpredictable. You cannot know which way it's going to go or how fast. If you're in a car and a tornado is near, get away from the car and lie in a ditch or low area, protecting your head with your hands.

Death Ruled Suicide

The body of an Edenton man was found in a car on a dirt lane near Bennett's Mill Pond last Thursday morning.

Deputy Sheriff Greg Whitehurst said that the call was received at 7:15. He identified the man as Eddie Wendell Morris, 25, of Edenton Manor Apartments.

The discovery was made by relatives who had been look-

ing for Morris.

Whitehurst said that Morris apparently died from a self-inflicted gunshot to the head. A .38 caliber pistol was found at the scene.

While the death was ruled a suicide by Chowan County Medical Examiner, Dr. L.E. DeVine, an investigation is continuing in an effort to determine the reason.

in the town and county.

The tanks will be supplied by a Pennsylvania company that will process the oil. There will be no charge for the service and the local governments will make no profit. "The profit is a cleaner environment," Ms. Kelly said.

The town tank will be located at the street department building. The county's tank will be placed at a service station at Small's Crossroads.

In response to concerns about a spate of accidents at the intersection of Albemarle and Granville Streets, a Dept. of Transportation traffic survey was completed there last month.

Neal Lassiter, division traffic engineer, reported to council that the survey results justified a blinking caution light at the intersection for

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Landmark Gets Roof

A new roof will soon crown the Cupola House on So. Broad Street. Work is currently under way and is expected to be completed early next month, weather permitting.

Tidewater red cypress shingles are being used in the replacement with work being done by Edenton Construction Co. The Edenton Historic Commission is overseeing the job.

Cost of the roof has been set at \$20,500. The Cupola House Association has provided \$5,000 of that amount. Another \$2,500 was donated by the Edenton Woman's Club with proceeds from their 1987 Biennial Pilgrimage.

The general public is being urged to help defray the cost by purchasing a "square foot of roof." For a donation of \$15 per foot, the donor will receive an attractive certificate, bordered in gold and bearing a photo of the Cupola House. It will recognize the donor along with the number of feet of roof "purchased."

Certificates are available at the Barker House as well as from members of the Edenton Historic Commission and Cupola House Association.

Building Plans Proceed

At its regular meeting this month, the school board heard updates on several important initiatives that are in progress which impact on student health, the school building plan and redistricting legislation.

An architect contracted by the board has held a series of meetings with faculties at Chowan, Walker and John A. Holmes to determine needs during renovation and construction. This is the first stage in the \$7 million school building plan approved by voters in November.

Input from teachers and administrators on positioning and size of classrooms and ancillary facilities was collected and will be used in producing first sketches. The architect will return with the sketches and again meet with faculties and central office staff before detailed architectural plans are drawn.

Superintendent John Dunn said that he hoped that final

blueprints would be ready in July to begin the bid process for contractors.

A redistricting plan for school board elections, identical to one drawn by the County Board of Commissioners, was sent to the General Assembly's bill drafting section. The plan should ensure minority representation on both boards. The draft legislation was received from Raleigh by the board for its review.

An asbestos plan has been initiated to detect and remove any asbestos, a hazardous material, from any of the school buildings. A contracting firm from Pennsylvania has been hired to investigate suspicious areas and is currently analyzing samples.

The board also heard an audit report, a report on a before and after school program for students K-8 and considered the annual leave policy prior to adjournment.

Mislocated Road

Planners in the state transportation department have recently been suggesting that it may be necessary to enlarge Interstate 85-40 from Greensboro to Durham to eight lanes in order to handle the huge volume of traffic this sector now carries.

Originally they had been talking about expanding the road to six lanes, which is 50 per cent more than at present, but are now convinced that they were aiming too low. I-85 and I-40 converge in Greensboro, funnelling traffic from Charlotte and the southwest and Winston-Salem and the northwest into the four lanes to Durham. Just west of Durham the two interstates split, I-40 going on to Raleigh and the southeast and I-85 going on to Durham, Richmond and the northeast.

It is a fact that traffic is heavy at times between Greensboro and Durham, on some occasions almost bumper-to-bumper. And that is a condition state highway people have been slow to recognize. Had they been willing to listen, the problem may well have been solved 20 years ago.

We recall a public hearing in Salisbury in the mid-60s when they were trying to decide where to locate I-40, the east-west interstate. Dr. Edward McKenzie, spokesman for the Mountains-to-the-Sea Highway Association, became engaged in a heated exchange with Joe Hunt, Jr., then chairman of the old state highway commission, who lived in Greensboro.

Dr. McKenzie argued that the new road, which had already been routed from Asheville to Statesville, ought to come on to Salisbury and then "take off through open country" toward Morehead City, with feeders connecting Greensboro, Raleigh and other cities, including Wilmington. He contended right of way costs would be less and construction cheaper.

But Chairman Hunt, a former speaker of the house, shut him off like a freshman legislator, saying the "experts" felt the road ought to go via Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Durham and Raleigh, which is what eventually happened.

With the highway chairman being from Greensboro, it was probably a lost cause for Dr. McKenzie from the beginning; but it now looks as if he was right on target. Had the new I-40 followed his suggested route, adding four more lanes to I-85 from

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FAREWELL--Retiring Chowan County Magistrate Raymond A. Tarkington was honored at a reception last week for his 21 years of service to the county. He is flanked here by Magistrates Carlton Jackson (left) and Wayne Rice. Joining in the farewell were the court clerk's office, sheriff's dept., magistrates, Edenton Police Dept., community service coordinator and adult probation-parole officer.