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POSSIBLE CANDIDATE -- State Rep. Walter E. Jones Jr. (left), D-Pitt, discusses the possibility of his running for congressman of the 1st Congressional District with Terry Williams (right), a member of the Chowan County Democratic executive committee. Jones visited Edenton Friday to meet with a group of Democratic leaders.

Colonial Park Project Receives Funds

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Town Manager Anne-Marie Kelly expressed delight Friday over the news that Edenton has been awarded a \$30,000 grant to continue work at Colonial Park.

"I'm so happy this has come through for us," she said. "I'm especially proud of Robbie Laughton, who has worked so hard on this project."

The federal grant is administered by the Division of Coastal Management, through the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.

In announcing the grant state officials said, "Edenton is a Governor's Coastal Initiative community. Coastal Initiative communities have priority for state assistance with planning, permitting and grant projects."

The funds will be used for improved neighborhood access to the Chowan River at

West Water Street in downtown Edenton, state officials said. For its part, the Town of Edenton will contribute \$8,000 and \$2,000 in services to the project.

The funds will pay for an eight foot by 50 foot pedestrian pier for the new handicapped-accessible facility. And, upon completion of the project, a 340-foot sidewalk will connect the pier with the existing parking area.

"This grant is part of our ongoing effort to improve Colonial Park," said Laughton, who serves as director of Parks and Recreation for the community.

He said the grant would enable the town to tear down the small dock currently in existence. "We'll be able to replace it with one that's not a whole lot larger, but will be much safer and nicer," Laughton said. "While the principal purpose for its use will be fishing, it will also be

safe for people to walk on."

Laughton said future plans call for turning the former Edenton Police Department site into offices for Recreation Department personnel and incorporating a combination health and fitness - wellness center into the structure as well.

"By having our offices down there, it will allow us to better supervise the park area," Laughton said. The Recreation Department is currently located at the old National Guard Armory, a considerable distance away.

Laughton also outlined a

series of other ambitious plans for the downtown park. "We're looking at developing some type of small boat rentals that we could offer that could be used in front of the park area," he said.

Laughton's eyes lit up and he smiled as he said, "One of the most exciting things as far as I'm concerned...I can see downtown Edenton coming alive with people coming to the park."

"I can see children continuing to play here...I can see moms talking together as they watch the kids. I can see se-

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Jones Discusses Plans During Edenton Visit

By **MARGUERITE MCCALL**
State Rep. Walter B. Jones Jr., D-Pitt, said Friday if he remains in politics, whether as a state legislator or as a U.S. congressman, he will continue to vote his conscience.

"I'll vote what is good for the people," he declared, "not what special interests want."

In Edenton to meet with a small group of Democratic leaders, Jones, 48, was asked if he planned to run for the 1st District Congressional seat held for the past 26 years by his 78-year-old father, U.S. Congressman Walter B. Jones Sr.

"Let's say, I'm testing the waters," Jones said. "I'm almost certain I would run if the 1st Congressional District stays as it is today."

The legislator discussed the probability of the U.S. Justice Department rejecting a number of the redistricting plans remapped last summer by the N.C. General Assembly. If this occurs, he said the legislature will have to call a special session within several weeks time.

The filing period for can-

didates planning to run in the November 1992 election begins January 6 and ends February 3.

Should the Justice Department reject the redistricting, Jones said the May primaries could be delayed to July or possibly August.

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Old-Fashioned Caroling Set

Music To Fill The Air

Edenton residents and guests are encouraged to gather on the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse green, Friday, December 20 at 7 p.m. for old-fashioned Christmas caroling.

The Harmony Belles, under the direction of Dean Layes, will lead the community in singing favorite songs. Song sheets will be provided.

Four cressets, or fire baskets, will provide illumination and warmth. Cressets were used in the 18th century to provide light and warmth on public streets in the winter season, and are appropriate

No State Appeal Filed

By **E.N. MANNING**
According to Opal Kehayes, local election board chairperson, as of mid-afternoon Tuesday no appeal had

been filed with the state courts regarding a decision handed down by the State Board of Elections to dismiss complaints of illegal "electioneering" and "vote-buying" at the November 5 Municipal election in Edenton.

The ruling by the state office was issued December 9 following an appeal of the local election board's decision to dismiss the complaints.

Robert H. Rossman, mayoral candidate, registered the complaint of illegal "electioneering" against Mayor-elect Roy L. Harrell.

Rossman stated Tuesday afternoon, "I have not as yet decided if I will pursue the matter further. I'm talking with my attorney."

Mark Brickhouse, a poll worker for Rossman, who filed a complaint of "vote-buying," could not be reached for comment.

The complainants have until Friday to appeal the ruling.



CHRISTMAS CHEER -- Peggy Anne Vaughan waits in the foyer of her home on Queen Anne Drive to greet visitors touring in last weekend's Christmas Candlelight tour. (Story on tour and more photos on page 1-B.) (Staff photo by Marguerite McCall.)

Judge Dismisses More Charges Against Kelly

By **LANE DUNN**
FARMVILLE -- The judge in the sex abuse trial of a former Edenton day care owner dismissed 32 charges earlier this week because he felt the state had not produced sufficient evidence for conviction.

Superior Court Judge D. Marsh McLelland dismissed all 10 of the charges against Robert F. Kelly Jr. brought on behalf of two children who did not testify.

McLelland also dismissed parts of the charges involving eight children who did testify because of insufficient evidence.

Going into Tuesday's session, Kelly faced 129 charges

of abusing 14 children.

McLelland's ruling leaves Kelly facing 97 charges of sexual abuse involving 12 children. The charges include first degree sex offense, taking indecent liberties with children, rape and crimes against nature.

Bill Hart, a special prosecutor from the state Attorney General's office, said that despite dismissal of more than half of the charges since the trial's beginning, his case remains solid.

"We really weren't concerned," he said. "We knew there might be a chance that we would lose some charges,

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Narcotics Task Force Gets Results

By **MARGUERITE MCCALL**
The Chowan-Edenton Narcotics Task Force has been ferreting out and arresting drug dealers locally the past several weeks, as well as assisting law enforcement in surrounding areas with arrests.

On Monday night, December 2, a drug bust took place in the middle of North Broad Street in Edenton when law enforcement officers apprehended two men for possession of drugs.

Lt. David Jethro, a Chowan Sheriff's Department deputy and commander of the Task Force, said his command, assisted by Chowan sheriff's deputies and Edenton police officers, executed a search warrant on a 1986 Chevrolet Camaro owned by and driven by Calvin Louis Ferebee of Tyner.

Ricky Chesson of Tyler Lane, Edenton, was a passenger in the vehicle.

Jethro said the search revealed a quantity of crack cocaine and drug paraphernalia. The Camaro was seized

in the raid, he said. Ferebee has been charged with possession with intent to

sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance (crack cocaine), maintaining a ve-

hicle to sell and deliver and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Chesson has been charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

"The task force owes a special 'thank you' to the sheriff's department and the police department," Jethro said, "for their assistance in this operation."

Task force officers arrested two more men on Saturday, December 14, Willie Louis Ford, 33, of 221 King St., Hertford, and Maury Deland Rogerson, 26, of Rt. 1, Belvidere. The arrests took place in the Rocky Hock area of Chowan County.

The men were charged with possession with intent to manufacture and to sell schedule II controlled substances (crack cocaine), possession with intent to manufacture or sell schedule VI controlled substances (marijuana), and possession of drug paraphernalia.

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SEIZED IN DRUG BUST -- Tape saying "Sheriff's Line - Do Not Cross" surrounds this 1986 Chevrolet Camaro seized in a drug bust in Edenton on Monday night, December 2. The vehicle is parked behind the Edenton Police Station. Another vehicle confiscated Saturday night in a raid wears the same tape. It is parked behind the Chowan County Sheriff's Office.

Deadlines Are Announced

The Chowan Herald will be closed Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

The business office will be open on Monday, December 22; however, other departments will be closed that day.

Accordingly, the newspaper will observe early printing deadlines for next week's edition. All ads, news stories and photo-

graphs will need to be turned in no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, December 20.

"This deadline will enable our readers to find out what specials local businesses are offering for Christmas in plenty of time to finish up their shopping," said Herald Publisher Pete Manning. "Everyone's cooperation in observing this holiday schedule will be greatly appreciated."