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Holiday Tour Will Be Held On Weekend

By REBECCA BUNCH

Local homeowners will open their doors and put out the welcome mat at some of this community's most beautiful homes this weekend during the annual Candlelight Tour, sponsored by the Edenton Historical Commission.

Thirteen homes will be opened to visitors Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10-11. Saturday hours will be 4-8 p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each and can be obtained by contacting the Historic Edenton Visitor Center.

Sites on the tour will include:

- the home of Susan and Charlie Creighton, 211 East Water St.
- the home of Deanna and Jim Chesson, 205 East Water St.
- the home of Lindsay and Allen Hornthal, 201 East King St.
- the home of Mary Ann Coffey and Murphy Moss, 205 East King St.
- the home of Pam and Mark Blizard, 206 East King St.
- the home of Rei Shapter,

112 East King St.

• "The Homestead," home of Frances and Ross Inglis, 101 Colonial Square

• "Pembroke Hall," the home of Sharon and Jerry Smith, 121 West King St.

• "Wessington," home of Anne Graham Rowe, 120 West King St.

• "The Old Ice House," home of Heather Totten, 101 Blount St.

• the home of April Lane, 304 South Granville St.

• the home of Edwin Taylor, 104 West Queen St.

• "The Castle," owned by Marilyn Miller and Greg Haden, Yeopim Road.

"I hope this is going to be one of the biggest and best tours we've had," said Susan Creighton, 1994 tour chairman. "Everyone's been working really hard, and I just think it's going to really be great. We're just looking for a really fun weekend!"

Also on tap for the weekend will be the Iredell House Groaning Board and the Cupola House Annual Wassail Bowl celebration. Those will be held Saturday and Sunday

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Radiant, golden rays from the Christmas tree decorations at Pembroke Hall, home of Mr. and Mrs. M.B. "Jerry" Smith of 121 W. King St., Edenton, illuminate Mrs. Smith and her pet dog, Frisky. The ca. 1840 house has been totally renovated and refurbished in recent months by the Smiths. "Using Williamsburg colors, we've added warmth to an already elegant house," Sharon Smith said Friday. Pembroke Hall will be on the Christmas Candlelight Tour of Edenton Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10-11. (Staff photo by Marguerite McCall.)

It's Official; DOT Moving Offices Here

By MARGUERITE MCCALL

The 14-member staff of Division I administrative offices, North Carolina Department of Transportation, was informed Thursday the offices, now located in Ahoskie, will move to Edenton.

"Edenton is really the center of population for work within the division (14 counties)," said state Highway Administrator Larry Goode in a telephone interview Friday.

He said the proposed 64 corridor, U.S. 17 widening, and increasing traffic to Dare and Currituck counties were all factors in the decision to move the offices here. The district maintenance offices will remain in Ahoskie, Goode said.

"The maintenance people live pretty well scattered throughout the division," he said. "Besides Ahoskie, some of the administrative staff live in Greenville, some live in Elizabeth City, and some live elsewhere."

Told of the probable, impending move here, the Edenton Town Council instructed Town Manager Anne-Marie Kelly last week to pursue negotiations with DOT regarding locating the offices in the

airport terminal building.

The town proposes selling DOT a portion of the World War II building, with a fire wall built between DOT's area and the town's airport offices. Renovation estimates have been compiled showing the costs each party would incur in this arrangement, similar to that worked out by the county in the shared use of the Swain Building.

Goode and other state Board of Transportation officials toured the terminal building Thursday.

Asked Friday if he thought Division I administrative offices will locate in the building, Goode said, "The airport site certainly has a lot of potential. I understand it is an historical building, and it is situated on a beautiful site."

"However," he said, "we are also looking at other locations closer to U.S. 17. Possibly something north of Edenton might be better, closer for employees traveling here daily from their homes."

Goode said the visit Thursday was his first trip to Edenton. He said he was very impressed with the town.

Toys, Clothes Needed

By REBECCA BUNCH

Only a few weeks remain until Christmas, and Operation Santa Claus is far short of the number of sponsors it needs to make little children's holiday wishes come true.

"Right now, we have 400 children who have no sponsors," said Carol Travers, volunteer coordinator, said Monday morning. "We have 235 families on our list of those needing our help this year, with a total of 571 kids, from babies through age 13. So we have a long way to go at this point."

Travers said that while Operation Santa may be less visible to the community this year, she wants to remind everyone the effort is still around. Instead of being lo-

cated in the downtown business district as in prior years, the volunteer effort has moved into spacious quarters in the Immanuel Christian School building at 901 W. Queen Street, behind Immanuel Baptist Church.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9

a.m. until noon and from 1-3 p.m. Donations need to be received by Dec. 15.

"There are several ways people can help us help these children have a happy Christmas," Travers said. "People can come by here and pick up a list of toy and clothing item

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Homes Will Mean More Jobs Locally

By MARGUERITE MCCALL

Life, Inc., of Goldsboro, which presently operates a six-bed facility for children on Luke Street, has the go-ahead from the town to proceed with plans to construct three group homes here for developmentally disabled adults.

The Edenton Town Council paved the way last month by approving a subdivision application for the homes, which will be located on a four-acre tract fronting Coke Avenue and lying between Blade and

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Michael J. McArthur (center) takes the oath of office for Chowan County Clerk of Superior Court Monday before presiding Judge J. Richard Parker (not shown). John McArthur (left) holds the Bible for his father's oath, while Mrs. (Rebecca) McArthur, beams with pleasure regarding the sacred occasion. (Staff photo by Marguerite McCall.)

Officials Take Oaths

By MARGUERITE MCCALL

Superior Court Judge J. Richard Parker, 1st Judicial District, told the packed courtroom in Edenton Monday afternoon that he began swearing officials into office at 7 that morning in Dare County.

"I've been doing it all day and haven't finished yet," he said.

State law requires all judicial and sheriff office personnel to be sworn into office by the first Monday in December following a November general election.

The ceremony here was a repeat for Chowan County Clerk of Superior Court Mike McArthur, formerly sworn at 9 a.m. Monday at the Perquimans County Courthouse, to enable his family and friends to witness his taking the oath of office.

Addressing those present, State House Rep. Bill Culpepper III, D-Chowan, observed that McArthur was the first male to hold the position since

Thomas Shepard did so in the early 1960s.

"The occasion of swearing in a clerk of court does not happen that often in Chowan County," he said. "Mrs. Lena Leary served in the office for some 22 years after Tom (Shepard) resigned to run his business, and Mrs. Marjorie Hollowell has served for the past 10 or 12 years since Mrs. Leary retired."

"The large crowd here today speaks well of Mike," Culpepper said.

Judge Parker also gave the oath of office to Alice Twiddy and Shelia Sawyer, assistant clerks of court, and to deputy clerks Stella Brothers, Sarah H. Copeland, Betty Keller and Marjorie Copeland.

"I'm so thankful for everything that's gone my way," McArthur said. "I have a great love for Chowan County."

Upon the retirement Nov. 30 of Mrs. Hollowell, McArthur was sworn-in by

Parker Thursday, Dec. 1, as acting clerk until Monday.

Other Chowan residents sworn into office Monday morning in Hertford were Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill and District Court Judge C. Christopher Bean, 1st Judicial District.

The ceremony, held prior to Judge Parker's presiding over Perquimans Superior Court Monday, also included the swearing-in of 1st Judicial District Court Judge J.C. Cole, Perquimans Sheriff David Lane, Currituck Sheriff Glenn Brinkley, Clerk of Perquimans Superior Court L. Gail Godwin, Clerk of Pasquotank Superior Court Lynne W. Pike, and Perquimans County deputies and Clerk's Office employees.

"I predict," Judge Parker said, "this will be a good four years for the judicial system and for law enforcement in the 1st Judicial District."



Santa Claus Visits Edenton

Katherine Elliott, young daughter of Mary and Chris Elliott of Edenton, delights in sitting in Santa's lap Saturday morning. She even gave the jolly fellow a great big hug. Scores of children lined-up Friday evening and again Saturday to tell Santa their Christmas wishes during his brief visit at Chair & Equipment Rentals, sponsored by the Merchant's Committee of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce. (Staff photo by Marguerite McCall.)