

# Bonds

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pliers.  
 "At the same time, we'll be promoting our gas distributors that have been here for some time, and will continue to be here," Bunch said. "I do not feel like it will be a detriment to them (LP suppliers) at all."  
 Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said that between 40 and 60 percent of industrial clients will only seek to locate in areas where natural gas is available. With the upgrade of the local highway system, Knighton said Eden-

ton's future is looking brighter.  
 "With the four-laning of US 17, and this shot in the arm to get natural gas, we're going to see good things happen in our region and in our community," Knighton said. "I think this is one of the best things to happen to northeastern North Carolina in a long time."  
 The bonds will initially help provide natural gas service strictly to industrial and commercial consumers. The feasibility of extending gas service to residential customers may be addressed in the future.  
 And just who will supply natural gas to the region will also be decided in the future, possibly within the next few months, said state Utilities

Commission official Giselle Rankin.  
 North Carolina Natural Gas is currently interested in keeping its exclusive franchise rights for the region, Rankin said. The Utilities Commission has scheduled a Dec. 7 hearing in Raleigh where NCNG officials are expected to make pleas to retain exclusive rights to serve the area which were placed in jeopardy in July as a result of "Use It or Lose It" regulation.  
 NCNG has possessed exclusive rights to the northeast for 35 years and has deemed the area "unfeasible" for the construction of natural gas lines due to limited industrial needs. But NCNG has recently ex-

pressed an interest in serving the region's largest urban area.  
 "NCNG wants exclusive franchise rights for Pasquotank and Camden counties," Rankin said, noting that NCNG has indicated it wants to serve the Elizabeth City area. Rankin said that if NCNG did provide gas to Elizabeth City, it would run an extension line from Virginia, through Camden, into the city.  
 "They really only plan to serve Elizabeth City," she said. "If NCNG keeps those two counties, obviously it cuts the area in half. (But) NCNG has also expressed interest in using the bond money to serve the northeast in general."  
 In July, five local counties,

Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Perquimans, Pasquotank, and Edenton, along with four municipalities - Edenton, Elizabeth City, Hertford and Winfall - formed a regional gas district, the Albemarle Regional Energy Authority (AREA). AREA was created in an effort to secure natural gas services in the region in light of NCNG's reluctance to provide it.  
 Whoever the Utilities Commission taps to serve the area will be able to use bond money to offset investment costs. Construction costs should greatly exceed revenues in the near future, said Rankin. But the investor will have to cover a portion of the construction costs, possibly as much as 25

percent, she said.  
 And if the gas provider begins to turn a profit, the bond money will have to be repaid with interest, said Rankin.  
 Rankin said that Frontier Energy, a new local gas distribution company which received approval to serve four counties in northwest North Carolina, is also expected to apply for the chance to serve the northeast.  
 Still, Rankin said the bond money would not be available until January at the earliest.  
 "It takes a little while for the approval to get the monies into certain hands," she said. "Basically, we expect (to receive) a couple of applications," said Rankin.

# Center

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mended for developing an educational program for the young people of our county. We want to develop some facilities that will meet his need and, of course, protect the tax dollar."  
 Copeland said that the county wants to receive a financial commitment from the five participating school systems before it agrees to fund the project.  
 Harrell said the learning center plans to involve teachers and students from Camden, Chowan, Gates, Perquimans and Washington counties. The learning center, he said, would be the focal point of creating a larger base of participation with area students.  
 "It primarily extends and

enlarges what we have already been doing out there," Harrell told the commissioners.  
 The building is expected to contain laboratory space, classrooms and kitchen facilities where students could perform a variety of science- and math-related projects.  
 Today's students, Harrell said, are "disconnected" from their own local cultures and personal backgrounds.  
 "The whole idea is to let students learn about what's going on in their own community," he said. "This program will allow kids to 're-connect' with their history and culture."  
 The Annenberg Rural Challenge Board of Directors approved the grant in August to establish the Albemarle Learning Center.  
 The grant will be spread out over a three-year period. In the current year's funding, the center is scheduled to receive

\$200,000. After receiving \$175,000 in the second year, the center will complete the grant cycle by obtaining \$125,000 in its final year of funding.  
 In accordance with the grant's guidelines, the learning center must provide "place-based education" for the students from the five-county area. To be located on 10 acres of the center's 80-acre site, the learning center will provide an environment for developing and piloting curriculum based on community needs and resources. The curriculum will be developed cooperatively and will be implemented in the five school systems.  
 The program will initially involve middle-school students, with teachers receiving 30 hours of training at the center in order to give them the tools needed to run the program successfully, Harrell

said.  
 ARC board member Jasper Horne also spoke on behalf of the proposed learning center.  
 "It gives the students a different idea of what learning is all about," Horne said. "We have some of our students in our classrooms who (find it) hard to sit down for 45 minutes. Their attention spans are just that short."  
 The learning center would provide space and enough hands-on activities to allow those students to learn effectively in a new environment, he said.  
 Commissioner Pete Dail offered his support for the county to assist the center in building the facility, while commissioner George Jones requested that the matter wait until the board takes a further look at the proposed financial agreement.



**RAINES BRINGS HOME RIBBONS**  
 Edenton resident Carolyn Raines proudly displays some of the fair ribbons she recently won at the 51st Annual North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh. Raines won first- and third-place honors in the fair's Flower and Garden Show competition, and also took home the Tri-Color Award which designated her entry as the best in the show. All in all, Raines garnered a total of 40 ribbons in three fairs during the month of October.

# Award

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moting quality awareness and education and by recognizing achievements in the quality improvement area.  
 Miller credited his nursing home with keeping quality as its primary focus.  
 "We listen to our customers,

the residents and their families, and we're always looking for ways to better respond to their needs," he said.  
 He said that Britthaven of Edenton has used various methods including surveys and questionnaires to look at ways it can continue to improve its services in such areas as restraint usage, pressure sores, personal hygiene and other related activities.  
 According to AHCA Executive Vice President Paul Willging, that ongoing commitment was a primary reason Britthaven of Edenton was named one of its quality award recipients this year.

"Recipients of the AHCA Quality Award reflect the long-term care industry's growing commitment to meeting customers' needs through sophisticated quality improvement efforts," Willging said. "An increasing number of facilities have embraced continuous quality improvement and recognized how this translates into improved quality of life for long-term care patients."  
 The award received by Britthaven of Edenton recognizes the organization's successful effort to: integrate the

elements of systematic quality in their facility by developing solid mission statements; identify their principal customers and their expectations; and show a keen understanding of the residents' needs.  
 The American Health Care Association (AHCA) is a federation of 50 state health organizations, together representing nearly 12,000 nonprofit and for-profit assisted living, nursing facility, and subacute care providers that care for more than one million elderly and disabled individuals nationally.

# Break-in is reported

The Edenton Police Department is investigating a weekend break-in in which a would-be safecracker tried unsuccessfully to gain entry into a safe at a town business.  
 An employee of Ricks Laundry & Dry Cleaners Inc. telephoned police shortly after 6 a.m. Monday to report that the establishment had broken into. According to a report filed by patrol officer Earl Solesbee, the suspect gained entry into the business, located at 209 W. Church St., by using an "unknown pry tool."  
 Although the suspect was unable to open the safe, an estimated \$500 worth of damage was sustained as a result of the attempt.

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- Probation work period
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**OFFICE LOCATIONS:**

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