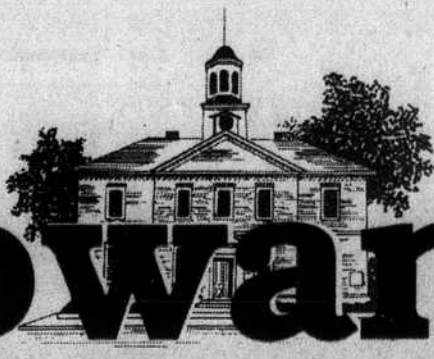


The Chowan Herald



Communitywide Clean-Up Day March 27

Edenton Police to host cookout for local volunteers

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

With the biennial Edenton Pilgrimage just weeks away, event organizers and town officials have proclaimed March to be "Clean Up Month" in anticipation of hundreds of visitors coming to town for the

two-day tour.

Edenton Mayor Roland Vaughan said the sprucing-up efforts would ensure that visitors see Edenton at its most beautiful.

"We want to look our best," Vaughan said. "This is just an extra push to make sure we show our town in the best possible light during the Pilgrimage."

The Pilgrimage is set for April 16-17, with some of the town's most historic homes - including newly renovated Mill Village homes - scheduled to be open to tour-goers during

the event. This year's event is the 50th anniversary of the inaugural Pilgrimage that took place in 1949.

Vaughan said the that the spring cleaning proclamation is also an effort to make Edenton residents mindful of the crowds expected to flow into town next month.

Pilgrimage Co-Chairman Barbara King said that a special clean-up day is set for later this month. On March 27, from 10 a.m. to noon, approximately 200 volunteers - including local Boy Scouts and 4-Hers - will be combing the town to

pick up trash. Afterwards, King said, the Edenton Police Department will sponsor a hot dog cookout for the volunteers.

For more information, or to order tickets for the Pilgrimage, call 1-800-775-0111. For group tickets, call 482-4801. Tickets are \$20 and can be ordered in advance. To order tickets by mail, write to the Edenton Woman's Club, PO Box 12, Edenton, NC 27932, or the Chowan Arts Council, 200 E. Church St., Edenton, NC 27932. Checks should be made payable to the Edenton Woman's Club.



Pilgrimage Co-Chair Barbara King and Mayor Roland Vaughan set a good example for fellow Edentonians by placing some trash in dumpsters at the Courthouse Green. A townwide clean-up day will be held here later this month in preparation for the 50th anniversary Edenton Biennial Pilgrimage. (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

Bonner announces new guidelines

With a state requirement on physical fitness looming for the men and women in blue, Edenton Police Chief Greg Bonner has decided to be one step ahead of the fitness craze.

Bonner has devised a program for his officers which is designed to get them in shape well before North Carolina implements minimum standards. The program is modeled after a plan used by the Town of Tarboro and has been reviewed by the state's Criminal Justice Division.

The department's health maintenance program will ensure that all paid police officers are physically ready to perform their duties, and will vary

in intensity according to age, said Bonner.

According to the procedure, all sworn officers will be required to take a physical examination annually. Also, all officers who have significant health problems will receive a physical examination as often as prudent in order to ensure safe involvement in enforcement activities, policy guidelines say. Components of the physical examination will be determined by medical personnel selected by the Town of Edenton.

In addition, each applicant for the department will be required to undergo a physical prior to being hired. Applicants

will also undergo health maintenance testing and must score in the expected range in muscular strength, muscular endurance and cardiovascular endurance in order to become a member of the department.

Promotions and pay raises will also be affected by the fitness policy. The policy states that officers must meet proficiency requirements in all three (cardiovascular and both muscular) tests in order to be promoted within the department.

"Officers who cannot medically meet the standards must show continual improvement until the standards are met," the policy states. Additionally,

all standards must be met within a six-month period or the officer will be given the opportunity to either retire with a medical disability or will be terminated.

Other policy requirements are as follows:

- Effective Sept. 1, 1999: Officers must test in the expected range to be considered for a standard evaluation.

- All full-time officers who rate in the less-than-expected range will participate in a remedial training program to be developed by the Edenton-Chowan Recreation & Parks Department. Those who do not

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Charges planned for 'white goods' pick-up service

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

With the ever-increasing cost of transporting discarded appliances in mind, town officials have devised a plan to begin charging residents for the removal of certain "white goods" items.

The removal of white goods - including refrigerators, washers, dryers and stoves - has become a burden on the town, said Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

"Our ordinance calls for the town to charge a fee for collection of goods that weigh in excess of 75 pounds," Knighton wrote in a memorandum she recently sent to

the Town Council. "We are experiencing a lot of wear and tear on the trucks transporting the white goods from our facility to the landfill in Perquimans County."

The plan calls for the town to stop collecting white goods at the curb.

"Instead, residents would be required to transport the white goods to one of Chowan County's solid waste disposal facilities which are equipped to handle white goods," Knighton said. "We understand that most other municipalities in the region are handling the white goods in this way."

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Business celebrates local expansion

When Fisher Nut closed the doors of its plant on Peanut Drive in the early 1990s, town officials scrambled for ways to find another company to occupy the building.

In the wake of the shutdown, the Edenton-Chowan Development Corporation purchased the building and immediately set to work to find a new tenant. Eventually, the development team landed a prospect in Morven Partners, L.P., a peanut-products company already located across the street from the then-vacant Fisher Nut building.

Last Thursday morning, a host of local business and government leaders gathered at the once-vacant building to officially welcome Morven Partners to its new facility. Still operating its original in-shell facility on Peanut Drive, Morven Partners has expanded its Edenton business to include additional peanut processing in the building that formerly



A host of local business leaders and government officials look on as Mike Partin cuts the ribbon to celebrate a new expansion project at Morven Partners, L.P., located on Peanut Drive. (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

housed Fisher Nut.

The company began operating out of the building in early January where it makes such

products as peanut butter and peanut toppings for ice cream, as well as ingredients in candies, cookies and a variety of

snack foods.

After a ribbon-cutting cer-

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Chowan Arts Council sponsors Ensemble program

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

For "dancing at the highest level imaginable," the place to be this Friday night is the Swain Auditorium in Edenton. Starting at 7 p.m., in a program sponsored by the Chowan Arts Council, the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble will take to the stage for some of the fanciest footwork around.

"We are just thrilled to have a group of this caliber come to Edenton to perform," said Chowan Arts Council Executive Director Sue Clark. "After leaving Edenton, the group will be traveling to New York to perform. That gives you some idea of just how great they really are...we hope everyone will take advantage of this opportunity to come and see them perform while they're here."

The dancers, ranging in age from 10 to 17, are under the expert direction of visionary teacher/director Gene Med-

ler. Medler teaches the "old-time" version of tap popularized by Charles "Honi" Coles, Jimmy Slyde and Sandman Sims - the same dance style that in more modern times dancer/actor Gregory Hines has worked so hard to preserve.

According to the group's director, their performances include both the history and demonstration of dance styles as diverse as an Irish Jig, a soft shoe, French Canadian waltz clog, be-bop, and jazz/rhythm tap.

"These kids are dancing at the highest level imaginable," said Medler. "There are perhaps a handful of companies nationwide which allow me complete choreographic freedom. Close your eyes and you could never tell that most of the dancers are too young to drive."

The Ensemble tours extensively in North Carolina and the Southeast and is a regular at the St. Louis Tap Festival. Medler said the Ensemble's

goals are:

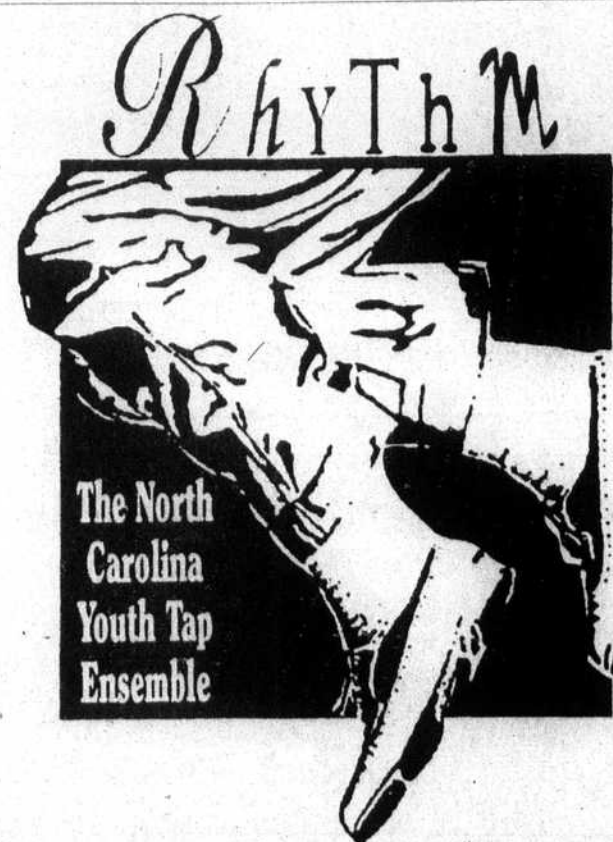
- Entertain and inform audiences of the universal nature of percussive dancing

- Preserve tap, an indigenous American dance form, plus a variety of traditional percussive dances by teaching them to a new generation of performers, and

- Offer young dancers an opportunity to perform and to refine the delight of dancing entertainment.

The Ensemble's choreographers include Lane Alexander, Ira Bernstein, Barbara Duffy, Josh Hilberman, Jeannie Hill, Gene Medler, Zans McLachlan, Jan and Eddie Owens, Ruth Pershing and Savion Glover.

Tickets for the performance (priced at \$5 each) and information on a Master Tap Dancing Class the group will hold on Saturday are available by calling the Chowan Arts Council at 482-8005. This program is sponsored in part by a Grassroots Grant from the North Carolina Arts Council.



The North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble will perform in Edenton Friday night. Tickets are available from the Chowan Arts Council.

Grant funds to absorb cost of project here

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

In accordance with a growing demand for water and sewer services in one of the town's largest industrial sectors, a state economic agency has awarded a grant to offset costs of pump station upgrade there.

Last month, the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center awarded a \$75,000 grant to the Town of Edenton for the replacement of a sewer lift station on Peanut Drive. An award description stated that companies discharging to the lift station have requested increased flow that the existing lift station cannot handle. The grant will leverage \$150,000 in town investment into the project.

"We are very excited," said

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