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### Town green lights rezoning of 40-acre tract here

BY REBECCA BUNCH Editor

With Councilman Sambo Dixon casting the lone dissenting vote, the Edenton Town Council passed a resolution last Tuesday evening to approve the rezoning of 40 acres of land on Whitemon Lane adjacent to Albemarle Motor Company to highway commercial rather than residential. A prior request by the property's owner, Dr. Lloyd Griffin of Elizabeth City, to have a 70-acre tract at the site rezoned

was recently refused by Council.

"It's not going to come as a shock to anybody in this room that I'm against this rezoning," said Dixon, citing concerns about the safety of the planned rezoning and its potential impact on the community. "What we're doing, we're doing right," he added. "We've just got too valuable an asset to risk this."

Also speaking against the plan was Mayor Roland Vaughan, who was unable to vote because there was not a tie vote. Councilman Steve Biggs was unable to attend the meeting, leaving an uneven number of Councilmen to consider the proposal.

The mayor called the rezoning bid "premature" even though he acknowledged it "does have merit." Mayor Vaughan said he agreed with the safety concerns outlined by public speakers at the meeting. He also called the present configuration of businesses dotting Highway 32 "a monument to no planning," noting that those businesses currently there won approval based on the merits of

their individual presentations, not because of any plan considering the area as a whole.

And while Mayor Vaughan said he felt confident the town's revised Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) would take care of the concerns raised during the meeting, he reminded those present of the impact that could be felt in the downtown business district if one more shopping center gets built. He said that each time a new shopping center has come into existence, an already existing one has

closed. He recalled that there have been "periods of blight" in the business community here, adding that "Downtown Edenton has not always been as it is now." He said that in the past when things needed to get done, it has often been individuals, not the town, county or other established agencies that have taken the lead. He said the same proactive effort would be needed in the future to keep a thriv-

Concerns about damage to the downtown business district as well

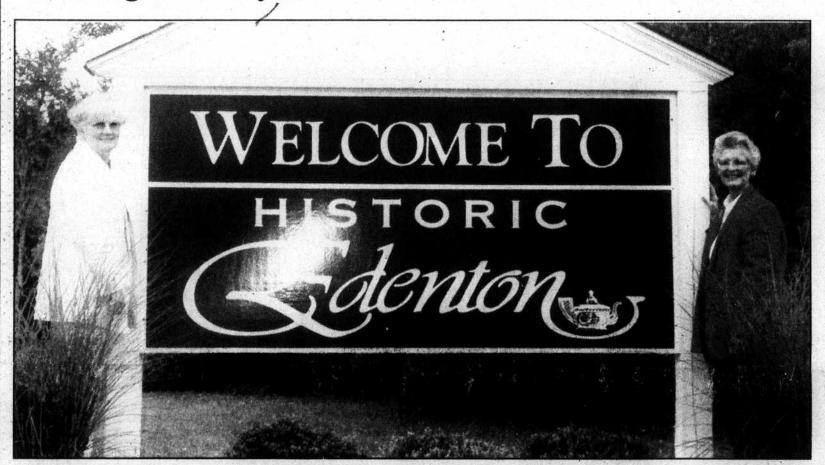
ing business community here.

as concerns about urban sprawl were also voiced by private citizens who addressed the Council Tuesday night.

Among them was Dr. Paul Pridgen, a local minister and a newcomer to the community. He said he and his family were very impressed when they moved here to see a thriving downtown business district that was maintained in keeping with the "charm" found elsewhere in town.

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#### Getting an early start



Barbara King (right) and Martha Badger, Co-Chairpersons for the 2001 Edenton Pilgrimage Tour, are pictured next to one of several signs that have been placed around Edenton, informing visitors of the area's historical heritage. King stated that the Edenton Women's Club has announced that next year's event will be held on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21. Proceeds from the 1999 Pilgrimage benefitted several organizations, including the Iredell House Association, Barker House, Cupola House, Locust Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, and the Shepard-Pruden Library. King also emphasized the importance of community involvement and invites any who is interested in being a participant in the upcoming event to please do so. (Staff photo by Derrick Armstead)

## Search ends; murder suspect is arrested

Gaylord's to be in court on June 20

BY DERRICK ARMSTEAD Staff Writer

A three-week search for an Edenton man wanted in connection with the May 28 murder of Keiwanee Powell has ended with the arrest of 20-year-old Kendrick Gaylord. Tristian Spencer, a second suspect in the case, remains in Chewan Countyiell swattingstrial

Chowan County jail awaiting trial. Gaylord, who is being held without bond, was expected to make his first court appearance on Tuesday, June, 20, where he will be charged with first degree murder.

Gaylord's arrest on Monday, June 19, was carried out by Gregory Bonner, Edenton Chief of Police, and Chowan County Sheriff's Deputy Larnell Valentine, at approximately 11:50 a.m. in the 200

block of West Albemarle Street.

Bonner says that a tip received by the Chowan County Sheriff's

Dept. led to the recent arrest.
"Deputy Valentine received some information and (presented) it to me." said Bonner. "We then

went out to the residence where..Gaylord was supposed to be"

Once the two arrived on scene, Bonner states that they "sort of quietly" checked the area, with Valentine stationed at the rear of the residence.

At that point, Bonner attempted to obtain permission to search the facility.

"The lady at the residence said that she had just got there," Bonner said. "I then asked her if it was okay to search the premises, and she said that she didn't have a problem with it. I then asked her again, and she said yes for a second time."

After the pair's entry into the house, Bonner said that it was all over pretty quickly.

"The first place that I looked when I entered the house, was the right front bedroom," said Bonner. "He was standing there...and offered no resistance."

As to why he had remained at large, Bonner says Gaylord's response was, "I didn't turn myself in because I was scared."

Bonner said that with regard to the events that occurred on May 28, "Gaylord was very cooperative and willing to give us his recollection of what took place."



Shelly Harrell and Ben Smith

#### Holmes sophomores off to School of Math, Science

State school taps those proficient in science and mathematics

Two John A. Holmes High School sophomores, Shelly Harrell and Ben Smith, have been accepted to attend the North Carolina School of Science and Math in the fall.

The NC School of Science and Math is a public residential high school for juniors and seniors who are academically motivated in science and mathematics. The school was established by the NC General Assembly to provide

challenging educational opportunities for students with an interest in, and potential for, high achievement in science and mathematics.

The school, which opened in 1980, has a student body of 550 youth from across the state. NCSSM alumni have enrolled in colleges and universities through the United States and abroad. Many are enrolled in graduate schools, law schools and medical schools. Others have joined the international workforce as scientists, mathematicians, engineers and other related occupations.

Harrell is the daughter of Walter and Lisa Harrell of Edenton. Smith is the son of Ronnie and Maria Clara Smith, also of Edenton.

# Commission hears about concerns

BY DERRICK ARMSTEAD

Staff Writer

After releasing the 2000-01 budget two weeks ago, Chowan County Commissioners (CCC) revisited the matter on Monday evening during a special session designed to gauge public response on the issue. The good news is that the CCC got their wish, but that fact was tempered by the bad news—it may not have been to the degree that they were expecting.

On that issue, the number of citizens in attendance to speak was indeed small, and to be more exact,

only singular in nature.

"I have been coming to these hearings for eight years, and in that time can remember no instance where Commissioners modified the budget based on input from the public," said John Sams of Tyner. "Since I have no reason to believe today's hearing will be any different, I have decided not to waste time by giving you my detailed thoughts on next year's budget...."

Sams continued, "... Through one form of taxation or another, the dollars you will spend in next year's budget were coerced from our citizens."

A breakdown of the 2000-01 budget that Sams alludes to was presented during Monday's meeting.
Included within next year's \$15.2 million expenditure total is an al-

location of over \$3.4 million for

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Stephen Nugen (second from left) is joined by co-workers Brent Holt, Scott Castelloe, and Quinton McGowan. (Staff photo by Derrick Armstead)

#### Nugen excited about tech talk

BY DERRICK ARMSTEAD Staff Writer

John A. Holmes (JAH) student Stephen Nugen is eagerly anticipating a mid-summer trip to Austin, Texas, even though this will not be a typical fun-filled excursion, based on the fact that upon arrival there will be some work

In July, Nugen will travel to the 'Lone Star' state where he will be joined by 1000 other high school delegates for a week-and-a-half long discussion regarding the fu-

involved.

ture of technology at the 2000 National Summit of Young Technology Leaders Conference (NSYTLC).

According to Nugen, participation in the NSYTLC should provide in-depth knowledge of the rapidly changing field.

"After this event, I hope to know where technology is going," he said. "...I also want to be able to learn where to look for future jobs

and future colleges."

Sponsored by Envison, a Washington, D.C.-based educational organization, the NSYTLC will pro-

vide instruction in web design, robotics, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, computer architecture, fiber optics, wireless communication, and software design.

In addition, students will meet with IBM, Dell Computer Corporation, Apple Computer, Motorola, and 3M.

Austin is described as the ideal city for this event, based on a recent report in the The Wall Street Journal, where it was tabbed as "quickly becoming the number one

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