

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Lions offer attic filled with love

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
Staff Writer

In the last few months more and more families in the Chowan County area have fallen on hard times. Businesses and farms, having to endure a tight economy and damaging weather, have had no choice but to lay off workers.

During a recent meeting of the Rocky Hock Lions Club members began discussing how to help these families. One member, Frances Jordan, owner of the Crossroads Auto Parts and Service Center, proposed expanding on a mission already being undertaken by two local churches, Faith Fellowship Baptist and the Center Hill United Methodist Church. Although the two churches were targeting the needs of the Hispanic community, the decision was made to incorporate all the needy families in Chowan and surrounding counties.

According to Jordan, members of the two churches donate clothes, packages of personal hygiene items, and small household items to the families. "There are many Hispanic families in the area who have



Frances Jordan shows off the Rocky Hock Lions Club's Attic, a place where needy families in Chowan County can find clothes and other household items. The facility is located at Crossroads Auto Parts and Service Center. (Staff photo by Helen K. Outland)

nothing," says Jordan. "They do not have the few dollars it takes to buy used items at other centers who support themselves by selling goods at a greatly reduced price. The poorest ones here are richer than the ones back home. What

little they make here, they send home to help families there."

After the Lions Club members agreed on establishing a drop site for used clothing, etc. Jordan says she began to worry where this site might be.

"I was on my way to work one morning, worrying over the issue, when it dawned on me. I have the perfect place. It is centrally located to serve not only Chowan County, but

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Town reviews plan to raise utility rates

The Edenton Town Council reviewed a 2.5 percent proposed retail electric rate increase Monday night during its monthly committee meetings. Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton presented the rate increase in response to North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency's 3 percent wholesale rate increase, scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1.

Knighton reported to council that three factors contributed to the wholesale rate increase.

"First," she said, "a record-setting mild winter last year reduced Power Agency sales. Secondly, instead of a projected system load increase, i.e., industry growth, the system realized significant decreases in load."

"The decreases in load," she added, "can be directly linked to the closing of numerous textile plants in eastern North Carolina." Knighton noted that Rocky Mount, Wilson and Tarboro represent a significant

portion of the load on the Power Agency's system.

"The third reason for the rate increase," she said, "is attributed to capital improvements mandated by Carolina Power and Light Company (CP&L), at the jointly owned power plants."

Ms. Knighton recommended a 2.5 percent retail rate increase be adopted to offset the 3 percent wholesale rate increase, to go into effect for Edenton customers Feb. 1. Under the proposed rate increase, a customer using 1,000 kilowatts a month will see their power bill rise by about \$2.19.

Councilman Jerry Parks asked that Knighton's staff develop a public information campaign to help educate customers on ways to conserve electricity.

Councilmen expressed their distaste for the rate increase but noted that the Town of Edenton's monthly wholesale bill is projected to rise by about \$20,000 a month because of the NCEMPA's rate increase.

Edenton uses ENI system to facilitate online bids

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
Staff Writer

History was made Thursday as Edenton, NC, using the ENI automated procurement system, became the first city in North Carolina to use this Internet software to conduct a public, sealed bid opening.

For communities and contractors in the past, receiving notification of a job, preparing a bid, submitting a bid, and then ironing out the kinks was a long and drawn out process requiring manpower, travel, and many long distance phone calls.

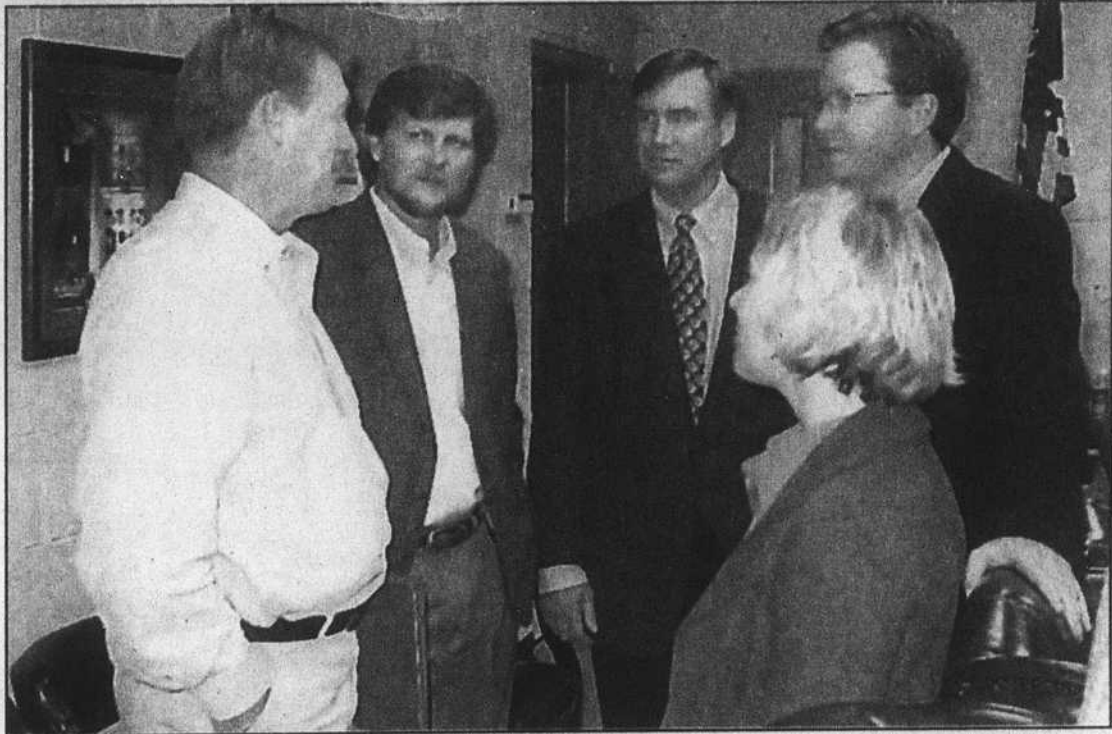
As members of the Northeast Partnership and community and business leaders looked on three electronically bids submitted to the town for repair projects were opened. Every aspect of the bid process had been conducted securely

and without city officials, contractors, or engineers needing to leave their offices.

The software used in the digital process is the brainchild of ENI eProcurements and eBusiness Solutions located in Edenton, NC.

"We learned about E-bidding when we were recruiting Tully Ryan and ENI," says Edenton City Manager Anne-Marie Knighton. ENI is a software technology company that has the unique patent-pending artificial intelligence software. It has been integrated to streamline procurement and associated workflow by combining industry knowledge, procurement expertise, and a proven IT platform to provide comprehensive procurement and business software to the A&E, construction, utility, waste, and public sector.

As the town determined



Tully Ryan, ENI, right, Amy Bodeck, Chuck Skinner, Eric Weatherly discuss the ENI process at Thursday's e-bid opening at the Northeast Partnership. (Photo by Helen Outland)

some much-needed repairs to area streets they used the e-bid system. Ads were submitted to acquire bids on the project and the process began. Of the six bids that the town received, three were done using e-bidding.

Chuck Skinner, Vice President of Procurement Applications for ENI and Amy Bodecker of Hobbs-Upchurch, Consulting Engineers presented a program on e-bidding, explaining how it works, before the actual bid opening process began. "ENI's sealed bid application has been used many times throughout the country, but we are excited that the Town of Edenton was the first municipality to use it in North Carolina," added Skinner.

"One of the goals the Town

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Toppin injured in shooting

BY BEN DECK
Cox NC Publications

Ron Toppin, a Republican businessman who twice challenged Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight for his state Senate seat, was shot twice at his Plymouth trucking company Sunday morning, police said.

Toppin, who remained in critical condition Monday, was first shot about 7 a.m. while standing in an office at Faith Trucking, 1400 Highway U.S. 64

East, said Lt. W.P. Ward of



Ron Toppin

the Plymouth Police Department. Toppin then ran, but

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Christmas at the Market Dec. 7th

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season will be framed by the beauty of the Christmas season in downtown Edenton this year as the Marketplace Guild hosts its annual Christmas at the Market on Saturday, Dec. 7. Particular attention this year is being paid to the seasonal decorations being used in the downtown shopping district, according to Guild President Susan Wilkerson. "The entrance to the Market for our visitors will be at the intersection of Broad and Queen streets," Wilkerson said. "This area will be adorned with additional decoration and signs."

In keeping with the event,

the Guild is sponsoring a Window/Storefront Decorating Contest. Merchants are encouraged to make their windows look their loveliest. Wilkerson noted that the contest's judges will begin "making their rounds" that morning at 10 a.m., choosing the most outstanding storefronts based on originality, creativity and detail. She said that the winners would be announced during the lighting ceremony set for later that day. "A photo of the 'best dressed business' will appear in the Chowan Herald," she added.

Music will also play a part in the day's festivities, said Wilkerson, with local church choirs and musicians entertaining throughout the day. Anyone interested in partici-



Guild President Susan Wilkerson, left, talks with past president Marion DesJardins, about plans for this year's Christmas at the Market set for Saturday, Dec. 7.

pating is encouraged to contact Guild member Traci Adams at 482-2855. Adams is

the manager of Peebles Decorating. Adams is

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Happy Thanksgiving

From the Chowan Herald

