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Parade, Candlelight Tour delight visitors

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
Staff Writer

Christmas came to life in Edenton this weekend as hundreds converged downtown to enjoy the sights, sounds, and flavors of the holidays. Despite a light rain the doors of the Cupola, Iredell, and Barker Houses were opened to the delight of tourist and locals alike as the annual Candlelight Tour began.

The homes on tour were beautifully decorated where visitors not only enjoyed a diversity of decorations but also were treated to live piano or harp music at the Boehling

ginia Beach. "Every year there is something different and always beautiful."

The weather seemed to have little if any effect on the turnout.

"Oh, the weather doesn't bother us at all," said Jill Bass of Richmond. Bass and a number of her friends had filled a van to capacity and made the trip. "We are kind of damp and our feet are sore, but we are having a wonderful time. The homes are beautiful."

As visitors entered each home they found them decorated in styles reflecting the distinct styles and personali-

ties of the owners. Some homes were simply and elegantly done while others were colorful and animated. The sounds of children's laughter filled the air as they scurried around. Gingerbread man cookies, for display only, were vibrantly iced making it difficult not to 'snitch' one and run. Lights from the homes cast a soft

air surrounded them. Front porches were welcoming with green, red, and gold wreaths offset with twinkling candles. As the drizzle of rain began to subside visitors made their way to the waterfront, drawn there by the aroma of steaming oysters, and ate their fill of the delicacies masterfully prepared by Leon Nixon's Catering. The Barker House served up their special 'nog' and the Groaning Board at the Iredell House and the Wassail Bowl at the Cupola House provided an opportunity for fellowship, while the Chowan Arts



From a yuletide parade filled with floats, rides and music, to a tour of beautifully decorated homes and historic sites, Edenton was definitely the place to be over the weekend. Christmas parade winners included Kadesh Church, below. And, at right, Merritt Chesson performs for visitors at the home of Peter and Mary Boehling during the Christmas Candlelight Tour. Companion events included an Oyster Roast held on the grounds of the historic Barker House located on the downtown Edenton waterfront. (Staff photos by Helen Kerr Outland and Deborah Collins)



and Reynolds homes. Warm apple cider greeted guests at the home of April Lane. Home-made bread and a succulent, pineapple-covered ham teased visitors as they made their way through the Baker home. A "cool" Christmas tree delighted visitors to the Hagan home at the Hatchery.

"We would not miss this tour for anything," said Dick and Dottie Reynolds of Vir-

ties of the owners. Some homes were simply and elegantly done while others were colorful and animated. The sounds of children's laughter filled the air as they scurried around. Gingerbread man cookies, for display only, were vibrantly iced making it difficult not to 'snitch' one and run. Lights from the homes cast a soft haze as the moisture in the

Council's Confection Perfection also offered a chance to enjoy work by local artists.

Visitors found something for everyone as they made their way through town.

On Saturday morning skies were clearing and the sun attempting to show itself as big and little kids lined Broad Street waiting for the annual Christmas Parade to begin. From horses to hot-

roads spectators clapped as beautifully adorned floats made their way past.

Marching bands brought out dancing in the little ones and Old St. Nick brought cheering.

Albemarle Baptist Church placed first in the judging of this year's floats. Country-side Church of Christ placed second and Kadesh A.M.E. Zion won third place honors.

Early deadlines set

The Chowan Herald will be closed all day Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Dec. 24-25, to allow employees to celebrate the holiday with their families. Accordingly, early deadlines will be in place for the Christmas edition of the paper.

All advertising, classifieds, legals, news items and photos for next week's newspaper should be turned in by noon this Thursday (Dec. 19). Any items received after that time will be printed as space remains available. Happy Holidays!

Edenton-Chowan Schools go tobacco-free in 2003

The Edenton - Chowan Schools Board of Education voted at its December meeting to consider developing a policy prohibiting the use of tobacco on school grounds or at school events, at any time and by any person.

Board member Tom Abbott made the motion for the policy change after attending a workshop on 100-percent tobacco-free schools in Greenville. The new policy would prohibit tobacco use for all students, staff and visitors in school buildings, on campus, in vehicles and during all school events, including outdoor events. The policy would extend to hours outside the regular classroom schedule - 24 hours, seven days a week.

Neighboring Gates, Hertford and Perquimans currently have 100-percent tobacco-free policies.

The State Board of Education voted at its June meeting to pass a resolution authored by Lieutenant Governor Beverly Purdew to encourage all local school boards to adopt a 100-percent tobacco-free policy. Currently 15 North Carolina

school systems have tobacco-free policies.

The current Edenton - Chowan Schools policy on to-

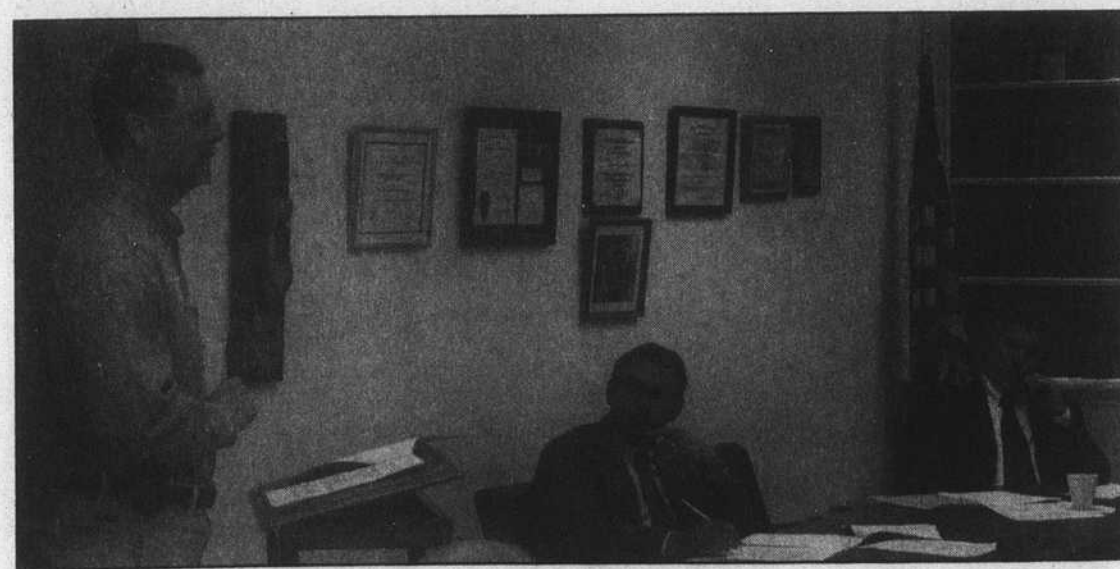
bacco use, effective with the 1991-1992 school year, prohibits

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Supporting safety

Edenton-Chowan Schools Supt. Allan Smith, left, accepts a \$500 check from Harry Lee Winslow, right, presented on behalf of the Ryland Ruritan Club. The funds will assist with the cost of installing flashing caution lights on the speed limit sign posted near Chowan Middle School. The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education voted to install the lights at the suggestion of Ruritan Club member Fred Bunch. The Ruritan Club donated the funds to install the lights as part of its mission of "good will and community service". (Photo by Glenda Jakubowski, Edenton-Chowan Schools)



Edenton-Chowan Parks and Recreation Director Robbie Laughton, at left, updates Chowan County Commissioners concerning progress on the Pembroke Creek project. (Staff photo by Helen Kerr Outland)

County gets grant funds

Chowan County has been awarded a \$50,000 grant for the construction of approximately 700 feet of boardwalk along Pembroke Creek.

In early 2000 the county received a smaller grant for the construction of 250 feet of boardwalk on the vacant land adjacent to the Pembroke Creek Marina and Fishing Center. The county was able to obtain the 5.4-acre tract of land through the Clean Water Management Trust Fund in 1999.

Plans were made by the county to use the land as a public park and turned over the management of the project to Recreation Director Robbie Laughton.

The Town of Edenton had received a small grant in 1998 to build a boardwalk on a different site, but the location fell through. Laughton asked that the funds be re-directed to the Pembroke Creek site and the State agreed opening the development of the property for

public use.

The 700-foot extension will follow the shoreline east from the existing boardwalk towards the Pembroke Creek Bridge. The boardwalk will allow for fishing, canoe and launching kayaks, bird watching, and leisure walks.

When making the presentation to the County Commissioners, Laughton told of the project's strong merits. "The

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Center Hill Baptist Church

will again present a live drive-through panorama depicting the life of Jesus Christ with the addition of two new scenes located behind the Center Hill Community Building, 936 Sandy Ridge Road in Tyner, NC. This will be held Wednesday, December 18 through Friday, December 20 from 6 pm to 8 pm, nightly.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served inside the community building.

For more details, please contact Pastor Don English at 252-221-4060.