

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Citizens express concern for future of IGA grocery

BY DAVID CRAWLEY
Publisher

Edenton's IGA is out and another dollar store could take its place if a decision made at Monday night's Board of Adjustment meeting stands without appeal.

After what proved to be a confusing evening and with two board members absent, Charles Pierce cast the lone 'no' vote to seal a 4 to 1 decision granting a special use permit which paves the way for Dollar General Stores to replace IGA at 413 West Queen Street.

As Chairman Wallace Evans opened the floor for public comment, Dr. Warren Sachs was the first to rise. Representing the Development Company, W & L, LLC which plans to buy the property, Sachs immediately recognized the public debate that had swarmed around the Queen Street property for over a year.

"I realize that some people are worried about losing the



A permit granted Monday evening opens the way for Dollar General Stores to open a second location in Edenton, replacing the IGA grocery store currently housed on West Queen Street. (Staff photo by Bud Weagly)

neighborhood food market," said Sachs. "But Dollar General will be a neighborhood

store as well." "Twenty to twenty-five percent of our items are food

items," added the Virginia Beach Developer.

When asked by an adjust-

ment board member about the existing Dollar General at Edenton Village Shopping Center, near Food Lion, he said there was no plan to close that store as far as he knew.

According to Sachs the newest Dollar General could employ up to eight people. That, according to a spokesperson from IGA, compares to the current roster of 22 IGA/Family Foods employees there now.

Citing concern about lost jobs, neighborhood customers, area senior citizens and others who "walk to the supermarket," several of those IGA employees and their neighbors also rose to express their views. Many were passionate as they cited their disapproval of plans to place a Dollar General in the location where a grocery store has existed for many years.

After hearing from the citizens with not a single favorable comment, Chairman Wallace Evans tried to "make the record clear" when he stated "we are not voting to

close IGA tonight. That is not the function of this board."

The chairman went on to say that the board's job was to dispose of the application before them regarding the proper legal use of the property.

According to owner McKay Phtisic, the IGA is currently on a 'month-to-month' lease with a 90-day cancellation clause, and has "been given opportunity to buy the building."

When contacted by the Herald, IGA/Family Foods expressed a sincere desire to remain in Edenton. "Our desire is to stay and do business right here," declared Mike Self with IGA/Family Foods. "We have been a part of the community for a long time, and we don't want to go."

Self, General Manager and Director of operations for the small neighborhood food store group, says he is saddened by the prospect of leaving a community that has been so sup-

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Smoking ban could result in problems

BY RYAN BURR
Cox NC Publications

As the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education prepares to adopt a broad-sweeping tobacco-free policy at its next meeting, many are in support of the measure but say enforcement will be the most challenging aspect.

"Even if we adopt the same tobacco-free policy at all activities held at the Chowan Recreation Department, we have no police officer or school resource officer to enforce it," said Robbie Laughton, director of the recreation department.

Laughton said his department will be compelled to enact the board's initiative for the purpose of being consistent.

"To be a good neighbor, our recreation advisory committee would probably want to create the same policy, so there's no public confusion," he said. "Our concern has been that if this policy is adopted then it should be the same on all city- and county-owned property."

As it stands now, the "100 percent tobacco free policy" essentially bans the use or possession of any tobacco products on school grounds. "This prohibition also applies to those students, employees, guests... (who are) participating in school-sponsored activities held off-campus," the proposal says.

The ban would not extend to student or adult spectators at school-sponsored events for which there is a general admission charged and/or at spectator events held in places where the general public is permitted to use tobacco products.

In its March meeting, the board debated whether a parent driving a child other than his or her own in a private vehicle to or from a school function could smoke. The draft of

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Family loses pets due to rabies

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

A local family had to stand aside last Friday and allow animal control officers to euthanize both their family pets because neither dog had been vaccinated against rabies.

"It really was a heartbreaking thing for everybody, for the family and for us," said Chowan Animal Control Supervisor Mary Bass. "But we had no choice. We had to follow the law."

Bass said that she began an investigation after being contacted by the family whose home is on Mexico Road. She said it was reported to her that a dead raccoon (later found to be rabid) had been found inside a fenced-in yard where the two dogs were kept. Bass said that since neither of the dogs had been vaccinated



These two family pets had to be destroyed at the Chowan-Gates-Perquimans Animal Shelter after they were found to have fought with a rabid raccoon inside their fenced-in yard. (Photos by Jerry Swanner)

against the virus she had no choice but to put the dogs down.

She said that she hopes sharing this story will cause other pet owners to think twice because they could find them-

selves in the same situation.

"We are not making this information public to add to anybody's pain," she said. "This family has lost two young, healthy, much-loved pets and our goal here is to try

to have some good come out of this situation by letting others know what could happen and encouraging them to please, please have their family pets vaccinated. The threat of rabies in our area is very real."

Bass said that the shelter will be holding a Rabies Clinic on Saturday, April 5, from 1-3 p.m. at its headquarters on Icaria Road just off Hwy. 32 in Chowan County. Shots for both dogs and cats will be given for \$5 each.

"We are really hoping everybody will take this message to heart and bring their pets out that day to be vaccinated," said Bass. "Five dollars isn't much to spend if you really love your pets."

Dogs being brought to the shelter for rabies shots that day should be on a leash; muzzled if necessary. Cats should be in carriers.

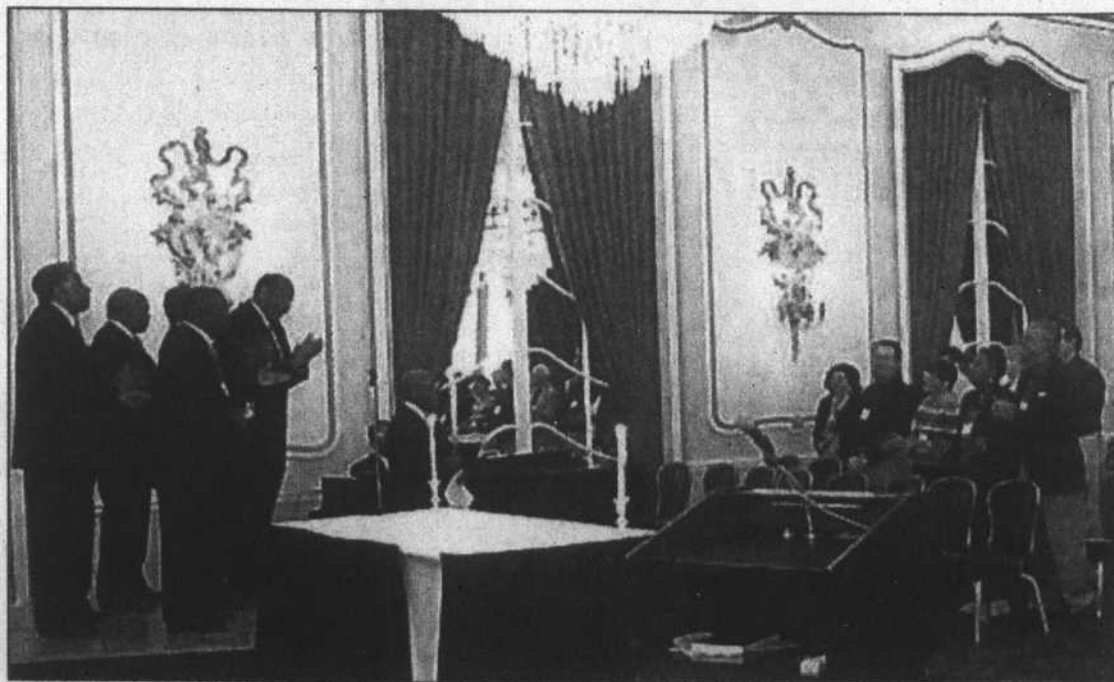
DFI may revisit lawsuit

The lawyer for an area development company has dropped plans to sue the Edenton-based Northeast Partnership and its president and CEO, Rick Watson. However, DFI's attorney, Scott Wilkinson, said in a phone interview Tuesday afternoon that it's "too early to tell" if that decision will stand.

"DFI's decision to dismiss the lawsuit had nothing to do with the merits of that suit or what Mr. Horton thought had happened, or what he thought people had done," Wilkerson said.

In an earlier interview with The Daily Advance in Elizabeth City, the Partnership's attorney said that an actual suit had not been filed.

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Members of the Edenton Community Male Chorus perform for members of the U.S. House of Representatives during a recent congressional retreat. (Submitted photo)

Chorus performs at retreat

On March 1-2, the Edenton Community Male Chorus performed for members of the United States Congress, the chorus' second such performance in the last three years.

Invited by Jerry Climer, president of the Public Governance Institute and a homeowner in Edenton, the all-male chorus performed at the bipartisan Congressional Retreat 2003 at

the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, WV. This retreat is for Republican and Democratic members of the U.S.

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An open letter to our community

Dear Fellow Citizens:

I am frustrated, saddened and angry all at the same time... I have spent most of my adult years in relationships with teenagers either as a teacher or as a volunteer youth minister. They are so precious to me as I know they are to our entire community.

So why my outburst? I feel a darkness surrounding many of our youth that seems to be deep. The darkness contains shootings, illegal drugs, racism, underage drinking, pornography, premarital sex... all of which bring so much pain and brokenness. I'm not a pessimist by nature but, hey, Chowan County, this is real and it involves our young people. Won't you join me in a prayer for them? Won't you reach out to them? Won't you let them know that you know, and that you care? I do not want to let even one of our young people down. And letting them down includes saying nothing and doing nothing.

Many of you are already praying for the students of John A. Holmes through the FISH program. If you are praying for one of these students, thank you! Please keep it up. If you're not praying, please start. And, of course, our younger students at the middle and elementary schools need prayer, too.

Will you join me for prayer for our children from 7 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. on Monday, March 17, at St. Paul's Parish House, 101 West Gale Street? I will be there. Or perhaps if you are in the county you could pray near our middle and elementary schools at this same time. I know that when prayer happens, great things happen. And I want only great things for our youth, as I'm sure you do, too.

Thanks for allowing me to share with you what is in my heart. Perhaps I needed to sound the alarm for some or remind others of what you already know. In any case, Chowan County, let us all wake up! Our young people need us.

Missie Harrell
Youth Minister
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Edenton

YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

CH15964
MARCH 10 - MARCH 14
Registration will take place at both the Edenton-Chowan Recreational Department (old D.F. Walker) and the Northern Chowan Community Center from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. each day. **COST IS \$10 (\$15 after March 14).**
For more information, please call 482-5598