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Hayes site could replicate style of historic district

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A pre-colonial estate just east of Edenton could become a replica of the town's historic district.

Owners of Hayes Plantation have hired a development team to design an extensive development on their ancestral farmland. The vast tract dates back to the mid-18th Century and was home to Samuel Johnston, a former North Carolina governor and U.S. Senator. Johnston is buried at Hayes.

Gilliam Wood said the move is "a very, very sensible thing for our family to do" during Town Council's April 26 committee meeting. Developers told Council it was also a sensible idea for the town and Chowan County to consider approving.



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Owners of the Hayes farm property, in background, bordered by Queen Anne Creek here, are mulling plans to turn the rural tract into a large development similar in fashion to Edenton's Historic District.

Developers Bob Chapman, Milton Grenfell and Tony Sease gave a 50-minute PowerPoint presentation to council. Plans are in the early stages, Chapman said,

but hopes are to fully develop the land over 50 years.

Development would include "walkable streets," sites for civic use, an "identifiable" center and boundaries, as well as homes and buildings that resemble Edenton's historic manner. The town's designers and founders used a well-thought-out plan that has withstood nearly 300 years, Chapman said. Forward-thinking development is key to a healthy community, he said.

"That's what they did 200 years ago, 100 years ago, 50 years ago," Chapman added, "and we can still do it."

Grenfell also said new houses could be fashioned after Edenton's enduring sites. "They're still here," he said, "because they were built for the long haul."

Grenfell said the proposed development style is known as traditional, not historic, architectural. "It's not an imitative thing," he said of traditional architecture, "it's a living, breathing, way to make buildings."

Council and the audience on hand viewed examples of such homes and buildings from sites in South Carolina and at Duke University that the developers had worked on.

The developers also outlined ways the plan could help the town and county avoid urban sprawl, strip malls, and short-lived subdivisions.

Chapman forecasted that Edenton and Chowan County would grow significantly over the next few decades. With a 1.7 percent population increase the county would

double its citizenry in 50 years. Smart development will allow the county and town to maintain their strengths, he added.

The plan does not include any substantial commercial development. What businesses would be built would "support the vitality of downtown Edenton," Sease said.

The rezoning will have to be approved by council. The developers are scheduled to meet with the town Planning Board May 17. The Wood family inherited the property in 1865 from James Johnston, a friend of the family. James Johnston was the son of Samuel Johnston.

The project is the third new major development pitched to Chowan County and town officials since last fall.

Officers' training held here

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

TYNER — One mistake can cost a life.

Law enforcement personnel know this, and hope never to have to test the theory. A state-of-the-art firearms training simulator rolled into Chowan County last week to give the good guys practice in dealing with bad guys.

A flannel-clad man checking under his hood on the roadside blasts away at a helpful sheriff's deputy. A high school student rampages through the halls, gunning down classmates. A trio of bandits draw their guns as they exit the scene of a convenience store robbery.

"This is as close to being like the real thing as anything you'll get," Andy Bunch, a Chowan County Sheriff's Office detective, said after leading deputies from Perquimans County through a string of computer-controlled dangerous — and "deadly" — plots. In a dark trailer, real officers gripped laser-firing Glockes, while gun-toting criminals fired back from a life-sized screen. When the trainees were caught off guard they were peppered in the legs by marble-sized plastic "bullets."

"It didn't hurt too bad, did it?" Minor Allen, a technology

See TRAINING On Page 3-A



Photo by Bill Haley

Event Chair Pat Mesa and volunteer Keith Sorensen adjust the small sign at the foot of Broad Street promoting the May 8 Friends of the Library fundraiser. According to Town Planner Elizabeth Bryant the town decided more than a year ago to reduce sign clutter and make the corner safer for motorists by limiting the signs.

Friends adapt to 'signs of the times' preparing for fundraiser

BY BILL HALEY
Contributing Writer

When Shepard-Pruden Library volunteers dusted off the 3 x 4 foot sign used for their past three fundraisers they found the sign was no longer legal. Since the last Spring Forward party/auction in 2002 the town of Edenton decided to limit signs at the foot of Broad Street to four square feet. The

Friends were three times out of compliance.

To the rescue came real estate developer Judy Adams who invited Friends to place the large sign on her property along Virginia Road, while a 2 x 2 foot sign was commissioned for Broad Street. Signs were installed less than two weeks before the event, hoping to add to the awareness of the event. Meanwhile, tickets are selling fast for the gala wine and

cheese party, which along with the silent and live auction help keep the library a vibrant part of the community. The party will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 8, at the American Legion building on West Queen Street. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door.

Adams is not the only Edenton business person to

See SIGNS On Page 3-A

Bill Gardner Jr. files for seat as Commissioner

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

Bill Gardner Jr. officially entered the race on April 29 seeking to fill a soon-to-be vacant seat on the Chowan County Board of Commissioners. Gardner, a Republican, hopes to replace George E. Jones, a Democrat, on the board in the upcoming July election.

Gardner, a lifetime resident of Chowan County, wants to represent District 2, Seat 1. He hopes to fulfill the "large shoes" left behind by his predecessor, Jones, who served for 26 years in the position.

"I am giving Bill my full support," said Jones. "I don't think that political parties should come into play with the election; it should be given to the best man for the job. We need someone to look after Chowan County's best interests," Jones said. Gardner made it clear he has no agenda but a sincere interest in the area.

"I see a lot of change happening in Chowan County. There are developments in the works and I would like to have an input," Gardner said.

Though Gardner has never

See GARDNER On Page 3-A



Staff photo by Earline White

Chowan Board of Elections Supervisor Rebecca Lowe watches as Bill Gardner Jr. files to seek election to the Chowan County Board of Commissioners. Looking on his retiring Commissioner George Jones, right, who has endorsed Gardner for the seat.

OLF's presence may change area forever

BY SUSAN R. HARRIS
Cox NC Publications

First in a series

Northeastern North Carolina may be described by some as the land time forgot.

Still largely rural and agricultural, the counties of the northeast corner of the state by and large lag behind in economic growth and pace of life.

Things move slowly in this corner of the world, where the honking of geese and the roar of a tractor motor are often the loudest sounds heard.

This relatively slow-paced



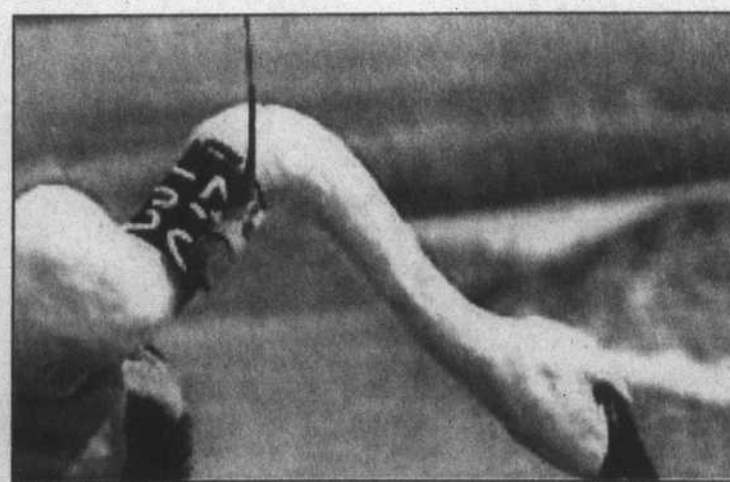
lifestyle and tranquility, the serene, pristine waterways, and the friendliness of the region have made it a haven for city-dwellers looking for a peaceful place to retire. Its rich history and lack of high-paying jobs have forced economic development groups and local governments to pursue heritage and eco-tourism as a means to remain economically viable.

But the character of this serene setting may change forever if the U.S. Navy builds an outlying landing field, or OLF, in the region.

If that happens, and the Navy does plan to build an auxiliary landing field in Washington County, the roar of jets practicing touch-and-go landings at all hours of the day and night will certainly not be conducive to people or wildlife.

Proponents of a landing field in North Carolina cite military preparedness as the reason it is needed.

See OLF On Page 5-A



Tundra swans (above) and other wildlife will face an uncertain future in Washington County if an OLF is built.

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Mother's Day contest winner announced



6-A

Acoustic Coffee celebrates first year

12-A

Cycle Speedway open for season

1-B

Volunteers honored at banquets

3-C



Spring Forward
Auction . . . Wine and Cheese Party

SATURDAY, MAY 8TH
STARTS AT 6:00 P.M.

American Legion Hall
West Queen Street, Edenton

Tickets \$7
\$10 at door

Sponsored by Friends of the
Shepard-Pruden Library

Pastries, rare cheeses, finger food . . . wine and soft drinks . . . silent and live auction — Come one, come all! Help support our library!