

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Vol. LXXII, No. 15

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Single Copies 50¢



Looking Back a special section

Pilgrimage weekend starts Friday

BY REBECCA BUNCH
The Chowan Herald

Being responsible for co-chairing one of North Carolina's best-known tourism draws, the Edenton Pilgrimage, has its perks. One of those enjoyed by this year's co-chairs, Mary Lou Baldi and Kay Caveney, was a personal visit with Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue, who treated them (and fellow members of the Edenton

Woman's Club) to a private tour of the Governor's Mansion. And in the spirit of the occasion the ladies met with Perdue dressed in period attire.

"Our dresses were very similar to those worn by the ladies during the first Pilgrimage in 1949," said Mary Lou Baldi. "And it (visiting Perdue) was a great experience. We all had a wonderful time."

According to a history of the

club, first mention of an idea that today draws thousands to our community came during a November 1948 meeting of the Edenton Woman's Club when the Fine Arts Committee outlined plans for a Home and Garden Tour of Edenton that could be carried out under the sponsorship of the North Carolina Garden Club. A scrapbook documenting the club's activities between September 1948 and June 1949 carries this

entry: "For the first time in the history of Edenton, tourists will have the privilege of visiting 23 homes, buildings and plantations."

During the first tour, held April 18-19, 1949, the 23 public buildings and homes open to visitors included: the Cupola House, the James Iredell House, Beverly Hall, Greenfield, Hayes Plantation, and

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Staff photo by Earline White

Tour co-chairs Mary Lou Baldi, left, and Kay Caveney

Town electric rates may rise once again

By SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Citing a handed-down rate hike from its power supplier, the Edenton Town Council could bump up electric rates for the second time in less than a year.

The new increase — based on skyrocketing fuel costs and rising cost of coal — could be a temporary one, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said during council's April 12 meeting. Council approved a 1.4-percent rate increase that took effect March 1. That rise was due to a spike in wholesale

power costs from last October, an increase the town absorbed for six months.

"This is not good news," Knighton told council of the latest rate increase passed along to Edenton. "It's unexpected."

Council did not take action on the issue, but is expected to discuss the matter at its April 25 meeting.

Rising coal costs at two coal-fueled power plants in Person County — and escalating costs in transporting the coal from the Appalachia-based mines to

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"The citizens will ultimately be the big winner in having all these agencies working together."

Anne-Marie Knighton
Town Manager



Chowan Herald file photo

Floodwaters from Hurricane Isabel surround the current site of the Edenton Police Dept./911 Emergency Communications Center (at left).

Funds still being sought for new law enforcement center

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Town officials have known since Hurricane Isabel flooded its police and communications centers in September 2003 that a new law enforcement center was needed.

Now the question is, should the town move forward with borrowed money, or wait for grants to pay for a proposed \$7 million center it could share with Chowan County.

During its April 12 meeting, the Town Council was updated about possible plans to locate the Edenton Police Department, Chowan County Sheriff's

Office, and the 911 Communications Center at a site behind the Chowan Life Center on Freeman Street.

"Ultimately," Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton told council, "we feel like we've found a good site."

The town has joined the county in applying for a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture after Hurricane Isabel tore through the town and county. The county owns a 4.5-acre site on West Freeman Street where the joint-agency building could be placed, Knighton said.

She said placing all three agencies

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Staff photo by Earline White

New commercial signage may be affected under new design standards being considered; existing signs such as these will not.

New design standards are considered

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Imagine future Edenton fast-food eateries without giant golden arches and with Victorian brick facades.

It's what a town-appointed committee has envisioned, and the Town Council could slap its OK onto the proposal later this spring. During its April 12 meeting, council received an update — via a PowerPoint presentation from Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton — of the architectural design standards committee's report.

The committee's recommendations include new standards for future commercial developments. If approved by the town, the new standards would be included in the town's Unified Development Ordinance. Knighton showed photos of a red-brick McDonald's restaurant, a CVS pharmacy in Davidson, and a Lowe's Home Improvement Store in Chapel Hill, all of which blended into nearby residential districts.

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Sweep proves a success



Booze, drugs and cash confiscated during recent raids

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Sometimes a routine search can yield surprising results, as evidenced by a recent sweep by

local law enforcement agencies.

For the second time in less than a year, the Edenton Police

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Stroke Victims form support group



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Kids share a light-hearted moment at the ceremony

Rededication held at D.F. Walker

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

With scores of members of the new Boys & Girls Club and club supporters seated in front of him, Robbie Laughton launched into a praise-filled history of the buildings now known as the old D.F. Walker School.

"This facility has a long history of serving this county," Laughton, director of the Edenton-Chowan Parks & Recreation Department, said dur-

ing the rededication on April 14.

Indeed, it was educational home to African-American students in the period of segregated schools, and its walls housed children of all races when integration was introduced.

But its elementary school students and staff vacated the premises for new digs in 2002, heading north to Sandy Ridge Road for the new D.F. Walker Elementary School.

Since then, it has been used

by the Edenton - Chowan School system and College of The Albemarle, as well as by Laughton and his staff.

But the latest arrivals are the 100-plus youths that venture through its doors every afternoon to take part in Boys & Girls Club activities. The club, which began operations in late January, also received kudos last week during the ceremony in the revamped gym.

"You have some people here

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CYCLE Speedway

THIS WEEKEND - SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD

All youth invited to compete!

SEASON OPENER

Located at the Northeastern Regional Airport

Gates Open - 6:00pm. Racing - 7:30pm. (252) 482-1655

www.cyclespeedway.com

