

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## Boomers targeted for new subdivision

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

Another new subdivision is being planned for Edenton, but its focus is something entirely new. This latest development will strictly target baby boomers as potential residents.

During the Town Council's April 11th meeting, officials from Silver Companies: Active Adult Communities laid out their preliminary concept. The 320-

site is bordered by Pembroke Creek to the north, West Queen Street to the west, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue to the east, and Boswell Street to the south.

Roughly 570 dwelling units are planned, including condos, apartments, attached homes, and free-standing homes. And the development would require that owners comply with an age restriction of 55 years or older for tenants, according to Richard Tremblay, company executive vice-president for residential development.

"The homeowners are good citizens," Tremblay told council.

"They are empty-nesters," Tony Sala, another company executive vice-president, said during Silver Companies' nearly one-hour presentation.

"They're hard-working, they have good incomes," Sala said, adding that many of the development's residents would likely be retirees on pensions.

The project would also include a small commercial development (2.9 acres), likely a small bank and office spaces.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said the gated community would be the first of its

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## Sheriff's Department to reinstate successful K-9 program

A skilled K-9 unit can be a valuable asset when it comes to combatting crime in a community

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

Whether it's tracking a missing person or looking for evidence nothing is better suited to the task than a well-trained dog. The Chowan County Sheriff's Office knows firsthand what an asset it is to have a skilled K-9 unit, and in a few weeks will once again bring a furry friend on board to combat crime.

The Chowan County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit was es-

tablished in January 1998 when funds became available via a grant from the Governor's Crime Commission. Today the program is being funded by contributions from area businesses and citizens.

Sheriff Fred Spruill responded quickly to the opportunity to have such a valuable force working with his staff. Rex, the popular canine companion of handler Deputy Buddy Bunch, became well known in the area for his outstanding work.



Deputy Edward Basnight shows off the new K-9 dog who will work with the Chowan County Sheriff's Office. A name for the German Shepherd has not yet been chosen.

Contributed

Unfortunately, Rex was diagnosed with cancer in late 2004, leaving Spruill with no choice but to retire him. Rex was hon-

ored in January 2005 for his service to the Chowan County Sheriff's Office and his remarkable assistance to all lo-

cal and state agencies.

"Rex was used on a daily basis

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## Down to the finish line

### Questions & Answers from the candidates

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

Edenton Police Det. Sgt. Rhonda Copeland feels the time is right for her to move from fighting crime in town, to overseeing law enforcement for all of Chowan County's roughly 15,000 citizens.



Copeland

Monday, Copeland answered questions posed to her by *The Chowan Herald* regarding her goals and priorities if elected. They include:

(1) With overcrowding at the county jail continuing to be an issue, how would you seek to expand the facility: What funding would you seek that would decrease, as much as possible, the county's share of the expense?

Copeland: "There is talk about building a new law enforcement facility in the Granville Street area in town; once that is built, then all the offices in the sheriff's department now could be converted for space to house inmates. There could also be a second floor added to the existing jail. And if we continue to work against crime we may not need the extra space for the jail. There is always state and federal funding that we could access to help with any funding that would be needed with additions to the jail."

(2) With the violent crime rate dipping nationally, in North Carolina, and in Chowan County in recent years, what would you do to keep such crimes on the decrease here?

Copeland: "I would seek to educate the

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BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

Chowan County Sheriff's Deputy Dwayne Goodwin has served under Sheriff Fred Spruill for nearly 15 years, and now Goodwin wants to take over the office from the retiring Spruill.



Goodwin

Goodwin, 36, will face opponent Rhonda Copeland, an Edenton Police Department detective sergeant, during the May 2 Democratic Primary. On Monday, he answered questions posed to him by *The Chowan Herald* regarding his goals and priorities if elected:

(1) With overcrowding at the county jail continuing to be an issue, how would you seek to expand the facility: What funding would you seek that would decrease, as much as possible, the county's share of the expense?

Goodwin: "We're already in the process of expanding the jail. There's a 16-man drop-in (a group of cells built within the existing facility) planned to be up-and-running by the first of July. Meanwhile, we're still looking at ways to expand and build on what we have. I would look at the most cost-effective way to increase capacity without putting a funding burden on Chowan citizens. We always have the option of holding federal inmates and inmates for other counties such as Gates and Perquimans that brings in revenue for us and offsets (costs born by) the taxpayers of Chowan County."

(2) With the violent crime rate dipping nationally, in North Carolina, and in Chowan County in recent years, what would you do to keep such crimes on the

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Polls will open at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 2, and will close at 7:30 p.m. (Curbside voting will be available for handicapped voters). One-stop, no-excuse voting continues through noon on Saturday, April 29.

## Audit cites flaws in Partnership's operation

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

A state audit released on April 12 has raised concerns about how the Edenton-based Northeast Partnership passed out — and documented — nearly \$600,000 in bonuses over a three-year period ending last summer.

The audit, conducted from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2005, zeroed in on bonuses given to Partnership officials, including the \$240,350 paid to former president and CEO Rick Watson, whose contract was terminated in March.

"Auditors found significant deficiencies in internal control and/or noncompliance with laws, regulations, contracts or grants," the Office of the State Auditor's Web site states.

Flaws cited by the report, located on the Web site, include:

• Watson created a conflict of interest issue by helping recruit Randy Parton's entertainment theater project to Halifax County while working with the Partnership and also investing in, and working for, Parton.

• The Partnership's oversight boards did not provide enough scrutiny regarding the agency's operations, allowing top officials to make decisions without the boards' knowledge of those deci-

sions.

• The Partnership (which received \$4 million in state funding during the period of the audit) paid more than \$800,000 to contractors during a three-year period, with — in a pair of cases — contractors never performing the work they were hired to do.

• The Partnership did not properly report salaries on IRS forms.

• The Partnership continued to act as an agency independent from the state Department of Commerce, even after being informed by state Attorney General Roy Cooper that it did not have the proper authority to do so.

Charles Hayes, president and CEO of the Research Triangle Regional Partnership said Tuesday that he hadn't seen the audit, but that he is eligible to receive up to a 10-percent bonus annually. On average, he receives about an 8-percent bonus. His agency's top officials can get roughly \$10,000 annually apiece, based on performance.

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## Bogus sale signs showing up in town

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

A Dare County real estate agent who lives in Edenton hopes the prankster who put out at least two bogus for sale signs Monday with her contact information on them will soon realize it's just not funny.

Michele Rawles told *The Chowan Herald* Tuesday morning that she received several calls late Monday — including one from an irate homeowner in Edenton — about the signs. None of the properties where the signs were placed are actually up for sale, Rawles said.

"I don't have any listings in Edenton or Chowan County," Rawles said, adding that the signs

were primarily set out in the Pembroke Circle area.

Rawles, who works for Bodie Island Realty, said she has no idea who is putting out the signs. But

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Sean Jackson/Chowan Herald

These phony real estate signs are cropping up around town.



2006 Cycle Speedway Season Opener  
**THIS SATURDAY! APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>!**  
GATES OPEN: 6:00 PM RACING: 7:30 PM

NEVER RACED BEFORE? NO PROBLEM -  
Race Entrees for all ages are still available.  
Sign up this weekend at the Races!

Atlantic Forest Drive at the  
Northeastern Regional Airport, Edenton  
252-482-1655 / 252-482-8595 www.cyclespeedway.com

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