



Coming next week  
Results, photos from the Colonial  
Invitational Tennis Tournament



Dig at Iredell House  
uncovers artifacts

Community, C1

# CHOWAN HERALD

Vol. LXXIII  
No. 30

Wednesday, August 2, 2006

50¢

## Two BOE seats up for grabs

Jean Bunch and  
Win Dale battle  
incumbents

BY SEAN JACKSON  
*The Chowan Herald*

Two first-time candidates for elected office insured that the local school-board races will be contested in November.

Jean Bunch and Win Dale signed up Friday, shortly before the filing period closed, for the Nov. 7 non-partisan elections.

Bunch will face incumbent Randy White for the board's District 1 seat, while Dale is challenging incumbent Tom Abbott

for the at-large post.

Bunch, of Tyner, commended the current Edenton-Chowan Board of Education's commitment to local children. She said she has a similar commitment to education in the county.

"There will continue to be ever-changing challenges in meeting the educational expectations that we all want our youth to demonstrate when they graduate," Bunch said. "The experiences that I have gleaned from my years of community and school involvement has provided me with effective leadership skills that will contribute to the task

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## THE 'BOUQUET' FROM EDENTON BAY



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Greg Brown rakes the sludge to Mickey Watson who vacuums it up at the Edenton Bay waterfront. Both are employees of the Town of Edenton's Public Works Department.

## Obnoxious odor has local citizens going 'Phew!'

BY SEAN JACKSON  
*The Chowan Herald*

The summer sun and heat has brought more than uncomfortable temperatures recently.

The torrid conditions of late have also aided the growth of a smelly aquatic plant in Edenton Bay. Known as milfoil, the plants have been blooming near the banks of the bay for several weeks.

But it's the effects of their demise that has fouled the air of late, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said Monday. The weeds die and wash up on shore.

"The decomposition process creates the awful smell," Knighton said.

Add in a wet June and a blistering July and the recipe for stench is ripe.

"With the high temperatures and no wind," Knighton said, "the odor just hangs over the town."

It happened in 2002. Knighton said agriculture and aquatic specialists have said that the plant grows rapidly when conditions are hot, wet and still.

Dry summers equal the infusion of saltwater into Edenton Bay via the Albemarle Sound.

"With all the rain we have had," Knighton said, "the salt intrusion has been held back."

In recent weeks town workers have donned wading boots and climbed into the bay to scoop out the decaying weeds with large, flat shovels. It's been the town's only recourse to stemming the stench.

"The state tells us there is nothing we can do," Knighton said, "except hope for a good north-east wind to blow the weed out of here."

In the meantime, workers will continue their efforts to rid the shoreline of the stinky weeds.

"Those guys deserve combat pay," the town manager said.

## Design phase 'wrapping up' for new public safety center here

BY SEAN JACKSON  
*The Chowan Herald*

Edenton officials are one step closer to moving the police department out of the flood zone and into new digs a few blocks away from the waterfront.

During their recent committee meetings, town councillors agreed to vote on a lease agreement with Chowan County for the new public safety center.



Rascoe

Edenton's share of the cost would be \$4.4 million, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said.

The project is almost ready to be put out to bid for construction," Knighton said during the July 24 meeting.

"We're wrapping up the de-

sign phase right now," Peter Rascoe, special projects director for the town and county, said Tuesday. Once bids are received, they'll be forwarded to the state Local Government Commission for approval in October.

In addition to the police department, the Chowan sheriff's office and 911 central communications staff would be housed at the new facility, slated to between West Free-

mason and West Carteret streets.

With financing added, the total cost of the facility is nearly \$17 million, Knighton said. The police department would occupy 7,600 square feet of the building.

It is slated to be completed by the fall of 2008. The town would begin its annual debt payments the following year.

The top floor of the two-story building would have

space available for expansion, if other public safety agencies needed to use space there, Knighton said.

Councilman Steve Biggs had no qualms about the 30-year agreement, which renews automatically at the end of that term.

The county will receive a federal loan to pay for the facility. The town would pay

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## Future for new grocer looks rosy

Shopping center with Farm  
Fresh anchor gets the nod  
from local Planning Board

BY SEAN JACKSON  
*The Chowan Herald*

A majority of town councilors say they are leaning towards approving a permit for a Farm Fresh-anchored shopping center just north of Edenton.

The Chowan Herald's poll this week of the council followed a recent unanimous vote by the local Planning Board to recommend the project.

"I think it's pretty much a go," Councilman Jimmy Stallings said. "I don't think it's going to be a problem."

The center, to be located beside the Hampton Inn off the U.S. Highway 17 exit at N.C. Highway 32, would be anchored by a Farm Fresh, with a number of other retail stores and a gas center also planned.

The Town Planning Board approved the permit for the development at its July 26 meeting. Council has a public hearing on the permit scheduled for its Aug. 8 meeting.

Councilwoman Phyllis Britton, whose district is closest to the proposed center, said she supports the arrival of a new shopping center to Edenton.



Britton

"I think it will be good for us," Britton said Tuesday.

Britton said she hopes the developer, Norfolk, Va.-based Wheeler Development, will abide by the stipulations requested by the planning board.

"I'm in favor of it as long as they stand by their agreements," she said.

Councilman Willis Privott also said he favors the plan as long as it sticks to town guidelines.

"There's always going to be some questions and little bugs that need to be worked out," he said.

Overall, Privott is looking forward to the arrival of Edenton Commons.

"I'm definitely leaning towards (approving) it because it's going to be a great asset for Edenton," Privott said.

In addition to more shopping choices, the center would bring in additional revenues to the town.

"It's going to take our hands out of the taxpayers pockets," Privott added.

Councilman Jerry Parks also said he agrees with the planning board's recommendation to approve the permit.

"I am leaning towards (approving) it," he said. Councilmen Steve Biggs and Sambo Dixon could not be reached for this story.



Parks