

Tips for fun and healthy dining c1



LOWE'S & WAL*MART?

Lowe's to build at Farm Fresh locale

By Sean Jackson
Staff Writer

You might add Lowe's to your list of future shopping choices in Edenton.

The owners of Edenton Commons Shopping Center are planning to open next fall with two large anchor stores.

While a Farm Fresh supermarket has been on board since the beginning, a Lowe's Home Improvement store is now in the works, Jon Wheeler said.

"Lowe's sees [Edenton Commons] as the retail node for Edenton and Chowan County," Wheeler said.

Wheeler, president of Norfolk, Va.-based Wheeler Interests, said his company has a letter of intent from Lowe's. Wheeler said he doesn't expect Lowe's to sign a binding contract until after his company receives final approval from the town late this fall.

If town officials approve Wheeler's update plans by December, work could begin in January, with Farm Fresh and Lowe's opening by October, Wheeler said.

"We're very excited," Wheeler said.

Farm Fresh has delayed announcement of funding approval for construction

due to other acquisitions by its parent company, Super-Valu, earlier this year.

Farm Fresh is expected to make that announcement this month, officials have said. A Super-Valu spokesperson said Farm Fresh President Ron Dennis had no comment Monday.

A Lowe's spokesperson said her company does not comment until it has closed on all real estate matters.

"We have not done that in Edenton," Maureen Rich said.

Officials have said that Lowe's would build a 94,000-

See LOWE'S, Page A2 >

Deadline approaches for Wal-Mart

By Connie Sage
Contributing Writer

A California company's option to buy 850 acres of prime Bertie County farm land for a regional commercial, retail and residential complex, expires at midnight today.

Vicinages, a Monte Sereno real estate firm in California's Silicon Valley, has proposed building Mimosa Plantation, a four-phase project on Route 17 and Salmon Creek, over the Chowan River bridge south of Edenton.

It would include what

Vicinages calls "big box" retail stores, a water treatment plant, condos, and single-family homes.

In March, Bertie County officials invited Wal-Mart to Merry Hill.

Laurence R. Martin, a real estate broker and principal with Vicinages, said he would not comment on the project until after tonight's deadline.

"It's a question of whether the group he's working with thinks the numbers will work," said Joe B. "Jobie" Davenport, who owns the property with his cousins, Martha Ivey and Lynn

Evans.

Davenport has not accepted any back-up offers but said there are "people in line" who have expressed an interest in the land if Martin does not come up with the \$10 million contract price by today.

Davenport said Vicinages likely has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on surveys and title searches in the 15 months since its offer was accepted.

Timber, wetlands, soil quality, and storm water drainage surveys — along with the first property survey — See CLOSE, Page A2 >

Officer dismissed after dog shooting

By Earline White
Managing Editor

For four years Abbey, a border collie and St. Bernard mix, would greet Martin Parker upon his arrival from touring and recording in Nashville by jumping up onto the side of the fence in the backyard.

She would lick his hand and Parker would pat her head, calling her his best girl.

Abbey, who was given to Parker by his son, Chris Hare, after she outgrew Hare's family apartment, was very protective of her owner.

"She wouldn't let anybody near me," Parker joked, "unless she knew they meant me no harm that is."

At about 8 a.m. last Tuesday, the day after Abbey escaped from her pen on Virginia Road, veteran animal control officer Jerome Purvis made the decision to shoot the dog on Parker's porch.

Prior to the shooting, the county's 9-1-1 center had received several calls over a two-day period that a dog was roaming in the road at the corner of Virginia and Broad streets, said Peter Rascoe with the county.

See DOG, Page A2 >

PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER 50% COMPLETE



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Fernando Espinosa hauls sand to make concrete for the \$11 million Chowan County Public Safety Center and Edenton Police Department, which is 50 percent complete. Two homes on the corner of Freemason and Granville were recently demolished to create greenspace at the building's entrance. The center is expected to open March 2008.

HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE

Rates up by 25 %

Chowan among "coastal" counties that see rate hike

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

The cost of homeowner policies in Chowan County is jumping 25 percent due to increased claims being filed in coastal counties, according to two area insurance agencies.

Chowan is one of 18 North Carolina coastal counties whose citizens will be paying the higher rate.

In contrast, homeowners in Bertie and Gates, which do not fall under the coastal counties designation, will see only an 11 percent increase in the insurance premiums they pay.

"I couldn't believe it when I opened my renewal packet and saw how much more it was going to cost me," said one Chowan County resident. "I think it's outrageous."

The rate hike follows a pattern of increased claims filed in the region in recent years due to hurricanes, wind and hail damage.

Jim Elliott of Nationwide Insurance in Edenton said he sympathized with policyholders but described the increase as part of the cost of living near the coastline.

See RATES, Page A2 >

INDEX

- A Local
 - Opinion.....A6, 7
 - Land Transfers.....A4
- B Sports
 - Recreation News.....B1
 - NascarB2
- C Community News
 - Upcoming Events.....C2
 - Society.....C4
 - Obituaries.....C6
 - Church.....C7, 8
- D Classifieds
 - Buy/Sell/Trade.....D1
 - Service Directory.....D2
 - Employment.....D4

Students give briefing on Sandy Point development

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Emily Bunch of Chowan County considers the new Sandy Point development part of "history in the making" because of the significant long-term impact it will have.

Bunch said the project, located in Edenton, in one of the prettiest but poorest areas of North Carolina, could serve as a model for other ecologically friendly Inner Banks initiatives.

Bunch, a student at N.C. State University, is one of five students who have spent the summer talking with local citizens about Sandy Point and its probable impact on the town's

future.

Their findings were presented during a public meeting Aug. 1 at the Edenton Town Council Chambers.

It included an overview of the New Urbanism concept around which the development is centered, as well as environmental factors affecting the project, currently in the permitting phase.

It also looked at how the proposed development would fit into the community's planned growth and economic development objectives.

The 930-acre property could hold about 1,600 homes and businesses.

The development is expected to increase Chowan

County's current tax base by \$5,040,000 and to create 2,500 new jobs. It is estimated that \$1,000 per resident in sales tax will be generated.

County Commissioner Ralph Cole was among a small group of locals who came to hear the presentation.

"This is an issue I have been following very closely," he said. "This is an excellent presentation. I only wish more people had come to hear it."

Retired educator Shelby Strother said she thought

the students did a good job of presenting some fairly complex material.

"I was impressed ... they were so professional," she said.

The group, comprised of Emily Bunch, Matt Copeland, Devki-Gharpure, Sarah Grant and Krystal Roberts, prepared their report under the direction of Dr. George Barthalmus, NCSU faculty mentor.

They are scheduled to present the results of their research at the State of N.C. Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium at UNC-Greensboro on Nov. 17.

Bunch, Copeland and Roberts are all from Chowan County.



Bunch

NEW URBANISM GUIDELINES

■ The neighborhood has a discernible center, often a square or green, with a transit stop.

■ Most of the dwellings are within a five-minute walk of the center.

■ There are a variety of dwelling types — houses, rowhouses, apartments.

■ Parking is relegated to the rear of buildings.

■ The neighborhood is self governing.

