

# CHOWAN HERALD

482-4418

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

50¢

Local family wins \$30K  
from Food Lion INSIDE A4



Justin Falls/The Daily Advance

## Peas may be county's next big cash crop



"It's never been done here where there will be a harvest all at one time."  
— farm manager Mike Pippins

By Connie Sage  
Contributing Writer

The package of frozen peas you toss into your grocery cart this spring might have been grown right here in Chowan County.

For the first time, a New Jersey frozen vegetable packager has ventured south of Delaware to harvest peas, contracting with about 10 Chowan County farmers to grow the crop.

"We were looking for an opportunity to grow peas elsewhere to increase our production," said Andrew Carpenter, agricultural field manager for Seabrook Brothers and Sons.

Because peas can be harvested in North Carolina earlier than in Delaware or New Jersey, Seabrook is filling the gap in its production, he said.

The company was referred to Virginia Fork Produce Co. in Edenton through a green bean broker that did business with the late Leonard Small and his sons.

### Why Edenton

The main reason for considering Edenton, Carpenter said, is because the Smalls have a hydro-cooling system. The process uses a cold-water rinse that chills and lowers the temperature of the peas for transporting to Seabrook's processing facility.

About 600 acres of what are called "May peas," because they're a spring pea, are being grown here. In the past farmers here might have grown only 3-5 acres of peas, according to Mike Williams, the Chowan County agricultural extension director.

Hayes Farm has planted about 50 acres of peas because it enabled them to produce two crops.

"It's a way to make some money," said Hayes Farm manager Mike Pippins. "We don't plant anything this time of year and you can plant basically anything behind it [the peas]."

"It's something new," he said. "Other people have grown them to pick by hand; it's never been done here where there will be a harvest all at one time."

Jeff Smith of A.J. Smith and Sons is growing 50 acres of peas as a way to diversify its crops.

See PEAS, Page A2 >



©2006 The Chowan Herald  
All Rights Reserved

## Students learn the natural way



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Carolyn Owens with the Historic Edenton State Historic Site helps Jeremiah Moring put his freshly-dyed egg in a carton to take back to the classroom. The second-graders learned Tuesday about natural materials that create different colored dyes — blue from red cabbage, red from roots, yellow from sawdust and brown from onion skins, for example.

## Town Council discusses planned growth, gang prevention at retreat

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

How big should the town of Edenton be?

According to a vision statement developed by the Town Council at its annual retreat on Thursday, an ideal size for the community remains a population of 7,000.

The county's Web site lists Edenton's population at 5,359 as of mid-March.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said that the 7,000 figure was one first devised by the town council 10 or 12 years ago.

"They thought it (population size) would be enough that it would bring in new opportunities and resources but still [let Edenton] keep its small town values and remain a desirable place to live," she said.

Knighton added that the fact the council has established what it considers desirable population growth makes it different from many other small towns.

"Other elected officials," she said,

"talk to me a lot about the fact that Edenton has set a goal as to how much it wants to grow. Not a lot of communities have that vision."

### Why 7,000?

Mayor Roland Vaughan said the figure believed to represent the town's ideal size was derived with the assistance of the North Carolina Institute of Government in Chapel Hill.

That figure, he said, represented the number of people it was felt the community could accommodate in terms of goods and services without unfairly burdening the taxpayers.

"That figure has continued to hold steady," he said.

Vaughan said that the establishment of a plan to grow the community to an appropriate size was part of its ongoing focus on managed growth.

### Expanded services

Councilwoman Phyllis Britton said that with the new subdivisions

being constructed in the community she expected the population would grow substantially over the next few years.

"With all the subdivisions, I do believe we're going to make that" (7,000 population), she said.

Britton added that along with the growing population would come a need for expanded services as well.

"I think parking, and the lack of enough spaces, is an issue right now and will become more so as we grow in size," she said.

"I think we are also going to have to cater to the needs of those people who are moving here," Britton added, "and there are a lot of seniors who are. That will be reflected in a growing need for more fitness/wellness-type programs, so I think we will see growth in those areas too."

### Controlling gangs

Knighton credited Councilman Willis Privott with making sure that a plan for dealing effectively

See VISION, Page A2 >

## Historical Commission to market Edenton's local history

By Connie Sage  
Contributing Writer

The Edenton Historical Commission has a new logo as part of an initiative to raise visibility and lure more visitors to its crown jewel, the Barker House.

In a slideshow created by Barker House Administrator Terri Fox — who also designed the logo — Commission Chairman John Dowd told Town Council last week that it was the first stop on a road show to be presented to service organizations, the Chamber of Commerce, real estate agents and restaurateurs.

"Edenton — where history lives" is the theme of the new marketing campaign.

"The lighthouse and the courthouse are true national treasures," Dowd said. "We have all the assets and we're not really marketing them; we're going to start doing

that."

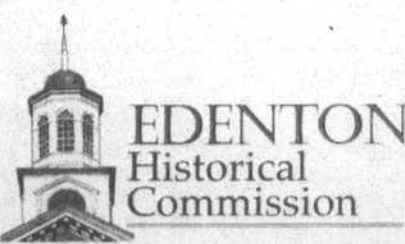
Going through the slides, Dowd said the commission was established by the General Assembly in 1961 to "encourage preservation, restoration, and appropriate presentation" of the town and county.

"We're fulfilling the mission that was given to us by the governor," said Becky Winslow, executive director of the Historical Commission after the meeting.

"We want to partner with all groups in Edenton and Chowan County that love the history and preservation," she said. "People want to come. It's living history. It's here. We're blessed."

The commission plans to promote its Barker House, 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse, and the Civil War Albemarle Artillery unit, known as the Edenton Bell Battery.

Targeted will be baby boomers who like to visit historic places,



business meeting planners, wedding and event planners, and boaters.

To generate income, second-floor rooms at the Barker House will be rented for meetings.

"We're not here to ask for any money," Dowd said. "We're asking you to help us with our vision."

But in a pitch for the Barker House, Dowd said the historic building should be a museum with its administrative offices moved to the current police station, which will relocate next month.

No formal decisions on the use of the current building have been

## Locally-filmed movie has premiere

Will have local showing at the Taylor Theatre on April 18th

By Vernon Fueston  
Contributing Writer

"Dog Days of Summer," finally had its premiere in Beverly Hills Feb. 22. The movie, directed by Mark Freiburger, was filmed on location in Edenton during the summer of 2005.

About 400 people attended the event.

The cast and crew held a question and answer session after the showing and then cut loose with a red-carpet Hollywood party, Freiburger said.

Now the movie begins a perilous journey — through the nation's theaters, movie rental houses, and DVD sales — that will determine whether it's a blockbuster or a bomb.

The first stop for "Dog Days" will be its commercial premiere at Edenton's Taylor Twin Theater April 18 for what is expected to be a two-week run.

Freiburger hopes to have several cast members on hand for the debut.

While Edenton was the logical first stop, where the movie goes from here will be planned by Level Path Productions.

The distribution company will oversee and schedule the movie's appearance in theaters. They plan to take the film on a tour around the country, one city at a time.

But these days, few films make it on ticket sales alone. Freiburger said most movies lose money at the box office. The real money is in DVD sales and rentals.

For that job he chose the Weinstein Company. The DVDs will appear under Weinstein's label, Genius Products. Genius will probably place the film with Block Buster on an exclusive rental contract this summer.

DVDs will be available for sale, also under the Genius Products label, some time late this summer. They should be available at Wal-Mart, Target, Best Buy, online, and through a number of Christian bookstores.

"Dog Days of Summer" stars Will Patton ("Remember the Titans" and "Mothman Prophecies") and Richard Herd ("Seinfeld" and "The China Syndrome").

Actions by Town Council included:

■ Approved repairs to the exterior of Town Hall. Brick repair, cleaning masonry and painting will be done by Capital Restoration & Waterproofing for about \$31,400. Located in Edenton, the company is owned by Keith Harrison. Work will begin next month.

■ Authorized drainage repairs on Stratford/Hawthorne Road by C&L Concrete Works of Camden for approximately \$34,000. Work will begin next month.

■ Approved the purchase and installation of a generator at the Freeman water plant and well for about \$60,000. Alexander Electric will install the equipment at a cost of approximately \$21,230. The town has a grant for both the purchase and installation costs.

See COMMISSION, Page A2 >

**Interdenominational Easter Sunrise Service • Easter Sunday 6:30 am**  
On The Waterfront (Behind Edenton Police Dept.)

Sponsored by: St. Anne's Catholic, First Presbyterian, Edenton United Methodist, Edenton Baptist, & St. Paul's Episcopal