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Rural traditions continue B1



Mill kids plan for museum

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

The last generation that grew up at the Edenton Cotton Mill Village is looking for a site in or near it where they can establish a museum to preserve the mill's history.

"Right now, we're kind of planting seeds, spreading the word about what we hope to do," said Hurley Mitchell.

Mitchell, one of the original "Cotton Mill kids," has agreed to serve on the board of directors for the Edenton Cotton Mill Museum of History project.

Billy Voliva, newly elected president, said the group also wants to let the public know they are interested in hearing from anyone who has items from the mill that could be donated to the museum.

Reunion sparks idea

Voliva and Mitchell say that the idea was born during a reunion of the "Cotton Mill kids" held in 2005.

As a result of that reunion, a group of 300 to 400 people are now on their mailing list.

Voliva said the group realizes that once they are gone, there will be no one left to give firsthand accounts of what it was like growing up at the mill village and being part of life there.

That's why getting the museum up and running is so important, he said.

Other museum project officers, elected last week, include Joyce Lassiter, vice-president/treasurer, and Mary Waff, secretary.

Donations

Financial donations to the museum, which has been granted nonprofit status, will be tax deductible.

Anyone interested in learning more about the project may call Hurley Mitchell at (252) 482-2753 or Billy Voliva at (386) 822-9506.

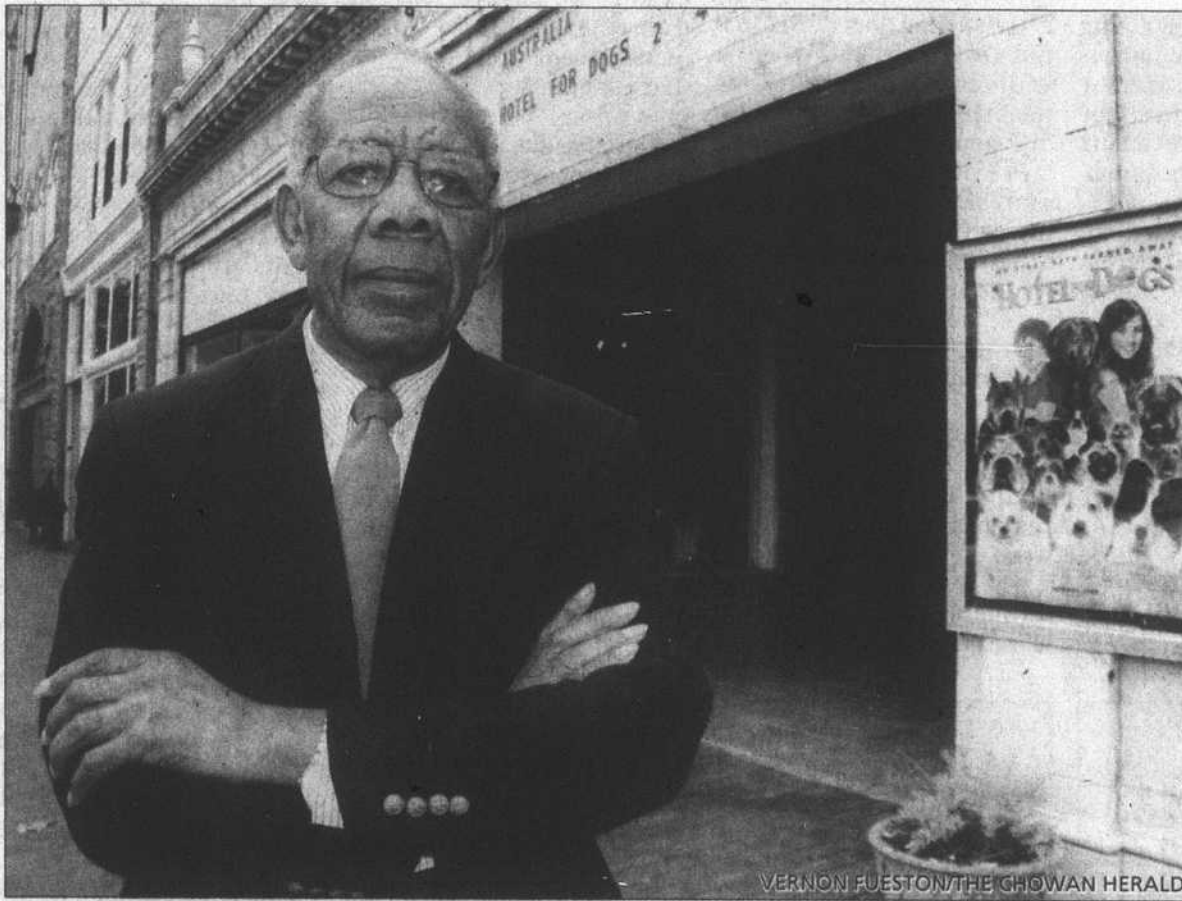
About the mill

The Edenton Cotton Mill remained in operation until 1995.

In the interim, 70-plus homes were constructed around the mill to house its workers and supervisors.

At present almost all of those homes remain, and the Edenton Cotton Mill and its Mill Village are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Willis Privott has seen incredible changes since the day Martin Luther King visited Edenton



Privott in front of the Taylor Theater's front door where, 46 years ago, he was barred from entering.

By Vernon Fueston
Staff Writer

Edenton is a different place from the town Willis Privott remembers back in the winter of 1962.

Privott said he's seen sweeping changes since that pivotal year when Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. made a visit to Edenton.

Today Privott is a member of Edenton's town council, the first black ever to hold that position. Though he still marvels at the town's transformation, he said things looked anything but promising at the start.

Tense times

After about five years of boycotts and demonstrations, things were tense in the town. Resentments were building on both sides.

"There were a lot of protests and demonstrations for civil rights," he said. "We were boycotting stores and kids were being arrested for marching."

"They were marching down Broad Street, toting flags and singing songs. It was all non-

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violent protest, but you had to have a permit to march. The powers that be would delay the parade permits, but they would do it anyway."

Bus loads of 40 to 50 marchers would demonstrate at a time. Sometimes they held parades and other times they picketed shops and lunch counters. They were arrested on a regular basis. Most were teenagers from poorer homes.

Privott said he and others in the town provided support by arranging bond for the protesters. Some, even in the black community, weren't eager to get involved.

"The lower classes of people were the ones who got things going in the civil rights movement," Privott said. "They didn't have anything to lose."

"Separate but equal"

Their complaints were pretty much the same as those heard throughout the South. Blacks were denied seats at lunch counters or restaurants.

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Student group plans to make earth a cleaner, safer place to live, beginning with Edenton

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

When Live Green, a newly formed student environmental awareness group, started searching for a project, they didn't have to look far.

Live Green's founder and student leader, Isabelle Boehling, said after considering a couple of other options they decided to try and raise funds for a new dishwasher at their school.

"The dishwasher in (our) cafeteria has been broken and out-of-use for years now," Boehling said in a recent presentation to the board of education.

"If the dishwasher is replaced, we can use plastic trays that we already have instead of the Styrofoam trays" currently in use.

The cost of Styrofoam trays, per day, at Holmes is \$15, Boeh-



ling said. "That may not sound like much," she said, "but over a year's time that adds up to about \$2,700. In five years, a new dishwasher would pay for itself."

Boehling said that the current situation is doing damage to the environment as well, due to the almost eight hundred Styrofoam trays being dumped into area landfills daily.

To secure funds to purchase a dishwasher for Holmes, Live Green is partnering with the Chowan-Edenton Environmental Group.

One of CEEG's founders, Dr. Vero Brentjens, spoke in support of the students' project at the board of education meeting.

Brentjens said her group welcomed the opportunity to work with young people committed to improving the environment.

She said her group was going to help Live Green work to secure grant funds to help pay for the dishwasher.

"We are glad to have this opportunity to partner with them in this effort," Brentjens said, "and we look forward to working with the youth much more closely than we have in the past."

Besides working with the CEEG to find grants, the Live Green students have announced they also plan to hold a talent show in February with proceeds from the event going to the dishwasher fund.

Lines drawn over new proposed Town park

Grants sought for project, but councilmen unsure about timing and need

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

An effort to secure grant funds for the purchase of land where a public park would be located has local officials divided.

By a 3-2 vote during a Jan. 13 meeting the town council agreed to allow Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton to apply for the second of two grants needed to fund the purchase of the property, a former dairy farm located at the corner of East Church Street and Coke Avenue.

"Grant money like this does not come along often and we have the chance to preserve open space, create a park, and help improve water quality in Queen Anne Creek and Edenton Bay," Knighton said in asking that the project move forward.

And Mayor Roland Vaughan, as well as councilmen who voted in favor of the effort, said the town council and the public would still have an opportunity to discuss whether to accept the grant if it is awarded to Edenton.

Saying no

Councilmen Steve Biggs and Willis Privott, who voted against the proposal, said they did not oppose areas of green space within the community.

However, they said, they thought this was not the right time to make development of a new park a priority, given the tough economic times.

"As I said the other night (at the meeting), you've got Pembroke Creek Park that you very seldom see people using," Biggs said.

"And you've got the park across from the Tastee Freez, and others in town that aren't utilized as much as they should be. I'm just not sure what we need another park for."

Biggs also said he opposed taking the property off the tax books at a time when every dollar counted.

The most recent tax bill for the property totaled \$1,057.

Some in favor

During that same meeting, Councilmen Sambo Dixon, Jerry Parks and Jimmy Stallings voted in favor of allowing Knighton to continue working on the project.

According to a press release issued by Knighton after the meeting, Dixon said, "This is a great plan that is consistent with the town's Vision Statement and if funded, will not cost the town one dime."

The release goes on to say that Councilman Jimmy Stallings noted if Edenton did not receive the grant money, it would be awarded to some other community.

"Let's apply and then have this debate if the grant is approved," the release quotes him as saying.

No local funds

Knighton emphasized that the town has not committed its own funds to the purchase of the land, and has no plans to do so.

The only local funds that will be associated with the project, she said, are from an anonymous donor who has pledged \$10,000

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EDENTON-CHOWAN RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SPRING SOCCER REGISTRATION
JANUARY 26TH - FEBRUARY 6TH

Boys & Girls Ages 4-12
Cost \$10

Register or Call Either Rec. Dept. Office
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Northern Chowan Community Center 221-4901