

FRIENDS, FOOD AND FUN AT FESTIVAL



WILLIAM MILLER

Former Platters star Milton Bullock entertained hundreds Saturday as the headliner for the 11th annual Community Music and Water Festival at Colonial Park.

Sweltering heat did not give reason to skip annual festival on Edenton Bay

"I think it's a good idea to do this," said DaQuil Alexander, "to just get everybody together for a good time." His brother, DaQuin, chimed in, "I think it's a great idea, to let people get away from the streets."

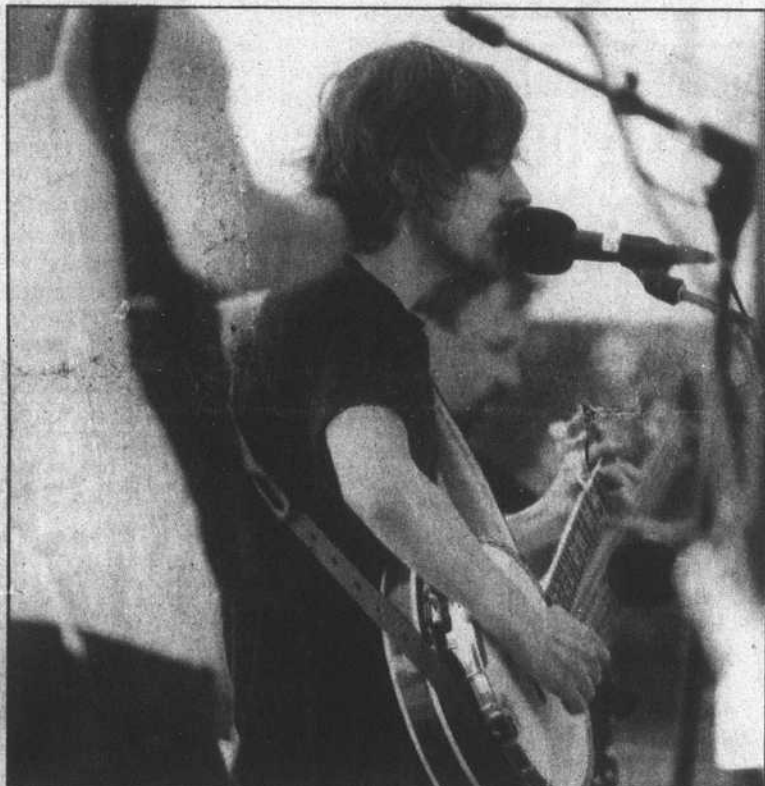
"I think it's just a fun experience, being here," said Harvey Parker.

"I think it's a great way for people to get together and just have some fun," said Jy'Saun Phelps.

"This is great. We especially love the entertainment," said Angela and Craig Bollenberg of Carrollton, Va. as they listened to headliner Milton Bullock "To Each His Own," in honor of all the fathers in the audience.



Above, Tometila Mata of Winfall looks over prints on sale at the Chowan Arts Council's table during the festival Saturday. At right, musician Danny Daughtridge was one of the many acts that performed for the crowds during the day. Meanwhile, water lovers sailed, kayaked and paddled (with or without) the Periauger.



JUSTIN FALLS/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Clients line up to get their share of limited rental assistance

By Vernon Fueston
Staff Writer

It was 9:30 on Friday morning and almost 100 people were waiting in a line that snaked around the Economic Improvement Council's building on Virginia Road, hoping to land a spot on a waiting list for government housing assistance.

Inside a tiny, packed foyer, about 10 people waited. All eyes were on the locked a glass door that lead to offices where EIC employees were taking applications.

Tempers were running short.

"Are you from the newspaper?" one woman asked. "I hope you're going to write about this and how the economy stinks. Somebody needs to."

The EIC takes applications

for section eight housing assistance as funding comes available from the government, something that happens infrequently and irregularly.

With stretched federal and state budgets, the last funds the group received came in either January or February, said Horace Reid, an occupancy specialist with the council.

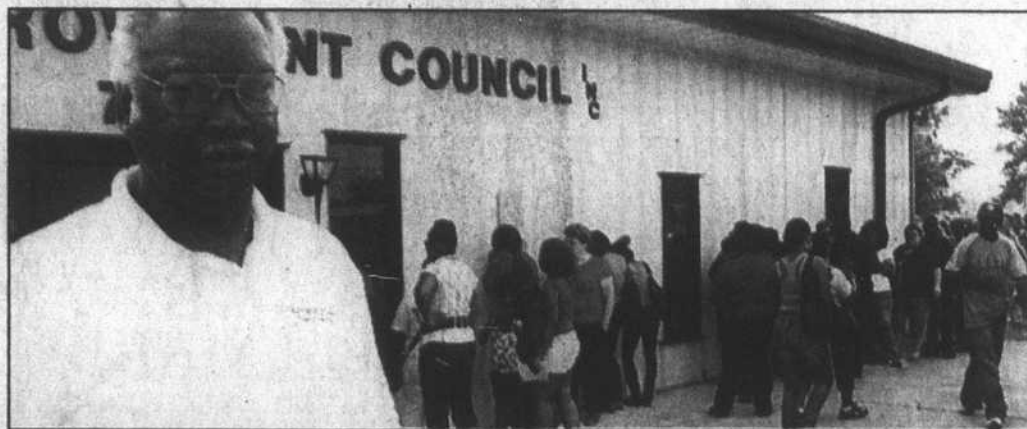
With such a long time between funding checks, most of the information gathered on the previous applications was now pretty much worthless, he said. Too many family's situations have changed.

So the EIC starts a new list and gives out assistance on a first-come-first-served basis.

He said there is plenty of need.

"With the downturn in the economy like it is, more and more people are finding they need assistance," Reid said as he waived a driver through to an empty parking space.

Reid had to pause his explanation. A manager from the gas company next door was telling him that a tow truck would remove any non-customers from the neighboring



VERNON FUESTON/THE CHOWAN HERALD

Horace Reid, an occupancy specialist with the Economic Improvement Council, attempts to direct traffic in the council's parking lot as nearly 100 applicants wait to apply for a slot on a Section 8 housing assistance waiting list. If accepted, the applicants will wait an average of six to 18 months to learn if the government will pay all or part of their rent.

parking lot.

He said the council handles applications from Chowan and nine other neighboring counties. When funds come available, the council advertises and puts announcements out in the community for applicants to come in on a given day.

Reid said that in better times and with more even

funding, a call from the council might bring about 60 or 70 applications dribbling in to its office between the hours of nine and three.

But with so many people lined up as the doors opened, there was no way of determining the number of applicants they might process.

A flier from the council advised applicants to come

to either the EIC's office in Manteo or Edenton bringing proof of income, birth certificates and social security cards for all family members and photo ID's for any family members over 18.

All adults in a household had to be present and guardianship papers were required

See HOUSING on Page 2

Business booms in hard times

By Vernon Fueston
Staff Writer

While many of Chowan County's key industries and businesses are struggling during a vicious recession, one of the counties largest employers is actually expanding.

As the economy slows, new debtor referrals are up for Applied Business Systems, an Edenton debt collection firm that employees 40 workers.

The company works mainly to recover medical bills for hospitals and doctors. But even with the increased business, the recession has not been a bonanza for ABS.

Since last summer, those accounts have increased by 18 percent. But the company only charges its customers when it collects money for

See COLLECTIONS on Page 2



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