

# CHOWAN HERALD

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Regulator Marine  
awarded highest  
honor by OSHA for  
workplace safety 4A

Korean youth leave  
mark on Edenton B1

## Museum plans progress

Charter memberships  
now accepted for  
Cotton Mill Museum

*"Our children, grand-children and future generations won't know the personal stories about the hard work and sacrifice that took place here if we remain silent."*

—Joyce Lassiter

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

Those working to establish a museum that would preserve the history of the Edenton Cotton Mill are now accepting charter memberships.

The facility, to be known as the Edenton Cotton Mill Museum of History, will serve as a lasting tribute to those who spent their lives living and working in the village that grew up around them.

"We are a part of the last generation of Cotton Mill Kids," said ECMM Vice-President/Treasurer Joyce Lassiter.

"Our children, grandchildren and future generations won't know the personal stories about the hard work and sacrifice that took place here if we remain silent."

Lassiter said she and others involved with the project are determined to tell their own story "instead of leaving it some future historian who has no personal ties to the Mill Village."

Charter memberships are now available to those with ties to the Mill Village, as well as others who want to see its history preserved.

Charter memberships are \$50 per couple or individual, and are being accepted through Aug. 15. After that, general memberships will be made available.

A special, limited edition certificate will be given to each charter member. Each one's name will also be permanently and prominently displayed in the museum.

Funds raised during this membership drive will help the group "start looking in earnest for a suitable location," said President Billy Voliva.

Voliva said that donations to the project are tax-deductible. Those donations, he said, can include "anything from cash and checks to cars and boats."

Checks for memberships or donations may be sent to: Edenton Cotton Mill Museum of History Inc., P.O. Box 934, Edenton, N.C. 27932.

"We are also asking for your help in finding items to be displayed in the future museum," Voliva said, "especially any Cotton Mill memorabilia."

"Items may be donated or loaned," he noted. "You should consult your CPA or tax advisor if you want to place a value on items you donate."

## Bringing a community together for Christ



EARLINE WHITE/THE CHOWAN HERALD

George Perry, Kevin Brooks and Rachele Hunter, part of the Shalom International Church's step team, entertained the crowd gathered at Griffith Park Saturday for the first ever community block party. The church's rap team, mime ministry as well as vocal team also performed. There was food, drink, games and of course playground fun for everyone. The event was free and open to the public.

## U.S. attorney to review report for potential violations of federal laws by local officials

By Dee Langston  
Correspondent

An investigation into the circumstances that led to Chowan County's ongoing financial crisis is now in the hands of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

"I'm preserving all of my options," District Attorney Frank Parrish said, regarding his decision to pass the report along to federal investigators.

The U.S. Attorney's office will review a preliminary report issued last month by the Office of State Auditor, checking for any potential violations of federal laws, Parrish said.

"Everything here's just about being thorough and conscientious and trying to

reach a just and correct conclusion," he added.

Last year, Parrish asked the state auditor's office and the state attorney general's office to investigate the circumstances that led to the county's near financial meltdown, when Chowan officials learned that the county's \$29 million reserve fund was depleted and the budget passed for the year was \$4 million short. The county was unable to pay its bills, and faced state takeover.

The state auditor's preliminary report, which that office refers to as a draft, showed no evidence of criminal activity, but did report plenty of wrongdoing on the part of former county manager Cliff Copeland, along with a lack of oversight by former county boards of commissioners.

As part of the state attorney general's office, the SBI has had a year to conduct an investigation into possible criminal actions, but has yet to issue a report.

"The SBI at this moment is not actively working on the case," Parrish said.

The preliminary report issued by the state auditor's office was initially posted on Chowan County's Web site, but has been removed.

State officials have said the audit report was a confidential, preliminary draft that was not intended for release to the public.

The preliminary draft, which could be considered a work in progress, suggested that the county attempt to recoup some of the \$250,000 paid to a Raleigh lobbying firm on behalf of the Edenton-Chow-

an Development Corporation (ECDC).

Town and county officials have said they were unaware of the funds being spent, and county commissioners have voted to stop funding the board.

Last Monday night, Commission Chairman Eddy Goodwin removed the commissioners appointed to the ECDC board, Keith Nixon and Emmett Winborne.

"You don't have to go back until the smoke clears," Goodwin told them.

As a result of the mismanagement of county funds, the county has had to raise taxes and cut services, along with decrease allocations to county departments, including local schools, the senior center and the department of social services.

## Moving to the country

Boys and Girls Club to  
move into Albemarle  
Learning Center

By Dee Langston  
Correspondent

The Edenton/Chowan Boys and Girls Club is moving to the country.

Chowan County has granted the club a 90-day lease for the Albemarle Learning Center outside Edenton. The lease will give the club access to the facility while negotiations on the sale of the property move forward.

"It's a good faith agreement," Chairman Eddy Goodwin said during the commissioners' regular meeting Monday, Aug. 3. The unanimous vote to approve the lease was met with applause from the audience.

The club has offered \$200,000 for the building and 4 acres of land on Morristown Road. Initially, the club offered \$450,000 for the building and 8 adjoining acres, but the county and the Boys and Girls Club are still negotiating the price of the additional 4 acres.

Levisy pointed out that the additional 4 acres were not road frontage, but interior land that is currently an asparagus field. The additional four acres is critical, he added, as it would allow the club to add a gym and ball fields, to make it a true community resource center.

The rent-free, 90-day lease will allow the club to go into the building and begin renovating.

Under the agreement, the club would be required to pay all utilities for the building during the 90-day lease.

"It's important that we get in there during the summer," said Jerome Levisy, director of the Boys and Girls Club. "It's just not feasible to do it after school starts." He hopes to have the building ready for children by Sept. 1.

Arrangements have been made with the Edenton-Chowan Schools to provide transportation to the site.

During public comment on the measure, several people

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## 12 year-old debuts at CAC's newest exhibit "Collage: Pieces of Life"

By Blair Currie  
Contributor

The recent "2009 People's Choice Exhibit" at the Chowan Arts Council was an outstanding success, and the current "Collage: Pieces of Life" exhibit also drew raves from the capacity crowd on hand Friday.

The setting was ideal; chamber music by members of the Hertford Recorder group set the right mood and an array of delicacies and gourmet hors d'oeuvres to tempt the palate were in abundance.

New and enthusiastic faces in the crowd spoke well of the future of the Chowan Arts Council.

The collage exhibit featured a number of prominent local artists — Peggy Brinkley, Janice Eure, Denise Wynn Olsen, Alla Rossow, Margi Wynn, and a classy young 12 year-old making his debut in gallery exhibition — Drew Armstrong.

Many of the collages had matting and framing that were quite innovative, daring perhaps. This evoked considerable interest, but the work of a shy young lad of 12 years caught the eye of many.

Drew Armstrong started drawing at the tender age of two.

It seemed he had a natural talent, and this was eventually encouraged and nourished

by his grandmother, noted local artist Margi Wynn. Armstrong plays a number of musical instruments, especially the guitar, and this love of music is recognized in one of his masterpieces — "Musicality!"

Rather surprisingly, the favorite group of this novice rising star is The Beatles.

Executive Director Brenda Russell and Chowan Arts Council President Betty Onufrak can be rightfully proud of what has been accomplished in such a short time, marking Chowan Arts Council as a beacon of hope, and a symbol of success in the art world of North Carolina.

A beaming Drew Armstrong shows his masterpiece "Musicality" to arts council President Betty Onufrak.



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