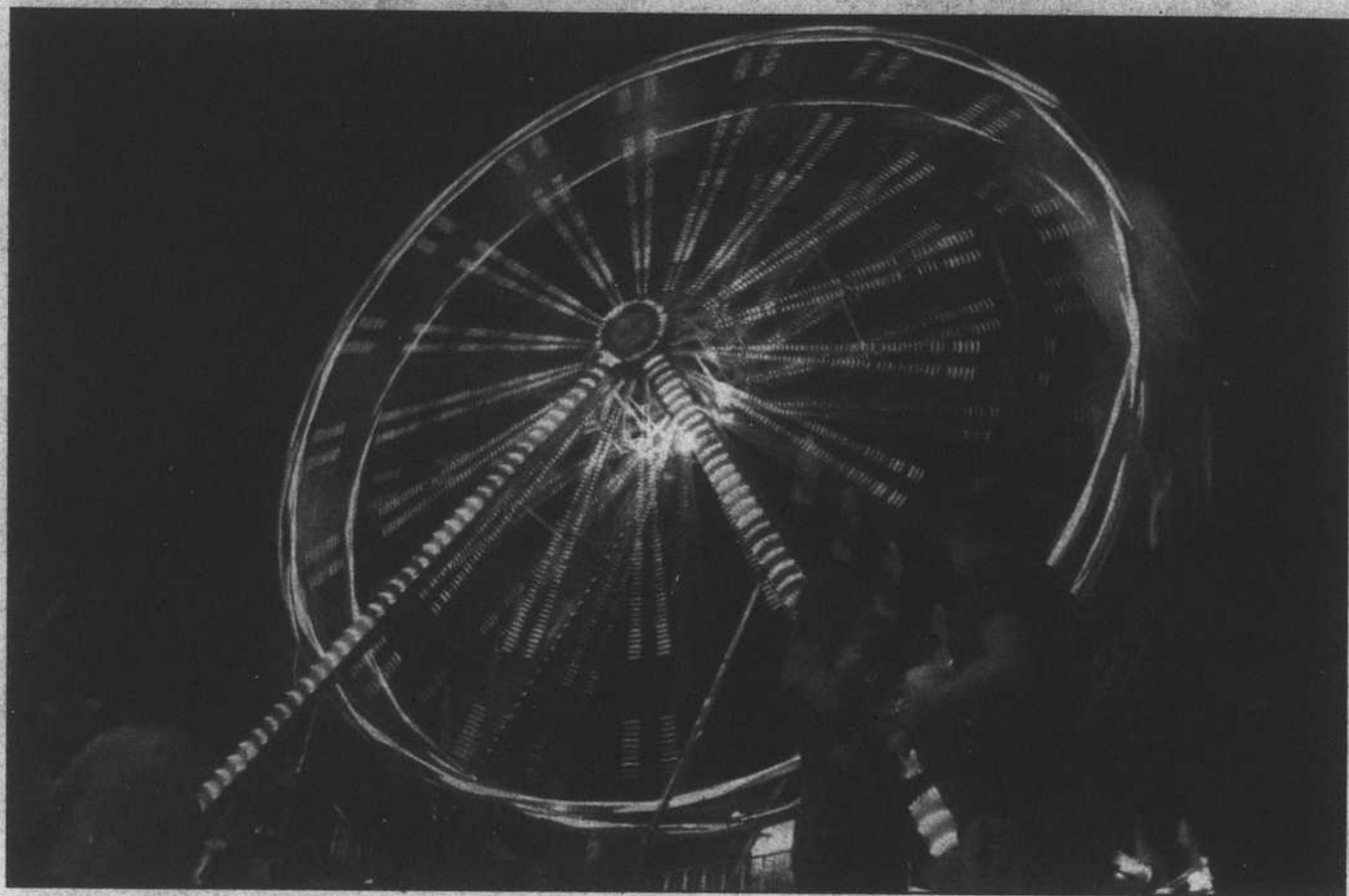


Around and around



FILE PHOTOS

The Ferris wheel turns as people wander around below on the grounds during the 60th annual Chowan County Regional Fair at the American Legion Post 40 fairgrounds in Edenton, Sept. 27, 2007. Below: Martha Hammer (front to back), 21, competes with her friends Anna Raisor, 19, and Dannie Gray, 17, at the Water Gun Fun booth being run by Billie Lucio (back) at the fair, Sept. 27, 2005.

Chowan Fair is just days away

From staff reports

Each year at summer's end, the neon blazing from the American Legion Post 40 midway greets the early evening autumn dusk. People from Murfreesboro to the Outer Banks gather their sense of courage (and their Dramamine) to ride on the rails of adventure. This year's 62nd annual Chowan County Regional Fair opened last night and will run through Saturday night.

The highly successful Playworld Amusements brings more than 25 thrilling rides, challenging games, scrumptious food and fun for the young and young at heart. New shows this year include the Showboat Marionettes with Millie the Monkey; Hill-billy Bob's Soda Show; and returning favorite Rosaires' Big Bear Show.

There will be a petting zoo, mechanical bull, R&S Woodcarvers and peanut picking demonstrations as well as pageants, a Southern Gospel program, pumpkin decorating contests and of course, the art and craft exhibitors from all over the Albemarle.

This year the fair board hopes to



welcome 25,000 guests. Gates open at 4 p.m. today and Friday; 11 a.m. Thursday for seniors (rides not open), 3:30 for general public; Saturday at 1 p.m. Midway closes at 11 p.m. each night except Saturday (at midnight).

Admission is \$15 per person at the gate. For more information call 482-4057. The Chowan County Regional Fair has won awards such as the Youth Award, the Agricultural Award, the Media Award (two years in a row), and in 2007, the prestigious Image Award for best medium-size fair in North Carolina.

Edenton to apply for Cool City status

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Reflecting a desire to lead, rather than follow, in encouraging good environmental practices, the Town of Edenton is considering becoming part of the "Cool Cities" program.

It plans to vote on becoming involved during its October council meeting. But during Monday night's committee meetings, the council heard a presentation on the program from Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

She explained that Cool Cities is a program that assists communities in meeting specific goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other energy saving initiatives.

"The most appealing part of the project is that by joining the Town will be eligible to participate in an initiative called ICLEI, the international council for local environmental initiatives," Knighton said.

Participation in ICLEI, she said, would allow the town to take advantage of a special resource.

"The program we are most interested in is a tool that will help us measure the carbon footprint of each of the Town's buildings and facilities," Knighton explained. "From there we could set goals on

percentages to reduce carbons and also to improve energy efficiency."

Knighton credited Dr. Vero Brentjens, a founder of the Chowan-Edenton Environmental Group with bringing the program to her attention.

Knighton said that the Town has also been working closely with the environmental group at the high school, Live Green.

"We can share those tools (from Cool Cities) with the students," she said.

"We think we need to set an example for the community, after asking our citizens to take part in efforts to become more energy efficient," Knighton said.

Participation in the program would cost the Town \$600 annually but would also offer grant opportunities.

In other business, the council:

- Heard a proposal for repairs to the Twiddy Avenue water tower

- Heard a proposal concerning a grant application to the Rural Center that would fund a well system field expansion project

- Discussed the removal of the gazebo in Colonial Park so that the 1896 Roanoke River Lighthouse can be moved to its permanent location on the Edenton waterfront. The Perquimans County Restoration Association has asked the Town of Edenton to consider donating the gazebo to them.

- Discussed harbor docking fees on the Edenton waterfront.



Knighton

Celebrate a nutty tradition Saturday

By Earline White and
Rebecca Bunch
Staff writers

Coined one of the state's curiosities, the Peanut Festival - a tribute to the county's root crop - will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday. Be one of the hundreds to get a smile and wave from Mr. Peanut.

From the rumble of the tractors pulling down main street to the sweaty passersby (part of the 5K Peanut Run) there are activities, food and music nearly all day in Edenton.

Festivities begin with the Peanut Run organized by the recreation department. Awards will be given for the top three times in each category. More than 50 people participated in last year's run.

The primary draw of the Peanut Festival for out-of-towners is the Battle of the Bands. This year 16 bands from across northeastern N.C. compete for trophies. The first place overall winner gets to take home the Golden Peanut Trophy.

Chairing the Battle of the Bands for the first time this year is Brenda Coston of D.F. Walker School.

She has been involved with the Edenton-Chowan Band Parents, Inc. for seven years, serving as vice-president in 2006-07 and president in 2007-08.

"If by chance it should rain," she said, "we will still have the competition but it will be held inside the Holmes gym and we will have our concessions stand in place also."

If you go

- **Parade route:** Starts at the waterfront, ends at Edenton Fire Department
- **5K Peanut Run:** Queen Anne Park, 8 a.m.
- **Craft show:** Holmes lawn, 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.
- **Battle of the Bands:** Holmes, 4 p.m.

"It gives us great joy to be able to help support the band programs at both John A. Holmes and Chowan Middle School," she added. "There is always a need for instruments, music, repairs, uniforms, transportation and other things. The students shouldn't have to worry about any of this. What a blessing it is to be able to do this for our children."

Parade organizers too have been working for months on the show. Area business, local non-profits, clubs and others will take center stage in the heart of Edenton Saturday.

Sure to be spotted during the parade will be bales of hay, people in overalls and kids diving for candy.

Prior to the parade, and afterwards, the second annual arts and crafts show will take place on the Holmes lawn. Band parents will sell chicken/BBQ plates for lunch and dinner the day of the festival. Concessions are also available.

If you go, the parade starts at 11 a.m.

Perquimans Habitat to build 8th home

By Diana Mazzella
The Daily Advance

Since the early 1990s, Chowan/Perquimans Habitat for Humanity has built seven houses for low-income residents.

For some of those residents it was their first home, said the organization's president Richard Vail.

"These people are absolutely elated," he said of the first-time homeowners.

The local Habitat for Humanity has built one house a year for the last few years, choosing residents from those who apply for the homes. This fall, the group's eighth home will be built in Perquimans County. Home recipients alternate between Chowan and Perquimans counties.

The recipients do pay a mortgage on the home, a no-interest mortgage that may last 23 to 24 years. The mortgage payment is approximately \$300 to \$400 a month. They are also required to assist

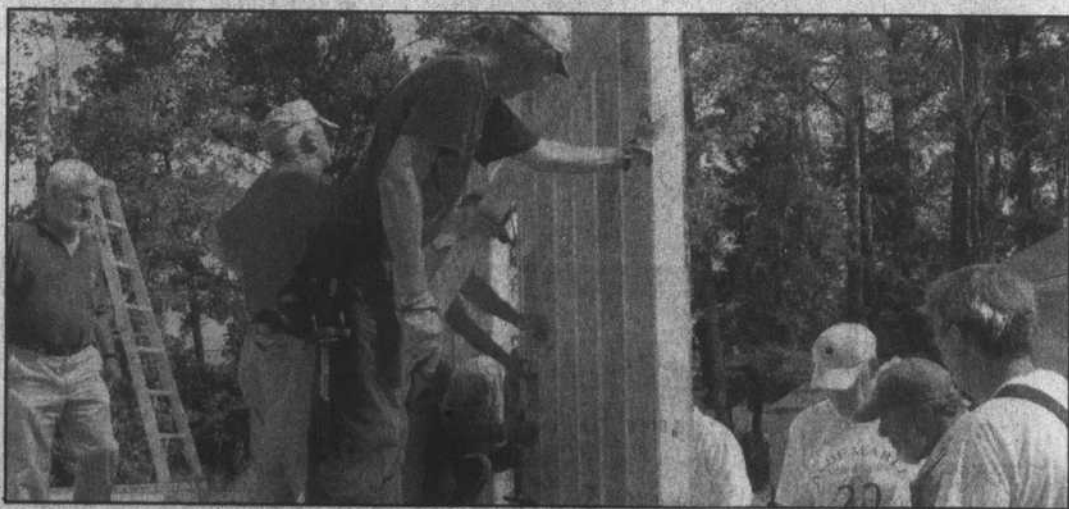


PHOTO COURTESY MIMI REIHEL

Volunteers frame the 7th home built by the Chowan/Perquimans Habitat for Humanity. This year the home will be built in Perquimans.

with building the home.

"We look at people with generally an income of \$15,000 to \$20,000 and that varies, depending on the number of people in the family," Vail said.

The costs to build each home used to be in the \$35,000 range and is now about \$65,000 as building supply costs have increased. In the last few years, the Habitat group has purchased pre-cut house kits from a company outside of Knoxville, Tenn. A group of 100 to 120 volunteers then

works on the structure for about two months before the stick-built house is ready.

Vail said funding for the agency from outside sources has "dried up" recently, but the group relies on its thrift store, called a Habitat Restore, which has provided steady income. The organization is also supported by the Albemarle Area United Way campaign, which kicked off this month. The charity hopes to raise \$400,000 for its member organizations toward their 2010 budgets. The AAUW designates funds for receipt by each agency and ensures that funds earmarked for a specific agency by the giver reach the intended agency.

All funding received by

Habitat for Humanity goes toward materials needed to build the houses.

Habitat for Humanity is one of 25 local nonprofit agencies that receive support from the Albemarle Area United Way campaign, which kicked off this month. The charity hopes to raise \$400,000 for its member organizations toward their 2010 budgets. The AAUW designates funds for receipt by each agency and ensures that funds earmarked for a specific agency by the giver reach the intended agency.



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