

## Incumbent Parks faces council challenge

One-stop voting begins this week

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

One-stop voting will begin locally this Thursday and will continue through Saturday, Oct. 31, for the Nov. 3 Municipal Election for the Town of Edenton.

Incumbent Councilman-at-Large Jerry Parks is facing opposition from two political newcomers in the only contest race.

Parks, who has held the seat for 18 years, is being challenged by George Grother, a

retired builder and remodeling contractor, and Bob Quinn, retired owner of a manufacturing and distribution company.

Neither has previously held political office.

Two other council incumbents, Willis Privott and Phyllis Britton, are running unopposed.

### Where and when

Hours for one-stop voting will be 8:30 to 5:30 p.m. except on the final day when voters will be able to cast ballots from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. only.

Anyone wishing to vote early must come to the Chowan

County Board of Elections office's new location on the first floor of the Chowan County Office Building, 113 E. King St. (former site of the Chowan County Health Dept.)

"We had more people cast ballots during what I call 'early' voting in the last election than we did come out to vote on Election Day," said Board of Elections Supervisor Rebecca Lowe. "So it will be interesting to see what happens this time around."

Lowe noted that those who are not registered voters could register when they come to her office for one-stop

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## Meet the candidates

### Jerry Parks

Address: 514 Robin Lane  
Age: 55  
Family: Wife, Karen; Three Children — Jerry, Robby and Amy  
Profession: Public Health Director for Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS)



Sons — William, Karl, Daniel; One Grandchild  
Profession: Retired

### Bob Quinn

Address: 200 W. Church St.  
Age: 73  
Family: Wife, Doris; five children; 8 grandchildren  
Profession: Retired



### George Grother

Address: 405 E. Queen St.  
Age: 65  
Family: Wife, Patricia; Three



All candidates are up for election for the Councilman-at-Large seat in Chowan. One-stop voting starts Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

## Audit comes back clean

County still digging out of fiscal hole

From staff reports  
Chowan Herald

Chowan County is slowly digging itself out of the financial mess it has been embroiled in over the past several years, according to a just-released audit of its finances.

Bryan Starnes, a partner in the firm of Martin-Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A., said the county received a clean audit for the fiscal year ending June 30.

Starnes presented his findings to the county commissioners during their October board meeting last Monday night.

Highlights from the report included the following:

- The assets of Chowan County exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by \$32,058,113. Of this amount, \$1,682,184 may be used to meet the county government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

- The county's net assets of governmental activities decreased by \$1,659,498. This compares to a decrease of \$3,958,670 in 2008.

- As of the close of the current fiscal year, Chowan County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$1,137,279, a decrease of \$671,385 in comparison with the prior year. Unreserved fund balance was \$486,433 as of June 30.

- Chowan County's total debt decreased by \$1,099,687 during the current fiscal year.

"You're headed in the right direction, but still in the penalty box," Starnes

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## Music in the Park



REBECCA BUNCH/CHOWAN HERALD

Milton Bullock, formerly of The Platters, who now bills himself as "The Golden Platter." Bullock and a female singer known as "Bubblin' Brown Sugar" will be closing out Music in the Park concert series.

## 'Golden Platter' highlights show

Final summer music festival set Sunday in Colonial Park

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

Music in the Park organizers were "ecstatic," said Parks and Recreation Director Robbie Laughton, when Milton Bullock agreed to headline their final concert of the season.

Bullock, known as "The Golden Platter," had wowed the hundreds of people who attended the Music and Water Festival here this summer.

Formerly of the famous '60s singing group, The Platters, Bullock's smooth delivery of some of their greatest hits—such as "Only You" and "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes"—along with some Motown classics, had people on their feet dancing, and singing along.

"His nostalgic brand of music and pure singing voice are a pleasure to listen to," Laughton said. "Whether you remember The Platters or their hits from the '60's, you will not want to miss this opportunity."

The concert will be held this Sunday, from 3-5 p.m., at Colonial Park on Edenton's

downtown waterfront.

Admission is free; just bring your own lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an afternoon of great music.

### Remember when

Bullock said he agreed to come back to Edenton because of the "warmth, friendliness and genuine admiration" he experienced during his appearance at the Music and Water Festival.

He said that even after all these years in the music business, he gets genuine pleasure from getting reacquainted with fans, and meeting new ones for the first time.

"It's still an awesome feeling to know that you were part of a legacy that touched the inner heart and soul of so many people," he said.

Being signed to sing with The Platters, he said, "was nothing short of a dream come true."

Bullock said that hundreds of Doo-wop groups of the day were struggling to make it in the music industry, most of them African-American.

"Those that made it to some degree including The Platters were not allowed by record companies to put their picture on

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## 300 students out sick with the flu bug

From staff reports  
Chowan Herald

More than 300 students in the Edenton-Chowan Schools are out sick with the flu, school officials said Tuesday morning.

Dr. Allan Smith has sent a letter to parents of students in the school system to address the situation.

"Each school has experienced some increase in absences over the past two weeks, some small and others large," he said. "The greatest impact has been at

the elementary schools.

"Last week D.F. Walker Elementary had the largest number of absences, but the numbers are now down considerably. Today the largest incidence of student absences in the school system is at White Oak Elementary."

School officials offered the following breakdown on absences from Oct. 5-12:

- White Oak Elementary, 86 out sick (14.8% of the student population)

- D.F. Walker Elementary,

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## Gatling feted as top school administrator

Phillip G. Gatling Sr., assistant principal at Chowan Middle School, has been named 2009-2010 Administrator of the Year for Edenton-Chowan Schools. Gatling began working as assistant principal at Chowan Middle in July, 2006. Since that time he has been instrumental in developing two key programs at the school that help students focus on their academic achievement and in making good choices in school.

Among his many accomplishments, Gatling is most proud of founding and organizing a Young Men of Direction program at the school

which has now evolved into a club there for students. The club has 25 male members in grades 6-8 who participate in activities that help students develop self-esteem and goal setting as a way to help them be successful in school and provide them with the skills to apply those concepts to later success in life.

"Mr. Gatling has distinguished himself as an outstanding school administrator constantly working for the best interest of his students," said Superintendent Allan Smith. "While Mr. Gatling is most

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Allan Smith recognizes Phillip Gatling Sr., assistant principal at Chowan Middle School, as the 2009-2010 Administrator of the Year. Also pictured are Principal Tanya Turner and Assistant Principal Tammi Ward.

Rocky Hock Ruritan

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

11AM - 1PM & 4PM - 7PM

BBQ & Fried Chicken

LUNCH & DINNER

AUCTION

7PM UNTIL

LEON NIXON'S CATERING

Dinner Music by  
Justin Smith

6pm until 7pm

Donation \$8

