



**KIWANIS INAUGURAL 5K**  
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## Foreclosure claims Beechwood

Bank takes over 2nd planned subdivision

By **REBECCA BUNCH**  
Staff Writer

Foreclosure has claimed the planned Beechwood subdivision on Virginia Road, the second local development to fail during this economic meltdown. Gateway Bank & Trust

Company filed the notice of foreclosure in late February, officially putting the clamps on a project that began in 2005. The town of Edenton approved Beechwood Developers Inc. of Nags Head plans that year, granting rezoning and a conditional use permit. State permits were issued in 2007 with a road cut next to the Duck-Thru convenience store.

Located in proximity to Chowan Hospital, Beechwood was originally to have been built as a traditional, multi-level subdivision. But by March 2008, developers changed course with new plans to construct a continuing care retirement community rather than a traditional subdivision.

The project was eventually scaled back to just 49

homes from the originally planned 225 homes at the 80-acre site in what Gupta called a "pedestrian-friendly neighborhood" behind Chowan Crossing Center.

The development was to have included single-family detached garden homes, town houses, duplexes, multi-story apartments, a wellness center, clubhouse, an assisted liv-

ing building and a skilled nursing facility.

No housing was ever constructed at the site but much of the infrastructure there has been completed, said Anne-Marie Knighton, town manager.

Developers cleared the lot and built a road that connected Virginia and Paradise roads.

"They (developers) also built stormwater ponds,"

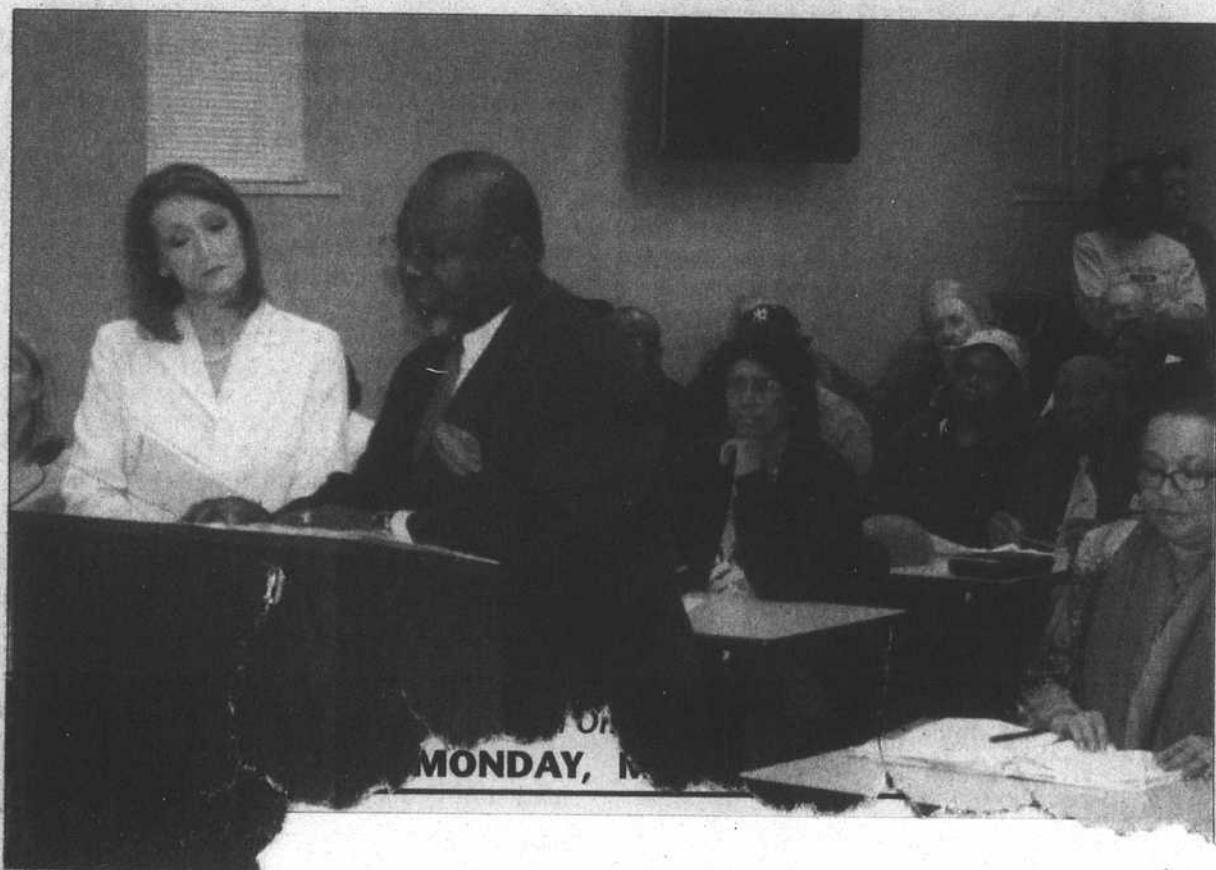
Knighton said. "They put in part of the water system that they had gotten approval for."

Knighton said that part of the sewer system had also been installed.

The bank has brought in Joe Cebina, a real estate developer with GS Carolina of Charlotte to evaluate the subdivision's

See **BEECHWOOD**, 5A

## COA, ALUMNI COMPROMISE



Kandi Deitemeyer, College president, at the podium mediating, the two sides reach a designated meeting place

## College

By **RITCHIE E. STARN**  
Editor

After a weekend of discussions, College and the D.F. Walker Association leaders met Monday morning with a promise that led to a vote by the Chowan Board of Commissioners.

Months of bickering over whether the association would have a meeting place, Walker ended with a lease that contradicted the COA with provisions for a designated area while also meeting

## Librarian

By **REBECCA BUNCH**  
Staff Writer

Next month Shepley Pruden Library officials plan to ask the commissioners to restore the library's full budget and normal hours of operation.

For the last two fiscal years, the budget has been cut by more than \$50,000. Librarian Linda Vaughan

## Region part of list of nation's hungriest areas

Butterfield opposes food cuts for poor

By **WILLIAM F. WEST**  
Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-N.C., says the findings of a nationwide hunger study are "very alarming" for northeastern North Carolina.



**Butterfield**

The report, prepared by the Washington, D.C.-based Food Research & Action Center, shows that Butterfield's 1st District ranked second-worst of the nation's 436 congressional districts in "food hardship" — an indicator of people's ability to afford food.

In the 1st District, nearly a third of those surveyed in a recent Gallup poll said they are facing food hardship. Also, the report ranks North Carolina the 19th-worst state in food hardship, with nearly one in four of those surveyed

saying they're concerned about having enough money to buy food.

The Food Research & Action Center based its findings on respondents' answer to the following question: Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to buy the food you or your family needed?

In North Carolina's 1st Congressional District, the center said the food hardship rate is 31.8 percent. The only congressional district with a worse rate was the Bronx, a borough of New York City, where the food hardship rate was 32.7 percent.

Jen Adach, a spokeswoman for FRAC, said the report shows the problem is not just a local one. According to the report, the food hardship rate nationally is 18 percent.

"I think what we're seeing is that the recession may have technically ended in mid-2009, but we still see that it has not yet ended for many, many households across this country,"

See **HUNGRIEST**, 2A

## Committee to review historic district demolition

Preservation versus property rights

By **REBECCA BUNCH**  
Staff Writer

Should town officials be able to deny permits for demolition of properties within the historic district?

That's the question the Edenton Town Council is trying to resolve. It will soon be getting some help from a citizens committee to be named by Mayor Roland Vaughan. He is expected to make those names public at the council's April 12 meeting.

The action comes after a difference of opinion on the issue surfaced among the council, as well as members of the local historical and preservation commissions.

While the preservation

commission has voted to endorse the idea, a motion offered during a historical commission meeting failed.

Vaughan said he would ask the committee to come back with recommendations, followed by "deeper discussion" by the council at a later time.

The committee will be made up of those knowledgeable of historic preservation and other community-minded residents, Vaughan said.

The decision to name an advisory group came after councilors were unable to reach a consensus on the issue during discussion at their Feb. 28 meeting.

If the town elected to seek passage of a special bill in the state legislature, it would be following a path set by New Bern and

See **DEMOLITION**, 4A



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**5TH, 7:30 PM** **E.A. SWAIN AUDITORIUM**  
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