



Town, county OK Partnership

From staff reports

On Monday, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners joined the Town Council and voted unanimously to approve the resolution that paves the way for the Edenton-Chowan

Partnership to effectively replace Edenton Chowan Development Corporation, or Edenton Today.

At its Feb. 14 scheduled board meeting, the Town Council unanimously (Councilman Steve Biggs was absent) approved to

change the name of the ECDC and amend the economic development organization's articles of incorporation and bylaws that creates the Edenton-Chowan Partnership (ECP). That vote would allow

the ECDC's functions to be absorbed by the recently created ECP.

ECDC, or Edenton Today, will be regarded as ECP, pending final approval of the ECDC board of directors who has already tentatively agreed

to the change.

ECDC's board members will remain as the core of ECP, which will have additional board members, 15 with voting privileges and two ex-officio members (Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton and County

Manager Zee Lamb).

In addition to respective town and county representatives, ECP will also have a private sector component.

The amendments would

See PARTNERSHIP, 3A

ECP to tackle 'Last Mile' strategies

Utility co-ops could help access

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Fresh off resolutions of endorsement from the Edenton Town Council and the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, the Edenton Chowan Partnership (ECP) may have learned its first major project — devise a plan for the area's "last mile" of broadband connectivity.

ECP board members and stakeholders filed into the offices of the Northeast Commission Monday afternoon in hopes of gaining a better understanding of how Edenton-Chowan could tap into MCNC's fiber optics, or the "middle mile" set to run underground along U.S. 17. While they were told various municipal, healthcare, and educational entities should expect access, other businesses and residents will be required to depend on other sources to aid with connectivity. Northeast Rural Broadband (NERB) is the non-profit agency set to offer such assistance.

As to who exactly will get access, much of that has yet to be determined, NERB chairman, Rear Admiral Noel Preston (US Navy Ret) told the group.

"I'm guessing they will all be a part of it," said Preston, referring to the aforementioned entities.

It is clear that high-speed broadband technology is coming to Northeastern North Carolina. Plans call for regional businesses and residents in outlying areas to be able to tap into Internet access that is fast, reliable and affordable.

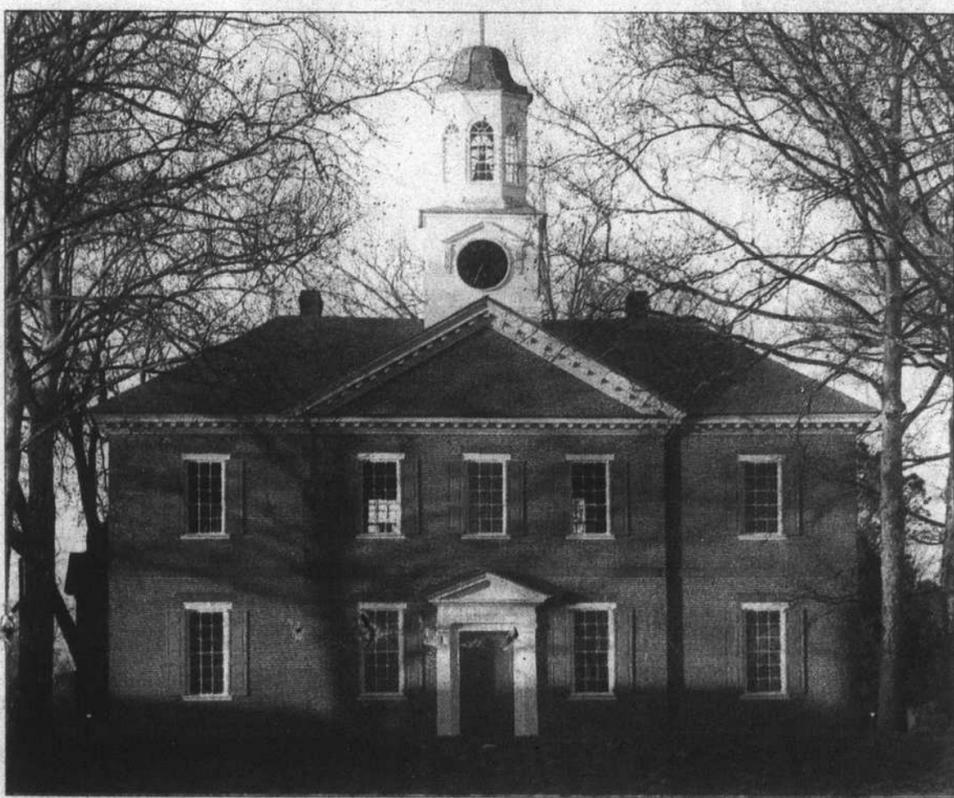
Local stakeholders want to make sure that such bodies like town and county government, Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, and the College of The Albemarle are among those guaranteed access.

"I do believe we have certain facilities that deserve a direct line," said Bob Quinn, councilman and ECP board member.

There are various business models and technologies that can reach the "last mile" users-for profit, non-profit, public/private partnerships, electrical co-ops and telecommunications companies. On the

See LAST MILE, 2A

HISTORIC SITES ARE UNDER REVIEW



CHOWAN HERALD FILE PHOTO

The 1767 Chowan Courthouse is among the state historic sites of the Historic Edenton Visitor Center. A state panel recommends a two-day reduction in Edenton.

Panel calls for Visitor Center reduction

DCR disputes alleged savings

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

A staff research panel for the North Carolina General Assembly recommended that the Historic Edenton Visitor Center be closed on Sundays and Mondays each week to save the state money.

But the state Department of Cultural Resources is arguing against the recommendation, as well as one that would permanently close the Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City.

DCR Secretary Linda Carlisle said Monday that her office is "very con-

According to the report, the Historic Edenton Visitor Center had 22,252 visitors during 2010-11. Total expenditures for the center were listed at \$428,720.



Carlisle

cerned" about the impact the closings could have on Edenton and Elizabeth City. Carlisle is also questioning the amount of projected savings the moves would bring.

In response, the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee, which

requested the Feb. 14 report, has named a subcommittee to study the findings. Rep. Julia Howard, R-Iredell, said in an email Monday afternoon that Rep. Edgar Starnes, R-Caldwell, would head the committee.

The report cited "low visitation" due to being located in a small community as its reason for recommending the two day a week closing in Edenton. The local visitor center ranked third on a list within the report that ranked the sites having the highest net state cost per visitor for the year.

According to the report, the center had 22,252 visitors during 2010-11. Total expenditures for the center were listed at \$428,720.

Personnel costs at the center were \$339,765; purchases/services were \$86,444.

Having Historic Edenton and

See HISTORIC, 3A

Council taps Simpson for seat

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Edenton Town Council has chosen Norma Simpson to complete the unexpired council term of Phyllis Britton, who died late last year.

Simpson — one of three Third Ward residents who applied to replace



Simpson

Britton — was nominated by Councilman Willis Privott to fill the seat during council's regular monthly meeting on Feb. 14.

Neither of the other two applicants — the Rev. Roscoe Poole and Amelle O'Leary — received a nomination. Instead, the council voted unanimously to have Simpson finish the remaining two years, of Britton's four-year term.

After the vote, Simpson, who was seated in the audience along with the other two applicants, said, "Thank you."

Mayor Roland Vaughan said a swearing-in ceremony for Simpson will take place at a special meeting later this month so that her family and friends can be with her for the occasion.

"This (delaying the swearing in) will also give (Simpson) the opportunity to be brought up to speed on the issues important to the town," Vaughan said.

Vaughan said Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton and other town staff would be briefing Simpson prior to her first official meeting on Feb. 27.

Vaughan also thanked Poole and O'Leary for their interest in serving.

Poole said last Wednesday afternoon that he felt Simpson would do a good job on the council.

"I wish her well," Poole

See SIMPSON, 3A

Court date delayed in COA email case

By WILLIAM F. WEST
The Daily Advance

A hearing has been delayed again in the case of a woman accused of sending a threatening email to College of The Albemarle last fall that prompted a shutdown and an evacuation of the campus.

Margaret Monika

White, 18, was scheduled to appear Thursday in Pasquotank County District Court, but the hearing has been reset to April 5. White's attorney, Sam Dixon of Edenton, advised court officials in a letter.

Dixon said April 5 is the next date Judge Robert Trivette is in Pasquotank

District Court.

That date is available for his firm and also for attorney John Leidy, who is representing COA's interests.

A hearing has been delayed for various reasons since as far back as Oct. 31.

A hearing was set for Feb. 2, with Trivette to

preside, but the matter had to be reset because a state witness had a family medical emergency.

The threat was reported the morning of Oct. 3.

White, of Tyner and at the time an Elizabeth City State University student, was arrested later in the evening, charged with misdemeanor cyberstalk-

ing and released on an unsecured bond.

Dixon wants the court to throw out White's statement to Elizabeth City police because he believes what she told police was obtained in violation of her rights to remain silent and have an attorney present during questioning.



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Edenton/Chowan
Boys & Girls Club

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
for the Edenton/Chowan Boys & Girls Club
Saturday, February 25 | 8AM - 11:00AM
Edenton UMC Family Life Center

Eat In or Take-Out
\$7.00

Tickets may be purchased at Byrum Hardware, the Boys & Girls Club, Molly High(482-0121) or Jack Parker(482-4559)