

LIGHTHOUSE

Continued from Page 1A

Councilman Willis Privott asked whether these funds would allow for completion of all the remaining lighthouse work.

Knighton said that repairs would still need to be made to the Fresnel lens that will sit atop the lighthouse and that furnishings still need to be secured for the project to be completed.

Councilman Bob Quinn said that the Edenton Historical Commission has been collecting period appropriate items to furnish the lighthouse once all other work is completed.

"We've come a long way," Quinn said regarding the various phases of the project that was born in the late 1990s when it was identified as a preferred initiative.

In 1998, Mayor Roland Vaughan named a committee to work on the project;

the following year the first grant funds for the project were secured, Knighton said.

In response to a question from Vaughan concerning whether the light from the lighthouse would be allowed to shine out over the waters of Edenton Bay where it is situated, Knighton said that she believed that could happen on special occasions.

Councilman Steve Biggs asked how often the lighthouse would be open to the

public once access is available.

Knighton said that under the terms of an operating agreement that had been worked out with the state the structure would be open at all times that the Historic Edenton Visitor Center is open. Staff at the Visitor Center will be responsible for having someone at the waterfront to talk with visitors about the lighthouse and the maritime history of the area, she said.

LEAF

Continued from Page 1A

cut."

Superintendent Allan Smith recommended that technological needs be set as the first priority after getting feedback from Dan Gerlach, Golden LEAF president, at a public feedback meeting held last month.

Smith suggested to the board prior to the vote that

they set as a second priority funds for an increase in STEM curriculum program opportunities for students in grades 6-12.

The third and final priority would be the establishment of a cultural arts and distance learning center that would include replacement of the school's aging auditorium.

Guard said he could understand why Golden LEAF would have particular interest in the technol-

ogy initiative.

"They want something that can be replicated and sustained," Guard said, "something where Golden LEAF funds can be used as seed money."

Smith also reviewed with the board the timetable for the remaining steps leading up to the awarding of the funds.

"At the last Golden LEAF meeting we were told the (local) review team was to return individual ratings

of each proposal to Golden LEAF by January 14," Smith said.

The review team is scheduled to prioritize the proposals on Thursday. Plans call for the team to meet again on Jan. 24 if necessary to complete their work — the deadline for submitting its prioritized proposals. Full proposals by priority applicants are due by Feb. 22. A decision on which projects will be funded is due April 5, Smith said.

HOUSE

Continued from Page 1A

"I think this is just fabulous news, especially coming during the town's (Edenton) 300th anniversary year," said Bob Quinn, chairman of the planning committee for the celebration who was present at the announcement.

Worthington said that at first glance the house appears to have been built around 1900 since it

has a tin roof and asbestos siding, but that is not the case. Closer inspection, however, revealed that the home contains features such as beaded weatherboarding that tie the house instead to the 18th century, he said.

Worthington added that it also appears there may have originally been two staircases within the house. He termed the house "a very unique structure" among homes in North Carolina.

Thomas noted that the dwelling might not cur-

rently be in its original location. He said that an inspection of the well-known 1769 Sauthier Map of Edenton does not show a building in the area that appears to be the current location of the house.

Lane said that he and his wife bought the property from Vopelak with the intention of restoring and then renting the house. Lane hired a local carpenter, Wayne Griffin, to handle the necessary work. It was initially Griffin who noticed some clues such as pegs used in the

home's construction that made him think the house might be older than originally thought, Lane said.

Once Griffin shared his opinion with the owners, work on the house came to a stop, Steve Lane said.

Lane said that a respected local cabinetmaker, Don Jordan, got involved, as did preservationist Sambo Dixon, an Edenton attorney.

Thomas praised the Lanes for supporting the work done so far and their commitment to the work that remains to be done in

the future.

"Without the Lanes' interest, patience and financial commitment to this project, this house would likely have been lost," Thomas said.

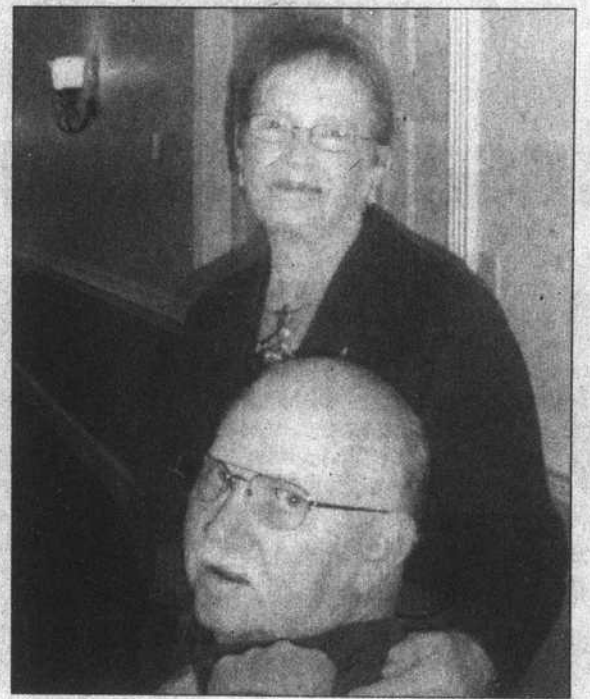
Steve Lane said that he is uncertain at this point what the future holds for the house. A first priority, he said, would be "to do everything possible to

stabilize and take care of the house."

Vopelak said she had owned the house for 18 years prior to its sale. Her mother called it home for 22 years before that, Vopelak said.

During the brief ceremony announcing the news, Vopelak and her two daughters listened in apparent surprise.

Golden



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Billy and Doris Hollowell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 12, 2012. Their four children honored them with a dinner and entertainment on Dec. 15 surrounded by family and friends.

GAS

Continued from Page 1A

Gas in Willimston is also selling for \$3.35 per gallon. Current prices mark the slimmest margin between Edenton and the other markets in more than a year.

Cheek said there are operating expenses that the average consumer doesn't take into account.

"You realize when you take a credit card, it usually costs 2.79 percent (interest)," Cheek added. "Different cards have different prices. You have to make up those costs."

"If you go up 10 cents over cost, you're not going to get rich," he continued. "I've charged as little as 2

cents over cost."

Gasoline prices in North Carolina are among the highest in the country due in part to the state's gas tax of 37.5 cents per gallon — tied with the state of Washington at the highest in the nation. The federal tax is half the state's rate at 18.4 cents. Gas tax proceeds are earmarked for highway funds.

As high as gas prices are in North Carolina, they're seemingly higher in Edenton. A road trip to New York reminded Badger just how pricey gas is in Edenton.

"I never saw the price of gas at a station close to the price of our stations until I got to Manhattan," Badger said. "Only then was it more expensive."

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