



Patriot's Pointe withdraws CUP application

Builder plans to return at later date

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Efforts to bring affordable living apartments to Edenton ended when the builder withdrew an application for a conditional-use permit, marking the second such failure in a month.

The Raleigh-based Carolina Project Equities opted to withdraw its CUP application for the proposed Patriot's Pointe, a 72-unit apartment complex along Paradise Road. Friday's sudden reversal came as the Planning Board continued to study the builder's market feasibility study that shows Edenton-Chow-

an in dire need of more affordable housing.

Because of the Planning Board's delay to render a recommendation earlier this month so it could review the study with the Town Council not expected to consider the CUP until May 14, the builder found itself pressed against a May 17 deadline with the N.C. Housing Finance Agency. The contractor had to complete its request for federal tax credits that would enable renters access to lease amounts based on their income.

Project Equities' partner Mark Tipton said Monday that the withdrawal is only a temporary setback.

"It just got to be so close we thought we'd take a

See **APPLICATION**, 2A

WONDERS OF SPRING



PHOTO BY REBECCA LOWE

If sneezing from airborne pollen hasn't signaled the start of spring, the bright yellow fields of rape sure add to the season not to mention local scenery like this crop off N.C. 32, east of town. After the flower stops blooming the seeds fill out and dry before harvesting. The seed (about the size of a poppy seed) is used in making canola oil and feed for livestock.

McCrory appoints Goodwin to post

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

After November's failed bid to become secretary of state, the former chairman of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners has been appointed to work on behalf of the governor.

Gov. Pat McCrory has named fellow Republican Eddy



Goodwin

Goodwin as his regional director for eastern North Carolina. The post calls for Goodwin to represent McCrory, serving as a liaison at events the governor is unable to attend in counties east of I-95.

"I am proud of Ed's public service record and solid character," McCrory said Monday. "His roots run deep in eastern North Carolina and I'm excited to have him join our team as eastern regional director."

Goodwin began the job two weeks ago, having already attended about eight functions for McCrory.

"If the governor is requested to speak and he can't make it, I speak on his behalf," Goodwin said. "I'm supposed to represent all of the people (not partisan) and provide information to the governor's office."

See **GOODWIN**, 2A



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Farmers Market to accept SNAP tokens

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

The Edenton Farmers Market will reopen Saturday morning with a few additions, including the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) as a form of payment.

Vero Brentjens, who manages the market, said that beginning this weekend SNAP tokens will be accepted for the first time.

Brentjens said those who

come to the market with the SNAP tokens would be able to purchase many different fresh food items.

"This is something we have been working on for a while now because we felt it was a real need in our community with so many people out of work and needing assistance," Brentjens said. "Come Saturday, this will mark the end of a long road for us as we have worked diligently to bring this service to the market."

Another new feature this

year will be the start-up of cooking demonstrations by a local chef, Leslie Lippincott, using foods available for purchase at the market. Recipe cards will be available so people can make at home the dishes they see demonstrated, Brentjens said.

"We are very excited to be offering this," Brentjens said. "Our feeling is, let's see if we can use this to get people to eat well."

The demonstrations are tentatively scheduled to be-

gin in late June, Brentjens said.

There will also be some new vendors including Donna Spivey of Perquimans County who will be bringing baked goods.

Returning vendors will include Malcolm King, co-owner of Edenton Bay Trading Company who will be back with a variety of artisan cheeses produced at small North Carolina dairies such as the Chapel Hill Creamery and the Goat Lady Dairy.

It was just last year that King began having a presence at the market but he said he thoroughly enjoyed the experience and decided to come back.

"We don't make the cheese, we don't milk the cows, but we thought working with some of the smaller dairies to make their cheeses available here would make sense," King said.

The market runs from 8 a.m. until noon on the grounds of the old D.F. Walker School.

Donations cover N.C. Supreme Court expenses

Gov. McCrory might attend 300th festivities

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

The convening of the N.C. Supreme Court in Edenton next Wednesday will usher in a month-long series of events designed to continue the town's 300th anniversary celebration, but travel expenses nearly kept the high court away.

If not for the donations of First Judicial District Bar Association and the Edenton Historical Commission, the

Supreme Court could not have met its travel budget for the session in Edenton, the state's only other location outside of Raleigh where the court can meet per legislation. The chief justice accepted the invitation, but the budget failed to include funds for meals and lodging, according to Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton.

"Bob, we can't come. We've lost our travel funds," Councilman Bob Quinn said that Sarah



Quinn

Parker, the court's chief justice, told him.

Quinn, who is also chairman of the 300th committee, reached out to the bar association and EHC about assistance.

The bar association offered to host a reception Tuesday evening, and the EHC negotiated a discount for rooms at the Pack House, and will pay the expense, Knighton said. Then Knighton researched whether the donations violated any code of ethics with the Supreme Court.

"I talked to Christy Roder, Clerk to the Supreme Court, and she vetted these arrangements with Judicial Standards and

the State Ethics Commission," Knighton said. "Both entities indicated that the expenses being paid for are expenses necessary and part of the court's meeting in Edenton, and the arrangements pose no issues of concern."

Beginning at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday the court will hear a series of three cases at the historic 1767 Chowan Courthouse on East King Street. A 15-minute break will be observed between cases so that the courtroom can be cleared, allowing more spectators to observe.

See **COURT**, 2A

Tax-tag program to get under way in July

Drivers pay both bills at once

By **CINDY BEAMON**
Staff Writer

Bills will soon go out to the first wave of North Carolina drivers to start paying their vehicle taxes and license renewals at the same time.

Vehicle owners with a "7" sticker (for the month of July) on their license tags will be the first to get the new bills with a new look. The "tag and tax together" bill will include both the license renewal fee and the vehicle's

property taxes. Under the old system, those bills were mailed and collected separately by county tax offices and the state Department of Motor Vehicles.

The new tax and tag notices for July will be mailed by mid-May, said DMV communications officer Margaret Howell. Payment will be due by Aug. 1, with a 15-day grace period before interest kicks in.

Eventually, all vehicle owners will be switched over to the new system. Each month as registration renewals come due, vehicle owners will

receive the combined tag and tax notices. For example, the next wave of bills will go out for vehicle owners with an "8" sticker (for the month of August). The process will continue each month until everyone is switched over to the new billing system.

The new "tag and tax together" billing will have one major advantage.

Instead of receiving two bills — one for taxes and one for tags — taxpayers will only receive one. Vehicle owners will still have

See **TAX-TAG**, 3A

NC COMBINED VEHICLE REGISTRATION RENEWAL AND PROPERTY TAX NOTICE
Customer: JAMES BOE

VEHICLE PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION
Tax County: WOOD Appraised Value: \$71,200.00
Taxing District: The State \$100 Value
COUNTY TAXES: \$ 11.00
\$100 FROM THE 2008 FISCAL YEAR: \$ 11.00
Total: \$ 22.00

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Registration Fee: \$ 40.00
Total Amount Due: \$ 62.00

PHOTO COURTESY STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

This image shows a sample registration renewal form. Visit ncdot.gov/dmv/ for more information.

MAY PLAY DAY
FAMILY FUN DAY
ROCKY HOCK COMMUNITY CENTER

Food & Fun!
Baked Goods
Craft Booths

BBQ CHICKEN PLATES
\$8.00 from 3-7pm
Edenton Dance Stars
11:00 - 12:00 PM

CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT 10:00 Until
Winning Team - Grand Prize - \$100.00 Cash
FREE CHILDREN'S CRAFTS & GAMES
BB GUN SHOOTING CLINIC & CONTEST
BICYCLE DRAWING 1:30 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH - 10AM
FREE CONCERTS at 7:30PM featuring:
Richard Simmons Three For One Tracy & Taylor Smith
Bill Cogley "Big Daddy" Sam Morris