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Wednesday, July 3, 2013

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# Two incumbents will file, one veteran bows out

■ Quinn, Simpson to seek reelection to council seats

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Two relative newcomers to the town council, Bob Quinn and Norma Simpson, have announced that they will seek to retain their seats.

Simpson represents the Third Ward while Quinn holds the at-large position on the council.

Quinn is finishing his first elected four-year term

on the council; Simpson was sworn in on Feb. 14 to finish the unexpired term of Councilwoman Phyllis Britton, who died in December.

"I am going to run," Quinn confirmed Monday morning. "There are so many things I am working on that aren't finished and I want to see those through."

Quinn said those projects



SIMPSON



QUINN

included a focus on enforcing the Demolition by Neglect and Minimum Housing Standards. Quinn added that he wanted to continue to be a voice for the community through his service on the council. Tourism remains the town's best opportunity for economic opportunity, he said.

See REELECTION, 4A

■ Veteran councilman won't seek reelection

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

After 33 years on the Edenton Town Council, Willis Privott is calling it quits.

Privott, 81, represents the Fourth Ward. He said that he has served on the council since 1980 when he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of another council member, Harry Spruill.

"There just comes a time when it's time to step aside and let someone else have a turn," Privott said. "I think for me that time is now."

Privott, who admits to being "scared to death" when he was named to fill Spruill's unexpired term, said he had found it a very rewarding experience.

"I have thoroughly en-



PRIVOTT

joyed my time serving on the town council," Privott said.

Privott said that although he was nervous in the beginning about serving he had developed a strategy that worked for him.

"I decided I was going to make it work," Privott said. "I made up my mind to be a good listener and a good learner and that's what has carried me through to the end of my watch."

Privott said that among

See PRIVOTT, 4A

## Demolition request to be heard

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

The Edenton Preservation Commission on Monday will hear Chowan County's request for a demolition permit for the former Hotel Hinton building.

The hearing on the county's application for a demolition permit will be held at 1:15 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

But County Manager Zee Lamb insisted Monday that the county only is keeping the door open to possible demolition down the road while working to find a buyer for the historic structure.

"It's not the intent of the county commissioners to tear down that building," Lamb said. "It is their intent to sell it and preserve it."

Lamb said the county has believed it necessary to begin the demolition permit application process since that process can take a year and a half. The Preservation Commission could choose at Monday's meeting to delay action for six months, and then at the end of that six-month period the demolition could be delayed for a year, he explained.

The county is currently in intense negotiations with a buyer and also has two or three other potential buyers that have expressed interest in the property, Lamb said.

Despite county officials' assurances that the county only is keeping its options open, Edenton Town Councilman Bob Quinn is extremely wary of the demolition permit application.

"I want to do everything I can to fight this demolition," Quinn said Monday.

Quinn said the Hotel Hinton structure is of immeasurable importance to the town.

"It would just be a vitalization, a shot in the arm for downtown," Quinn said.

Quinn said the town needs additional rooms for visitors.

"We do not have adequate space for people to come here," Quinn said.

The 34,000-square-foot historic building would be a perfect place to provide rooms, he said.

"In my estimation, that building with a considerable number of available rooms would be a commodity that would completely change the destiny of Edenton," Quinn said.

See DEMOLITION, 4A

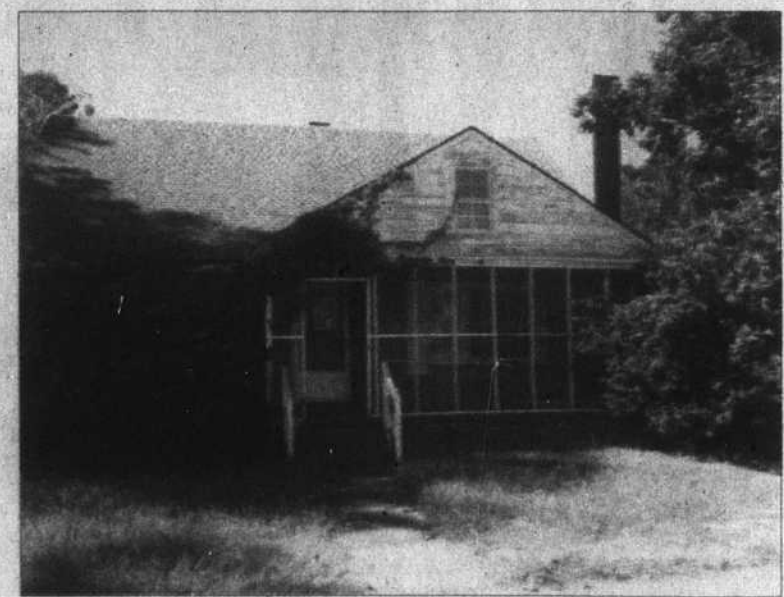
## MAKING A HOUSE A HOME



PHOTOS COURTESY JOHN SAMS

This "after" photo shows Habitat for Humanity volunteers hard at work on the outside of the home at 115 North Oakum Street. The chapter's volunteers have spent months working on the residence and hope to have it finished in the near future.

## Habitat project nearing completion



This "before" photo shows the home at 115 North Oakum Street in Edenton prior to its purchase by the local Habitat for Humanity chapter.

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity volunteers have spent months rehabbing a house on North Oakum Street that will soon be turned back into a home.

The three-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath residence will soon be the new home of Daphne Dillard and her two teen-aged children. Habitat officials said that Dillard has done an outstanding job in completing the "sweat equity" required of new Habitat homeowners.

Dillard, who works at Chowan River Nursing in Edenton, said she's had a lot of assistance from friends, her children and their friends too, in helping her complete the required 275 hours. As of last week, she had 333 hours to her credit.

"I appreciate all of them coming out and working with me to help me make my hours," Dillard said.

Jim Robison, project leader, noted that this would be the first time the local Habitat chapter had rehabbed rather than building a new house. Built in 1940, Robison said, the house was in foreclosure when Habitat bid on it.

"We were the only ones that bid, so we got it," Robison said.

Robison said that due to the age and condition of the house, much of the interior had to be gutted and wiring replaced.

"It's a lot more work (to rehab) than it would be to construct a new house," Robison said. "And I think it's going to turn out to cost just as much as building a new house."

When asked if he thought the

See HABITAT, 3A

## Boys & Girls Club garners Golden LEAF grant

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The Boys & Girls Club of Edenton/Chowan will receive \$160,000 in funding from the Golden LEAF Foundation to help support its Making the Grades project.

The club had requested \$254,700 from the foundation this spring as the foun-

dation considered funding \$2 million in community projects. The project was deferred for later consideration.

Stephanie McLean, the club's director, said the goal of the program was to work with fifth through eighth graders to encourage good study habits and academic performance. The program is intended to lay a solid

foundation for students as they approach the ninth grade — considered a critical time as students enter high school and prepare for post-secondary education,



MCLEAN

she said. "We also want to offer work-related experiences (during high school), so they understand the world of work," McLean said.

A third component of the program will be taking students to visit college campuses and/or arranging for them to have job shadowing opportunities or summer jobs at local busi-

nesses, she said.

McLean praised Rob Boyce, a retired assistant superintendent of the Edenton-Chowan school system, for his work in preparing the successful grant proposal for Making the Grades. Boyce serves on the club's Resource Development Committee.

See GRANT, 2A

## City Council eyes crime-free rental program

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Police Chief Jay Fortenbery presented draft copies of proposed guidelines for a crime-free rental housing

program at the town council's June 24 work session.

Fortenbery emphasized that the information and format he presented are just preliminary in nature. "These are only draft

copies," he said.

The guidelines are being developed as part of a new initiative for a crime-free community being developed by the council.

Fortenbery said he had

patterned the guidelines after ones developed and used in Mesa, Arizona and Washington State. He emphasized that whatever guidelines are adopted by the council would be for

the voluntary use of landlords.

Tenants, too, will be encouraged to participate and follow the guidelines.

See RENTAL, 2A



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