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Wednesday, July 17, 2013

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Council races shaping up in Third, Fourth Wards

■ Three more file to run for Town Council seats

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Three more candidates have filed for election to the Edenton Town Council.

Elton Bond Jr. will join LoriAnn Curtin in seeking election to the Fourth Ward town council seat being vacated by Willis Privott. Privott, who has held the seat for the past 33 years, recently announced he would not seek re-election.

The Rev. Roscoe Poole is seeking to unseat Norma Simpson, who was named to fill the unexpired Ward 3 term of the late councilwoman Phyllis Britton who

died in December 2011.

Simpson, a healthcare professional and political newcomer, was sworn in on Feb. 14, 2012. Simpson has filed to seek election to the seat. Poole was among the applicants who sought appointment to the seat after Britton's death.

Incumbent at-large Councilman Bob Quinn, 76, has filed for reelection. Quinn, who is retired from a career in marketing, chairs the Edenton's 300th Anniversary Committee.



POOLE



QUINN

Bond, 61, is a native of Chowan County. He is a 1970 graduate of John A. Holmes High School. In 1974 he graduated from Elizabeth City State University where he earned a BA in Political Science. For the past 33 years he has worked as a fiber line operator for Domtar (previously known as Weyerhaeuser) in Plymouth.

Bond, who has been endorsed by Privott, said he thought the veteran council

See FILING, 3A

■ Privott gives Bond Fourth Ward endorsement

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

Edenton Town Councilman Willis Privott — who is not seeking reelection this year after more than three decades on the council — has endorsed political newcomer Elton Bond Jr. for the Fourth Ward seat in the November election.

Two candidates so far have filed in the Fourth Ward: Bond and LoriAnn Curtin.

Curtin, a neighborhood activist who chairs the town's Board of Adjustments, said in an interview last week she hoped Privott

would endorse her candidacy.

When Privott was asked last week if he planned to endorse anyone in the Fourth Ward race, he said he knows both Bond and Curtin and had given it a lot of thought.

"I endorse Elton Bond," Privott said. "And I'll be glad to give you my reason for that: Our black males need male role models and I think Elton would be a good role model for the black males."

Privott said he hopes somebody can get through



PRIVOTT



BOND

to the young men in the community. He said he is troubled by the number of young men he sees

outside the courthouse on days when court is in session.

Bond can be a good role model and will serve effectively on the town council, according to Privott.

"Elton is a clean-cut young man and I think he would do a good job," Privott said. "He will do a good job on the council. He is

See ENDORSE, 2A

School board terms bill moving

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

A bill to reduce Edenton-Chowan County Board of Education terms from six years to four years is expected to pass the State Senate this week, according to the bill's sponsor.

The bill passed the State House of Representatives in May and came out of the Senate Education Committee with a favorable report.

But the bill has slowed down somewhat since being referred to the Senate State and Local Government Committee.

The bill was on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting of the committee, however, and Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, said he's confident it will pass the committee and then pass the full Senate.

Steinburg is the bill's sponsor.

The proposed legislation is known as a "local bill" because it applies only in Chowan County. The Chowan County Board of Commissioners has backed the change, while the county's Board of Education is on record in opposition to it.

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education Chairman John Guard has said that the board of education was disappointed that the county's board of commissioners decided to pursue four-year terms for the school board, but added he believes the two boards still have a good working relationship.

Chowan County Board of Commissioners Chairman Keith Nixon explained that the commissioners had constituents come to them in the past about running for office, expressing concern about running for the school board when the term is six years.



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PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Members of the Marching Aces at John A. Holmes High School practice during an early-morning session of their annual band camp on the front lawn of the high school. The camp provides a week-long opportunity for students in the marching band to hone their skills in preparation for performing in halftime shows during fall football games. The band currently is raising money for uniforms — see story, 6A.

Williams pitches Steamers' 1st no-hitter

From staff reports

In the 16-year history of the Edenton Steamers, the organization has won Coastal Plain League titles, numerous division titles, held national summer league rankings and helped a bevy of players move on to professional baseball.

A rare first happened on July 10 to add to the list: a no-hitter.

Right-handed pitcher John Williams made Steamers his-

tory by throwing the team's first-ever in a 4-0 win against Florence at Hicks Field.

It was the 23rd no-hitter in CPL history.

For the Steamers, the George Mason product made his third start and eighth appearance this summer, and began on a tear, retiring the first 12 RedWolves



WILLIAMS

before plunking Florence's Zach Bellinger in the fifth.

Florence only got two more runners on base, one through a fielder's choice on the following fifth inning play, and a seventh inning walk, again putting on Bellinger.

Fifteen of Williams' 27 outs recorded were in the air, and he repeatedly pitched behind in counts to take down RedWolves hitters — he only had four strikeouts.

Williams finished the complete

game with 111 pitches thrown.

Edenton started hitless through three until Trent Miller notched an RBI double to score Nick Thompson. Miller later scored when he stole third and crossed home on a throwing error.

Josh Hampton — one of eight CPL All-Stars from the Steamers — made it 3-0 when he was brought in by a Nick Miller RBI single, and then 4-0 in the sixth inning when he crushed a solo homer, his fourth of the summer.

Local woman among pair charged in Perquimans

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 Perquimans Weekly

An Edenton woman and a Hertford woman — both former Perquimans County Schools employees — were charged July 9 for an incident involving a special needs student on a bus last month.

Cynthia Jones, 51, an exceptional children's teacher,

resigned effective June 24. Kecia Phelps, 48, a teacher's assistant was terminated June 20. Jones lives in Hertford and Phelps lists an Edenton address.

The incident happened June 16. The driver and another teacher's assistant who were on the bus were determined not to be involved in the case and no action was taken against them.

Sources say the incident involved an 18-year-old special needs student who was improperly restrained while on the bus. Onboard video cameras on the bus captured the event and were reviewed by school officials, who turned the matter over to the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department.

Perquimans County

Sheriff Eric Tilley said the school employees struck the student. They were charged Tuesday with assault on a handicapped person after turning themselves in to the sheriff's department. A magistrate released them under \$1,000 unsecured bond.

The assault charge is considered a Class 1 misdemeanor, the most seri-

ous kind of misdemeanor. Depending on a previous record, a guilty verdict usually involves a suspended jail sentence.

A court date has been set for Sept. 18. The child had been involved in a summer program and was on the bus being taken home. Tilley said the child was not bruised as a result of the incident.

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