

P8/C8*****CAR-RT LOT**C 002 A0092
 SHEPHERD PRUDEN LIBRARY
 106 W WATER ST
 EDENTON NC 27932-1854



Old books get new lease on life — 1B

482-4418

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

50¢

National Main Street CEO visits Edenton

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

The head of a newly minted nonprofit under the umbrella of the National Trust for Historic Preservation was in Edenton last week on her first official visit to North Carolina.

Patrice Frey's two days in Edenton marked her tenth visit to a Main Street city — and her first stop in North Carolina — since assuming her post as chief executive officer of the National Main Street Center Inc. She was headed to Raleigh last Thursday night to meet with

state officials before traveling to South Carolina last Friday.

These are difficult times to maintain a thriving downtown, but Edenton has managed to keep numerous businesses open and successful even in this economy, Frey said.

"I think there's a tremendous sense of pride and community spirit in this place," Frey said. "And this resilience — I also have picked up on that as well."

Frey said her purpose as she visits Main Street cities is to see what is working in different downtowns and

find out what people need in small towns and in cities of various sizes.

Edenton Town Councilman Sambo Dixon is a member of the board of the National Main Street Center Inc.

"Having her here is a great honor to all of us," Dixon said in introducing Frey to a small crowd gathered at the 1767. Chowan County Courthouse late Thursday morning.

In brief remarks to those who gathered at the courthouse to meet her, Frey explained that the National Main Street Center Inc. was

launched May 1 as an independent subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Before that, the center was a program of the national trust but not an independent nonprofit, she said.

Frey's husband, Wally Bobkiewicz, who is the town manager of Evanston, Ill., accompanied her on the visit to Edenton.

Frey said she and Bobkiewicz had been walking down the street in Edenton and people already were waving to them and calling

See MAIN STREET, 5A



National Main Street Center Chief Executive Officer Patrice Frey (center) speaks with Jean Brown (left) who chairs Destination Downtown Edenton, and Downtown Edenton Director Jennifer Harriss at the Edenton Coffee House.

Creighton named to economic panel

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Edenton businessman Charles "Charlie" Creighton has been named an at-large member of the North Carolina Economic Development board.

Gov. Pat McCrory announced Creighton's appointment on July 15. Creighton will represent the eastern North Carolina counties in his position on the board.

Creighton said Monday afternoon that the board held its first meeting last week. He said that he was heartened by the fact that over half the conversation at the meeting, including comments by the governor, focused on rural North Carolina.



CREIGHTON

"They're aware that rural North Carolina is hurting," Creighton said.

Creighton said that creating new jobs in rural communities during the current economic climate would be difficult. But, he said, the board is already talking about strategies to improve local economies.

For example, he said, the board is looking at ways to add value to communities like Edenton where peanut manufacturing is profitable to see if there are other agricultural crops such as corn or wheat that could be processed locally.

"And sage has been big for us," Creighton said. "We've just started doing research to see how we can add value to what's already here."

Creighton said the new tax structure also should benefit rural areas.

"I'm also very optimistic because of the new tax structure that will allow us to compete with South Carolina and Virginia (for business and industry)," Creighton said.

Creighton acknowledged that turning the state's economy around and restoring or creating jobs remains a challenge. He said that he agreed with the governor's assertion that what has

See CREIGHTON, 4A



©2009 The Chowan Herald
 All Rights Reserved

Quinn running unopposed; contested races in Third and Fourth Wards

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Voters will have the opportunity to vote in two contested town council races in the Nov. 5 election.

In the Third Ward, Norma Simpson has filed to hold on to the seat she was named to fill following the December 2011 death of Councilwoman Phyllis Britton. Simpson, a healthcare professional who was sworn in on Feb. 14, 2012, will be seeking election for the first time.

She will face opposition from the Rev. Roscoe Poole, a retired minister who works part-time as a rehabilitation construction advisor for Elizabeth City State University.

The contested race for the Fourth Ward seat on the council held by Councilman Willis Privott, who is not seeking re-election, will be between neighborhood activist LoriAnn Curtin, who chairs the town's Board of Adjustments, and Elton Bond



Clerk of Court Mike McArthur, left, swears in new members of the Chowan County Board of Elections during a July 16 ceremony held at the elections office in Edenton. The new members are (left to right) Stella Brothers, Allan Fessenden and Patti Kersey.

Jr., a fiber line operator at Domtar (formerly known as Weyerhaeuser) in Plymouth.

Quinn, who holds the at-large seat on the council, is running unopposed.

Absentee ballots will be available starting Monday, Oct. 7.

Voters must be registered by Friday, Oct. 11 in order to cast ballots in the election.

Anyone having questions about the election may contact the Chowan County Board of Elections office at 482-4010.

Habitat house dedicated in brief ceremony

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer



Daphne Dillard (left) receives congratulations on from Habitat President Tom Austin during the dedication where she and her family officially took ownership of their new home on North Oakum Street, Saturday.

Councilman Willis Privott was eager to hand Daphne Dillard the keys to her new Habitat house Saturday morning during the dedication ceremony.

But Tom Austin, president of the Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity chapter, stopped him.

"Not yet," Austin told Privott, drawing laughter from the group of Habitat volunteers, family and friends assembled for the ceremony. "She gets the key at the end."

The presentation of the keys wasn't long in coming. But in between the Rev. Dale Miller, pastor of the Christian Outreach Church located across the street from the North Oakum Street home, and a Habitat board member,

offered an invocation and his wife Tammy presented a broom to Dillard in keeping with an old custom of giving one as a housewarming gift.

Another Habitat board member, Dave Johnson, presented Dillard with a Bible.

Austin reminded those present that the home was

the first local Habitat house not built from the ground up. Rather, Habitat bought a home that was in foreclosure and restored it.

"We've been talking about this for years, wanting to restore a home like this," Austin said.

When it was her turn to speak, Dillard — accompanied by her son, Raekwon, and daughter, Ny'Aishea — said just a few heartfelt words.

"I just want," she said, "to thank everybody for coming out to help me."

The next Habitat house will be built in Perquimans County in 2014.

General Assembly adopts 4-year terms for school board

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

The N.C. General Assembly has passed a bill shortening the terms of Edenton-Chowan County Board of Education members from six years to four.

To facilitate the transition to four-year terms, in 2014 there will be one member elected to a two-year term to fill Seat One of the Second District. In 2016 and every four years after that, a member will be elected to that seat to fill a four-year term.

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, who was the

bill's sponsor, said he thinks the shorter school board terms are a good idea since a number of people in Chowan County have wanted to run for the board have haven't wanted to run for a six-year term.

Steinburg said he never got a phone call or letter — other than from some of the board of education members — asking to keep the six-year terms.

On the other hand, he said, he did get numerous calls and letters from constituents in support of the switch to four-year terms.

Board of Education Chairman John Guard

said Friday that now that four-year terms for the board of education have become law, the board will accept that and continue with its work. The board of education is not going to do anything to try to overturn the law, he said.

"I think it's critical that our board and the board of commissioners continue to work together," Guard said. "I don't see that there is any contro-



NIXON

versy now. It has been through the political process and we accept the decision of the General Assembly."

Chowan County Board of Commissioners Chairman Keith Nixon noted two House committees and two Senate committees unanimously approved the bill, which helped reassure the county commissioners that they did the right thing by asking Steinburg to introduce it.

Nixon said Pitt County also now has changed to four-year terms, so that brings Chowan County even more in line with the

rest of the state by going to the four-year terms.

Nixon said he's sure there was a reason for the six-year terms but added those reasons are not there now.

The four-year terms will provide a good opportunity for people to go to the polls every four years — instead of every six years — and have a voice in who represents them, Nixon said.

Nixon thanked Steinburg for his work on the bill.

It's also likely that more people will run for board

See TERMS, 2A