



## Council responds to police chief's plan

*Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series of stories detailing the town's response to neighborhood ordinance violations in parts of the community.*

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Recently when Councilwoman Norma Simpson has left work she hasn't been spending her evenings

at home enjoying some well-deserved relaxation. Instead, she's been getting in her car and riding around town.

"I ride out at night," Simpson said, noting that she uses the opportunity to talk with kids she sees hanging out. "I'm trying my best to talk with these kids. I have grandchildren and I know you have to talk with kids to make a difference."

Simpson said some of

the kids she talks with need love and encouragement to turn their lives around and stay out of trouble.

"A lot of them need a lot of love, they don't get it at home," Simpson said.

Other councilors have also developed different ways of responding to the loitering and other town ordinance violations that recently brought a group of citizens who live in the North Broad and West Albe-

marle Street corridor before the council demanding action.

In response, Police Chief Jay Fortenbery presented during the Aug. 26 town council work session a plan of action he calls "Operation Peace and Quiet" to restore calm to the neighborhood and the downtown streets as well as the waterfront park. The plan partners tougher enforcement by the police with initiatives

aimed at positively impacting the lives of students at the middle school and high school, and developing better communication with adults through an academy where they can learn how to serve as additional sets of eyes and ears for the police.

Councilman Sambo Dixon, though, said he thought the town still needed to consider adding three additional police officers to work the streets he termed

"hot spots."

Councilman Willis Privott said that the town definitely needed to have adequate police protection in order for citizens to be kept protected and safe.

"If we don't have the manpower, you're not doing much," he said.

Dixon added that he would like to see horse patrols by officers because he

See PLAN, 2A

## County taking action on violations

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Chowan County officials have begun the first steps of enforcement in connection with several zoning violations in the Chowan Beach neighborhood — mainly travel trailers being used as permanent housing.

On Aug. 27, County Manager Zee Lamb and Planning Director Landin Holland met with some concerned citizens at Chowan Beach and drove around the development to observe reported violations, with an emphasis on people using travel trailers as permanent residences.

The county has sent letters on the travel trailers to the property owners

See VIOLATIONS, 4A

## SOMETHING NEW



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This lovely flower painting was created by artist Leanne Clayton who is a partner in the Side Street Studio in Edenton. See Clayton's story on page 4A.

## Hospital stands by performance

■ 'Consumer Reports' study panned Chowan surgery

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

A recent Consumer Reports study of surgical outcomes at hospitals across the country cast Vidant Chowan Hospital in an unfavorable light — but hospital officials say the report distorts the reality of surgery at the hospital.

The study examined inpatient surgery for Medicare patients at hospitals nationwide. The focus of the study was how likely patients were to die after surgery or to remain in the hospital longer than expected following surgery.

Hospitals were ranked in five categories, and Vidant Chowan Hospital was found to be in the worst of the five categories. Vidant Medical Center in Greenville also was placed in that bottom tier.

Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City was in the middle category, as were Duke University Medical Center and the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

Vidant Chowan Hospital spokeswoman Megan Booth-Mills noted the mediocre ranking of the Duke and Mayo hospitals.

"We were disappointed when we saw the results and believe it was not an accurate portrayal of the care that Vidant Chowan Hospital provides," Booth-Mills said in a recent interview.

Cindy Coker, Vidant Chowan's vice president for

See HOSPITAL, 2A

## Candidates offer thoughts on crime response, prevention

From staff reports

This is the first of a series of "Question of the Week" items the Chowan Herald is running in advance of the Nov. 5 Municipal Election. The purpose of this series is to provide Town Council candidates an opportunity to address a number of important issues. In addition, the newspaper also will be interviewing candidates for profile stories in each council race.

One-stop voting begins Oct. 17 and ends at 1 p.m. on Nov. 2.

Registration to vote in the Nov. 5 election will close at 5 p.m. on Oct. 11.

There are three council seats on the Nov. 5 ballot in Edenton.

LoriAnn Curtin and Elton Bond Jr. are vying for 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 Jr. 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.

And Bob Quinn is seeking reelection to the at-large seat on the council.

Quinn is finishing his first elected four-year term.

See QUESTIONS, 2A



BOB QUINN  
AT-LARGE SEAT  
INCUMBENT

Be creative, reach out to organizations, churches, encourage participation in mentoring those acting out in unlawful ways. Encourage our school system to incorporate citizenship, community pride. Develop a plan to encourage neighborhoods to be self-correcting. Encourage citizens to be aware and report — Call 911, actively support the fight on crime.

Review ordinances: noise, littering, curfew, loitering. If necessary, make them more stringent and make certain our police have the required means to enforce them.

Intensify initiative to remove derelict buildings; enforce Minimum Housing Standards and Demolition by Neglect.

(Regarding whether more police should be hired), our town manager and police chief will make that evaluation. If more police are required, we will first seek funding from budget items, but if that is insufficient, our town would face required tax increases to keep our town safe. Our #1 Vision Statement is to be a Crime-Free Community. We have the responsibility to do all in our power to meet that vision.



NORMA SIMPSON  
3RD WARD SEAT  
INCUMBENT

Reducing crime is going to take help from the citizens. One program I think we need to really push is the public information campaign the council reviewed at the last meeting, the 'If you see something, say something' campaign. We need the citizens' help because, as Councilman Stallings said, we can't put a police officer on every corner. I am hearing from citizens that they want to help make things better. We need to encourage citizens to call the police when they see something suspicious or see or hear a disturbance. I also like the 'citizens on patrol' concept too, extra set of eyes helping the police. I think we should definitely pursue this.

Regarding delinquency, I assume you mean juvenile, and this problem worries me to no end. We have so many good young people, but unless they have a strong home life, the chances for delinquency skyrocket. We need to identify programs that will teach young people at a very early age and is reinforced as they grow up, good 'public' manners — how to behave in public. We can't put it all on the schools — I have asked (Town Manager) Anne Marie (Knighton) to see if there are programs that other communities might have that could help us. Regarding the need for more police, it may be that we need more officers. We are going to evaluate the results of the Peace and Quiet Plan of Action in October and make a decision then.



ROSCOE POOLE JR.  
3RD WARD SEAT

I believe the town has already taken steps to curb crime and delinquency, and have seen police posted in suspected crime areas, walking and riding bicycles. All implementations to make things (life) better in Edenton is a process that takes time and evaluation to see if it is the right thing to do.

I do now know the full status of the police department. I can only assume that it is staffed according to the population and need. But I can say, if the town is to grow, have more tourist attractions and less crime, it has to plan and prepare to train and increase our police force.

(Regarding whether the town should hire more police officers), I have learned that if you purchase something cheap, you get what you pay for. Though taxes may be the main source that keeps a town, city, state and government running, I believe when Edenton needs more police officers, they will have funds in place.



LORIANN CURTIN  
4TH WARD SEAT

In the past, police officers knew the people in their community. They knew their names, their children's names and a little more than generalities of neighborhoods they patrolled. From information I have seen and heard, this approach is making its way back into our police force.

I don't think we need additional police, but rather to make better use of the ones we have, perhaps by stepping up the foot/bicycle patrols in the residential neighborhoods as well as the business area. Operation 'Peace and Quiet' will have to be given a chance to work. I'm glad the police are being more diligent and active. It's unfortunate that it took an uprising from one specific neighborhood to garner the attention other neighborhoods have long been begging for.

Education of values and respect, as well as the knowledge of action and repercussion are important. The police department cannot do it alone. Solving this problem will take our entire community for lasting effective change. Neighbors need to get involved and speak up when they see something.



ELTON L. BOND JR.  
4TH WARD SEAT

I believe that the town council and the police department are doing a good job. Additional police officers are needed to make sure that the entire town is protected. We need to explore all our options and resources to find funding for additional officers.

In regards to delinquency, we must get parents involved to supervise their children. Parents must be held accountable for their children's actions. Enforcing curfew is a must. More educational activities are needed to involve the young kids after school to occupy their time. Also there should be more recreational activities. I feel that if we plan and implement activities for our youth to do this will be a step in the right direction to giving them positive things to do.

Edenton is a very beautiful town filled with a lot of good people. As I stated earlier, we do need more police coverage, not only to patrol the hot spots in our town but to give the entire town the police protection needed. People in every neighborhood need to be able to feel safe and protected.

