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Teen pilot to help with flights for youth — 1B

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Wednesday, October 16, 2013

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## Releasing the reins: Smith announces retirement

CHOWAN HERALD FILE PHOTO  
 Patrica White of the Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church family congratulates Dr. Allan Smith, the first-ever recipient of the community leadership award from the congregation, for his work as superintendent of the Edenton-Chowan Schools. Smith announced Oct. 7 that he plans to retire at the end of the current school year.



BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff Writer

About three months ago the idea of retiring first crossed Allan Smith's mind. But it wasn't something he dwelled on. On the first weekend in October — a weekend filled with Peanut Festival activities — he told his wife over a cup of morning coffee that he had decided to step down from the job he had held for the past 15 years as superintendent of the Edenton-Chowan school system. "I just knew that it was

time," Smith said, remembering.

That Monday night, Oct. 7, during the regular monthly meeting of the school board, Smith made it official. He shared with the board a letter explaining his intention to retire June 30, 2014 at the end of the current school year. "After forty years as a classroom teacher and school administrator it is time I devote myself more fully to my wife and family who have sacrificed much during my professional career," Smith wrote in the

letter. In the letter, Smith expressed appreciation for the opportunity to have served as superintendent for more than a decade, and to the members of the board for their support. "The past fifteen years have been personally and professionally fulfilling," Smith wrote concerning the time he has spent leading the local school system. "The friendships and professional relationships forged during this time will

See SMITH, 2A

## Spruill named B&G Club director

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff Writer

Ahoskie native Elizabeth Spruill has been named the new executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Edenton/Chowan.

Prior to accepting her new position, Spruill worked for six years as director of the Community of Juvenile Services in Dare County. She replaces Stephenie McLean, who left at the end of September to accept a new position in Durham.

Spruill holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from UNC-Chapel Hill and is working to obtain a master's degree in social work from East Carolina University.

Meader Harriss, who chairs the club's board of directors, said he was very happy to welcome Spruill to the top job at the club.

"Needless to say, we are very excited about her and about what she can bring to the job," Harriss said.

Harriss cited in particular her work in securing grants in Dare County and the fact that she has ties to the area and already lives in Edenton were viewed as a plus. He said that in the past directors hired from outside the area had only stayed an average of two and a half years. That's something the board wants to see change, he said.

"Obviously, we need to keep (directors) longer," Harriss said. "So we were looking for someone from the area, someone who wants to stay."

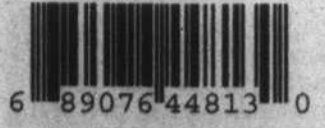
Spruill, who has been living in Edenton with her two sons, Brooks, 10, and Charlie, 8, and commuting to the Outer Banks for work for the past year, said she loves the community and has a passion for working with young people and looked forward to leading the club.

"I love working with



SPRUILL

See SPRUILL, 3A



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## Edenton electric customers can 'round up' to assist others

From staff reports

The Town of Edenton last week announced a new round-up program for utility bills as part of its annual Public Power Week observance.

The new program was announced Oct. 11 during the Customer Appreciation Day event at Town Hall.

Although the town has already offered a program in which customers could donate funds to benefit other customers in need of assistance with their utility bills, the new program is intended to make the process more convenient by allowing customers to round their bill up to the nearest dollar for the benefit of the assistance fund.

The assistance is administered through Edenton Emergency Aid.

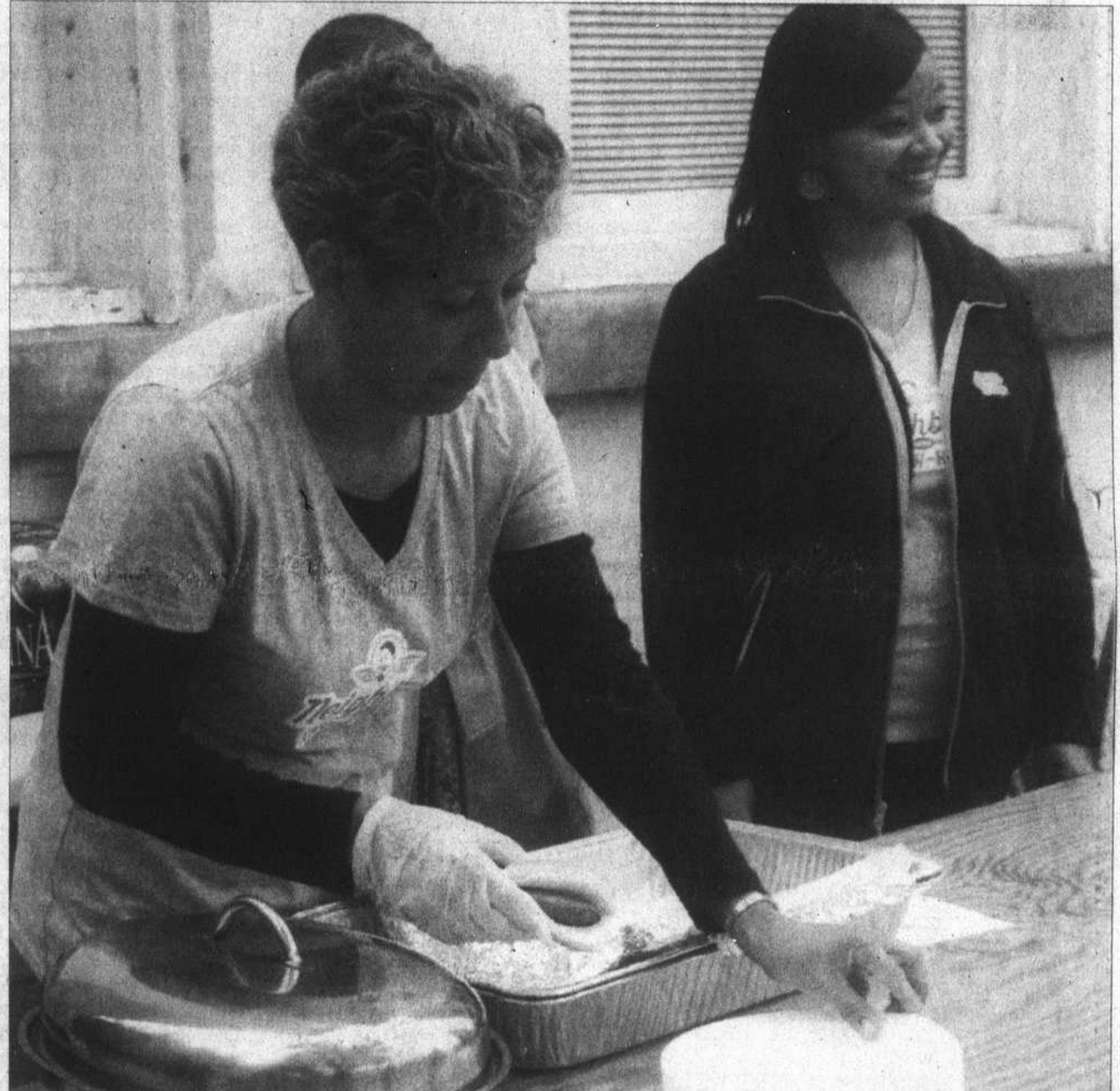
Customers may enroll in the round-up program online at [www.townofedenton.com](http://www.townofedenton.com) or in person at the town's billing and collections office.

The customer appreciation event featured hot dogs and other refreshments served by electric department employees for the town's electric customers. The event was held between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Customers were able to register for door prizes, including an energy kit containing high-efficiency compact fluorescent light bulbs and a high-efficiency shower head.

The grand prize was 1,000 free kilowatts, which has a dollar value of roughly \$139.

Customers also had an opportunity to sign up for



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Edenton Electric Department employees Ophelia Beatty (left) and Melissa Oliver serve hot dogs and chat with customers during the Public Power Week customer appreciation event Friday.

free energy audits. The customer appreciation event was part of Public Power Week, which this year bore the theme of 'Neighbors With Know-How.'

Officials with the town's electric department said the town has a small budget set aside for educational and promotional events such as last week's Customer Appreciation Day.

The town also gets support for such events from Electricities through its participation in the N.C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency. About 200 people took advantage of the free re-

freshments. The event also included a table with information about energy conservation and various programs and services available through the electric department.

## Early voting starts Thursday in council contests

From staff reports

Early voting begins tomorrow in the Edenton Town Council elections.

One-stop absentee voting begins Oct. 17 and continues Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. through Nov. 1 at the Chowan County Elections Office. The office is located in Suite D of the Agricultural Extension Building at 730 N. Granville St.

One-stop absentee voting also will be held on Nov. 2 — the final Saturday before the Nov. 5 election — from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

At-large Councilman Bob Quinn is running unopposed.

In the 3rd Ward, incumbent Councilwoman Norma Simpson faces a challenge from the Rev. Roscoe Poole.

The 4th Ward has no incumbent, since veteran Councilman Willis Privott is stepping down



CURTIN

SIMPSON

BOND

QUINN

POOLE

at the end of the current term. Vying for the 4th Ward seat are LoriAnn Curtin, who ran as a write-in candidate in 2009, and first-time candidate Elton Bond Jr.

The 1st Ward and 2nd Ward council seats and the mayor are not on the ballot in this election.

The last day to request absentee ballots in writing is Oct. 29. Mailed absentee ballots

no later than three days after the election. The deadline to request absentee ballots for sickness or disability is 5 p.m. on [Nov. 4?]

On Election Day, the polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The polling places open on Election Day will be East Edenton Precinct and West Edenton Precinct.

must be received in the county elections office by 5 p.m. on Nov. 4. Or, if postmarked by the day of the election, the absentee ballot must be received

Tea Party Trunk Show featuring Soap Designer, Candy Roth  
 BARKER HOUSE - OCT. 25th & 26th, 10 am - 4 pm