

Sheriff offers tips for safe shopping during holiday season

From staff reports
 "The holiday season is right around the corner and shoppers are crowding malls and discount stores", said Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin.
 According to Goodwin, "This time of year attracts more shopping-related criminal activity because of the larger crowds and

the extended store hours. These factors and the usual distraction of shopping creates a more favorable environment for petty thieves and other offenders."
 Goodwin reminds all Chowan County residents to follow these safety tips:
 • A single shopper is the best target for theft. Always shop with a friend or relative.

• Shop during daylight hours. If you shop at night, park your vehicle in a well-lit area.
 • Pay careful attention to your surroundings and avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps. When returning to your vehicle, check around it and in the back

seat. Be aware of strangers approaching you for any reason.
 • Report suspicious activity.
 "During this time of year, busy holiday shoppers become careless and vulnerable to other crimes as well," Goodwin said. "Credit card fraud is on the rise. However, taking a few preventive measures can help."

Goodwin offered these tips for avoiding credit card fraud:
 • Keep a close watch on your credit card every time you use it, and make sure you get it back as quickly as possible.
 • Never write your PIN number on your credit card.
 • Shred anything with your credit card number written on it.

In light of these problems, Goodwin warns shoppers to be careful so that they don't become the victim of criminal activity.
 "Unfortunately, when shopping, people have a tendency to let their guard down," Goodwin said. "However, paying attention and taking precautions can help eliminate their chances of being victimized."

Officials: Watch out for scammers

From staff reports
 Local officials are urging residents to be vigilant in light of an apparent home repair scam.

Late Monday, Edenton town officials were alerted about an apparent scam. The Public Works Department got a call indicating that someone representing himself as a contractor for the town

Town officials reported that an employee of the Joe Lee Co. had contacted public works to report that one of their customers had a disturbing encounter in which a heavy-set man with a beard who looked like Santa Claus and was driving a white car knocked on her door, saying he was a contractor working for the town with a company called WaterWorks.

There is no contractor working for the town, according to town staff. The bogus contractor told the woman her water meter was spinning and said that meant she probably has a water leak. The man said he was going to crawl under the house and check it out.

When the woman told the man she would call her plumber, the man said

"OK," got in the car, with another guy and drove off, according to town staff.

Public Works personnel went to the customer's house and determined there her water meter was not spinning and there was no reason to believe there was a water leak.

Town officials said they appreciated the customer telling the stranger she would call her plumber and also appreciated Joe Lee Co. personnel for alerting the Public Works Department. Police Chief Jay Fortenberry offered the following tips for avoiding home repair scams:

• Do not accept unsolicited offers for home repairs.
 • Ask for and check references before allowing repairs.
 • Always get a second quote for repairs.

• Never pay "up front" before repairs are complete and beware of those who ask for cash.

• Check with the county building inspector or town officials for proper license or references.

• If in doubt, report suspicious activity to law enforcement. Legitimate home repair business owners will appreciate your concern.

SANTA GREETING



Elizabeth "Lizzy" Daniels greets Santa following the town's tree lighting ceremony Dec. 6.

PHOTO COURTESY WAYNE WOODBURY

CRIMEWATCH

EDENTON POLICE

ARRESTS
 ■ Dec. 10 — Marcus Antonio Logan, 26, of Happy Home Road, was arrested for felony possession with intent to sell or distribute heroin and felony sale or delivery of heroin.
 ■ Dec. 10 — Jon Steven Drennan Jr., 40, of North Broad Street, was arrested on two counts of failure to appear on probation violations.
 ■ Dec. 9 — Michael Clayton Rayner, 32, of Dicks Street, was arrested for failure to appear.

INCIDENTS
 ■ Dec. 18 — Larceny on East Church Street.
 ■ Dec. 11 — Credit card fraud on Cabarrus Street.
 ■ Dec. 10 — Breaking and entering, and larceny, on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.
 ■ Dec. 10 — Cruelty to animals on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.
 ■ Dec. 9 — Larceny on East Queen Street.
 ■ Dec. 8 — Breaking

and entering on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.

■ Dec. 6 — Breaking and entering, and larceny, on East Gale Street.

CHOWAN SHERIFF

ARRESTS
 ■ Dec. 1 — Barry Mundie Eure, 19, of Hickory Fork Road, was arrested for failure to appear.
 ■ Nov. 25 — James Douglas Elliott III, 28, of Mexico Road, was arrested for assault on a female.
 ■ Nov. 20 — Lyndsay Florence Muth, 24, of White Oak Drive, was charged with misdemeanor larceny and possession of stolen goods.

INCIDENTS
 ■ Dec. 7 — Misdemeanor larceny at the intersection of Beech Fork and Evans-Bass Road.
 ■ Nov. 30 — Felony larceny on Huron Trail.
 ■ Nov. 25 — Breaking and entering, and larceny, on Mexico Road.
 ■ Nov. 20 — Breaking and entering, and felony larceny, on Holly Grove Road.

State University
 A&T State University
NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Empowering People · Providing Solutions

Cooperative extension planning for the future

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

Some 150 people packed a meeting room at the Vernon James Extension Center Wednesday night to talk about the future of the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service in the light of reduced funding and other changes.

Among the crowd were strong contingents from Pasquotank, Currituck, Chowan and Perquimans counties.

During the meeting, Chowan County Commissioner Jeff Smith suggested it's important to maintain agricultural agents in counties where agriculture is a vital industry. He said it might not be as necessary in more urban areas.

Smith, who is a farmer, was a spokesman for one of the working groups that gathered around tables during the listening session to talk over ideas for the future.

Chowan County Commissioner John Mitchener also attended the meeting, and suggested during discussion at one of the tables that extension's work with youth and families is another important part of what cooperative extension offers the community.

Joe Zublena, state extension director, told the group that the cooperative extension service is significantly understaffed for the current plan.

There has been a \$20 million a year permanent budget loss since 2000, including a \$13.7 million reduction during the past four years, Zublena said.

The current budget is \$52 million, consisting of \$39 million in state funding, \$11 million in federal funding and roughly \$2 million from other sources.

Wednesday's meeting was the 12th and final in a series of "listening sessions" that were held across the state. Zublena said the extension service will take the best ideas from across the state and use them to develop a workable model.

"We are looking for your guidance for how we can reinvent ourselves for the next 100 years," Zublena said.

The change may be hard to digest at first, he said — but he encouraged everyone to give it a chance.

Among the ideas and

suggestions that were presented by farmers, county officials and others during the listening session:

• Using contract employees and consultants to save money;

• Making effective use of user-friendly technology;

• Increasing volunteer responsibility;

• Having directors serve multiple counties.

Zublena said cooperative extension will develop the new action plan by May 2014.

Those who didn't attend the listening session can weigh in online at www.ces.ncsu.edu/vision-initiative.

Zublena said since 2000, 90 county positions have been permanently lost, he said.

All this is forcing the extension service to take a new look at the way it is structured, according to Zublena.

"We were set up for a different model with much larger financing," Zublena said.

The workforce reduction has not been strategic, Zublena said. Rather, he explained, it has been based on retirements and resignations so that no one would have to be laid off.

Using a horticultural metaphor that was readily understood by many in the room, Zublena pointed out that pruning an apple tree enables it to produce abundant apples. Without pruning, the tree might grow large but not yield a healthy crop of fruit, he said.

The same thing is happening with the cooperative extension service, according to Zublena. The service needs to be pruned in the right way to enhance its effectiveness, he said.

"We need to find out what our apples are," Zublena said, explaining that will consist of identifying what is most important.

Zublena said this current planning process is about figuring out what programs are needed most; strengthening the impact of the extension service; creating a financial buffer to provide flexibility so that services stay aligned with priorities; and developing staffing models that align with the financial reality while providing outstanding service and a better quality of life for employees.

FINANCIAL STRESS?

Bankruptcy can help you manage and solve your financial problems.

Call

Allen C. Brown Attorney

Over 2,500 clients helped with 28 years of experience
 1-800-752-0952 #252-752-0753

A Debt Relief Agency helping people eliminate debt through bankruptcy

SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PUBLIC NOTICE

Persons interested in Rental Assistance may apply as listed below:
CHOWAN COUNTY

Date: Tues, January 7th, 2014 Time: 9:30 am until 2:00 pm
 Location: Economic Improvement Council 712 Virginia Rd, Edenton NC

Have the following with you: Birth Certificates, Social Security Cards, ID, & Income

Clear criminal record for past 5 year period required no felonies, violent crimes, drug crimes
 Assistance provided only to US Citizens or persons with Eligible Immigration Status

Waiting List Hotline Information: 252-482-4458 ext. 108
 Questions: 252-482-4458 ext. 111
 EEC website: www.eicca.org

She is a morning person only on December 25

All because of how you love her.

Vaughan's

All because of how you love her.

Vaughan's

311 south broad street
 edenton, north carolina
 252-482-3525

PAPA'S COUNTRY MEAT MARKET

OPEN
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
10:00am to 6:00pm
252-482-1018
1018 N. BROAD STREET, EDENTON

CHOWAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL

 Edenton, N.C.
 RUSTON HOWELL DVM KELLEY DURUMAN DVM CHRISTIAN FORD DVM
Small Animal Medicine & Surgery
BOARDING AVAILABLE
Appointment Preferred 252-482-4113
Hours: Mon-Fri. 8:00 - 5:30 • Sat. 8:00 - 12:00 noon
1515 PARADISE ROAD, EDENTON
 Visit our website for specials
www.chowananimalhospital.com

CHOWAN HERALD
 (USPS 106-380) Vol. 80, No. 51
 Published Every Wednesday
 Cooke Communications North Carolina, LLC
 Entered as a second-class matter August 30, 1934 at the Post Office of Edenton, North Carolina, under Act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Edenton/Tyner.....\$25.64 | Anywhere else in NC.....\$43.61 |
| Belvidere/Hobbsville...\$41.70 | Outside North Carolina.....45.81 |

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
 The Chowan Herald • P.O. Box 207 • Edenton, NC 27932
 Telephone: (252) 482-2623 Fax: (252) 482-4410
chowanherald@ncweeklies.com