

Woman's club raffle features work by noted artist — 1B 50¢

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## E-C Partnership extends helping hand to Walmart

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Local economic development officials are prepared to offer a helping hand to Walmart — especially in the form of information and analysis — as the retail giant mulls a possible store location in Chowan County.

Thursday, the Edenton-Chowan Partnership is offering its services to Walmart should the company wish to take advantage of work the partnership could do on its behalf.

Those services could include, but would not necessarily be limited to, providing information about demographics and about the local permitting processes.

Frank Miglorie, executive director of the Partnership, said the board's directive regarding Walmart grew out of a larger discussion about building the overall retail business in Edenton and Chowan County. That includes recruiting new stores and food establishments to the community, he said.

"What they really want us to do is to grow the retail

in this community so that we can draw people to this county for shopping," Miglorie said. The Partnership Board met last Thursday.

A Wal Mart spokesman earlier this year confirmed that the company was considering Edenton as a future store location. Things have been mostly quiet on that front since then.

The Partnership's strategy

is to grow retail in the community in a way that will foster the development of stores both downtown and in non-downtown locations such as existing plazas and new parcels on the outskirts of town.

Miglorie said it is not the Partnership's role to pick and choose among potential retailers. The town has a significant permitting process

and "that is a kind of vetting process," he said.

The group believes it needs to focus more attention on attracting more retail establishments to town, according to Miglorie.

That effort needs to include attracting more food establishments to town to serve the needs of tourists

See WALMART, 4A

## Local group mulls county teacherage

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The school board unanimously passed a motion at its June 2 meeting to endorse a plan that could lead to the establishment of a teacherage in Chowan County by the Edenton-Chowan Education Foundation.

A teacherage is a residence provided for teachers at an affordable cost. But beyond that, Superintendent Allan Smith said, the purpose of a teacherage is to aid in the recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers.

"The availability of affordable housing is the motivating force behind this initiative," he said.

Smith said he was pleased that the board expressed support for the foundation's interest in helping teachers secure affordable housing in the community through a program sponsored by the State Employees Credit Union Foundation.

"This is an exciting possibility, one that is greatly needed by our young teachers who are struggling to establish themselves in our community," Smith said. "Providing quality housing at an affordable cost will greatly assist young teachers in making the transition from college to a full-time career as a professional educator."

Joy Denton, president of the foundation, confirmed their interest in exploring the feasibility of creating a local teacherage, but emphasized that the plan is in its infancy at this point.

"We are just looking at the options right now," she said.

Smith said he was hopeful the details could be worked out because of the opportunity for success it would offer through community partnerships.

"The possibility of a teacherage would truly be a com-

See TEACHERAGE 2A

## Farmer's Foods store closing

Store's closing a result of chain going out of business

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

The Farmer's Foods store in Edenton is closing.

Allen Johnson, deli-bakery and produce director for the Chase City, Va.-based grocery chain, explained Monday that the company is going out of business due to its owner's retirement.

Johnson was in Edenton Tuesday morning to break the news to the store's 35 or so employees. He said the impact on the employees is the most difficult part of closing the store.

"Our employees are top-notch people," Johnson said.

Johnson said the company realizes that the store's closing will be a blow to the

community to some degree, both for shoppers and for employees.

Farmer's Foods wanted to have another store ready to come in behind it before closing the location, particularly so that the employees could keep their jobs, Johnson said.

Johnson explained that Farmer's Foods had tried to sell the Edenton store and had talked to chains such as Piggly Wiggly and Farm Fresh about taking over the operation, but to no avail.

"That didn't pan out so, we were left with no choice but to close it," Johnson said.

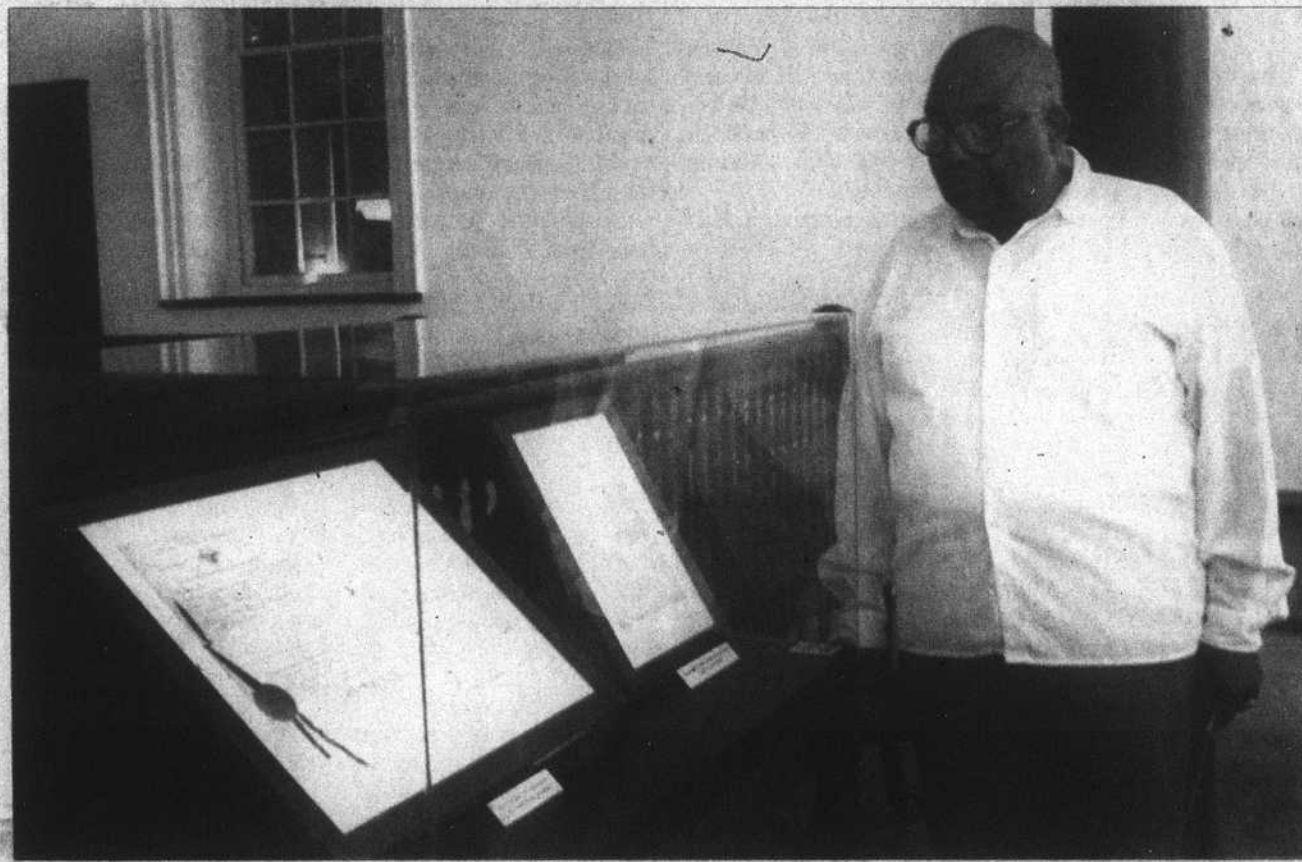
The store will not close immediately.

Instead, it will remain open for a period as the inventory is sold down. The store will try to liquidate all of its inventory, according to Johnson.

The store will close as soon as it sells off its inventory and cleans everything from top to bottom, Johnson said. Farmer's Foods will leave the store

See CLOSING, 2A

## 13TH AMENDMENT VISITS EDENTON



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Dr. Ben Speller looks at North Carolina's copy of the 13th Amendment at the 1767 Chowan Courthouse. More than 200 people visited the historic site to read the words of the document abolishing slavery in the United States and examine related exhibits. See story, additional photos, page 1B.

## Expanded facility celebrated

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Vidant Chowan Hospital held a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house last Friday to celebrate the new Outpatient Services Center, which is slated to open on Monday.

Vidant Community Hospitals President Roger Robertson pointed out the new outpatient clinic is three times the size of the previous facility, offers separate waiting areas, and includes an expanded chemotherapy area that is "absolutely gorgeous, with lots of natural light."

Patients have better health outcomes when they don't have to travel for treatment, Robertson said.

See HOSPITAL, 2A



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Snipping the ribbon at the new Outpatient Services Center are (l-r) Edenton Mayor Roland Vaughan; Chowan County Commissioner John Mithchener; Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton, who chairs the hospital's Directors Council; Dr. William "Skip" Hope, the hospital's chief of staff; the Rev. Thomas Biggs, the hospital's lead chaplain; Cindy Coker, vice president for patient care; Kristy Worrell with rehabilitation services; Brian White, director of clinical support services; Dana Byrum, clinical nurse manager; Vidant Chowan Hospital President Jeffrey Sackrisson; Vidant Community Hospitals President Roger Robertson; Ginny Waff, director of the Vidant Chowan Hospital Foundation; and Bill Schultz, chairman of the Vidant Chowan Hospital Foundation.

## Community raising \$200K for Boys & Girls Club

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

About 100 people attending a Be Great Breakfast on Thursday morning benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Edenton/Chowan County found out firsthand why their presence meant so much.

The breakfast — held at the Nothin' Fancy Café & Market — was part of a \$200,000 fundraising effort begun in January to carry on the work of the club and allow it to continue to grow. To date, the club has raised in excess of \$175,000. Currently, 60-plus children are

members.

Meader Harriss, board chair for the club, offered some thoughts about the club's success over the past 10 years and its efforts to continue to empower the lives of children so that they can grow into successful adults.

Two speakers with very different life stories but a shared belief in what the club can do to impact the lives of children also addressed the group.

Greenville attorney Steve Stephenson III, of Ward and Smith, P.A., talked about

See BOYS & GIRLS, 2A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Boys & Girls Club Director Elizabeth Spruill (third from left) accepts a \$1,000 check from Susan Nolton (right) presented on behalf of the Edenton Woman's Club.



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**Who:** Marcus Glenn, renowned African-American artist who did scenery and logo for 2014 Grammy Awards show.  
**What:** donated collage "Blowing in the Wind-Red" for raffle by EWC and CAC. Description: 2006 15"x 20" Mixed media on paper with hand embellishment and relief collage. Signed lower right and annotated. From the numbered edition of 395 (45 European artist's proofs, 45 artist's proofs, 45 hors commerce proofs, 10 printer's proofs, and 3 bon a tirer proof impressions also exist).  
**When and Where:** Raffle at June 12, CAC at 4 pm. Tickets available \$5 each or 3 for \$10 at CAC or Jovan Dress Shop until actual drawing.  
**Why:** Proceeds to benefit Edenton Woman's Club scholarship fund for local students and CAC.