



INSIDE TODAY
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Food Lion signs lease on ex-Farmer's Foods space

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Food Lion has signed a lease to occupy the former Farmer's Foods site at the Chowan Crossing shopping center and plans to operate a store at that site, company officials confirmed last week.

Christy Phillips-Brown,

a spokeswoman for Food Lion parent company Delhaize America, confirmed that Food Lion had signed a lease this week on the Chowan Crossing site.

Phillips-Brown stressed that the new location would offer the same low prices that Food Lion customers have come to expect.

One of the reasons for

relocating to the former Farmer's Foods site is that the location is easier for customers to get in and out of, according to Phillips-Brown.

"The new location will not open for at least another year since we are still early in the process," Phillips-Brown added. "Food Lion looks forward to serving

our longstanding and loyal customers at this new location, which will offer a new store with the same low prices our customers have come to expect from Food Lion. In addition, we look forward to being a strong community partner and giving back to our local food pantries in Edenton and the surrounding area."

Phillips-Brown said the terms of the lease at the existing site are confidential, so she could not indicate how much time Food Lion might be expected to remain at the Edenton Village location.

Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said the timetable for moving into the Virginia Road site

might be clearer following an upcoming visit from architects who will be visiting the site to plan the necessary renovations.

"I think we'll know more in the next couple of weeks," Knighton said.

Terry Reeves, the owner of the Chowan Crossing

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AEMC awards youth grants

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Chowan County Sheriff's Office Kids and Cops program and the Chowan Sisterhood program at Chowan Middle School have each received a \$3,000 grant from Albemarle EMC.

Chris Powell, director of public relations for the electric co-op, visited the middle school on Jan. 8 to present a combined check for \$6,000 to Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin, school officials and students. Also attending were several deputies, including Deputy Ricky Winebarger, who played a key role in developing the Kids and Cops program that was the brainchild of Goodwin.

Goodwin said that the donated funds would be used to support and expand the program's offerings.

"We are purchasing a Pinewood Derby race track that will be used to hold community events and give all youth the opportunity to participate in this activity," Winebarger explained. "We will also purchase other needed camping gear."

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■ 'Sisterhood' formed at middle school to mentor girls - 1B

Goodwin noted that this was the second year the program had received a grant from Albemarle EMC. Last year, the program received \$5,000, he said.

The sheriff said that the program created in 2012 has grown from a starting group of 30-35 students to a record of reaching about 150 students.

Goodwin said that the kids and cops enjoy participating in a variety of activities together that include the Police Officers' Physical Abilities Test, basketball, fishing, camping, hiking, canoeing, campfires, parades, mentoring and more.

The Chowan Sisterhood group pairs professional businesswomen in the community with girls attending Chowan Middle School in a program focused on mentoring.



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

The Judah Arts Youth Ensemble, under the direction of Brandon Mayo, performs during the early moments of an annual celebration honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Swain Auditorium, Monday, which was Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Guests hear rousing message on responsibility

■ Service award presented to Baker of the Reconciliation Group

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Rev. W.T. Davis preached a message of personal and familial responsibility at Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance at Swain Auditorium, challenging his fellow blacks to be good stewards of their own destiny.

Davis, an Edenton native who practices law in Elizabeth City and is pastor of New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Camden, said his message to the black community was "we can no longer afford the luxury of blaming our shortcomings on other people."

Meanwhile, white people in the audience heard a similar challenge to face their negative attitudes and other shortcomings from two white women on the program. Jo Baker, a leader of the Reconciliation Group in the community, in remarks after receiving the Community Service Award encouraged her fellow whites to examine attitudes that tend to exclude blacks from social activities and other opportunities.

And Francis Inglis made a stark observation: "Jim Crow laws have been repealed but Jim Crow attitudes have not disappeared."



PHOTO COURTESY JOHN COLLINS

The Rev. W.T. Davis, an Elizabeth City attorney and pastor at New Shiloh Missionary Baptist in Camden, speaks at the annual Martin Luther King Day observance, Monday.

Davis said it was a privilege to speak at an event honoring the legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., a man who "believed enough in what he was doing to give his life for it."

Noting that President Obama was slated to give the annual State of the Union address Tuesday night, Davis said his own intention was to do something similar in addressing the state of the black community.

He began by pointing to dire so-



PHOTO COURTESY JOHN COLLINS

Jo Baker (left) is presented the Community Service Award by Angela Taylor Welch during Monday's Martin Luther King Day observance.

cial and economic trends:

■ Blacks are 12 percent of the population nationwide but represent 44 percent of the prison population.

■ There are more young black males in prison than going to college.

■ Home ownership rates and life expectancy among blacks lag behind the figures for whites.

■ There are stark disparities in income and employment between blacks and whites.

■ Many black children face peer pressure against doing well academically.

■ Black businesses often fail for lack of support from the black community.

See MLK DAY, 2A

Town ranked third for retirement destination

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

A new online study conducted by New York-based financial technology company SmartAsset has ranked Edenton third among the top 10 best places to retire in North Carolina.

Hendersonville and Morehead City came in first and second.

According to an email from Asees Singh, spokesman for SmartAsset, the study was

focused on four factors: taxes (both income and sales tax); the number of doctors' offices; and opportunities for recreation and a social life.

SmartAsset offers interactive, online advice to help people make the best decisions on personal financial decisions in such areas as home buying, mortgage refinancing, retirement and life insurance purchase, according to its website.

See RETIREMENT, 4A

Officials mull reelection bids in 2015 election

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Mayor Roland Vaughan and Town Councilman Steve Biggs are still weighing their options in this year's municipal election, but Councilmen Jimmy Stallings and Sambo Dixon say they plan to seek reelection in the fall.

The filing period for Edenton's municipal election will open in July.

Filing opens July 6 and ends July 17, according to Rebecca Lowe, director of the Chowan County Board of Elections.

Vaughan said he has begun giving serious thought to whether to seek another

term in office.

"I'm considering it but am not yet ready to make my decision," he said. "I am weighing the opportunity to file again very carefully."

Biggs, who holds one of two at-large seats on the council, said he too is undecided to announce what his intentions might be.

"I plan to make an announcement at a later date," Biggs said in an email.

First and Third Ward council members Stallings and Dixon both said they intend to seek re-election.

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