

CHOWAN HERALD



Anthony Brownridge (top) stays undefeated, wins conference championship at 220 pounds — 7A

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Partnership seeks second grocery store

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Edenton Chowan Partnership Executive Director Frank Miglorie pledged during Monday night's town council work session that the nonprofit would leave no stone unturned in trying to resolve the issue of only having one grocery store to serve the people of Chowan County.

Miglorie said that one of the strongest options for the community at this point was to identify a site where a freestanding grocery store built apart from either of the town's existing shopping centers could be constructed, and then work to attract another grocery chain to open there.

"We need to be proactive," he said. "It's an important outcome

we want to achieve."

That shouldn't be too difficult, Miglorie said, since before Food Lion inked a deal to occupy the former Farmer's Foods store at Chowan Crossing Shopping Center, other chains had expressed interest in locating there.

"This (building a freestanding store) is something we do have control over," Miglorie told the council. "We're trying to respond to (the situation) in ways that are available to us."

The situation to which Miglorie referred is that while Food Lion has a contract to move to Chowan Crossing, it will continue to remain at its current location at Edenton Village Shopping Center until the new location is ready for

See SECOND STORE, 2A



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

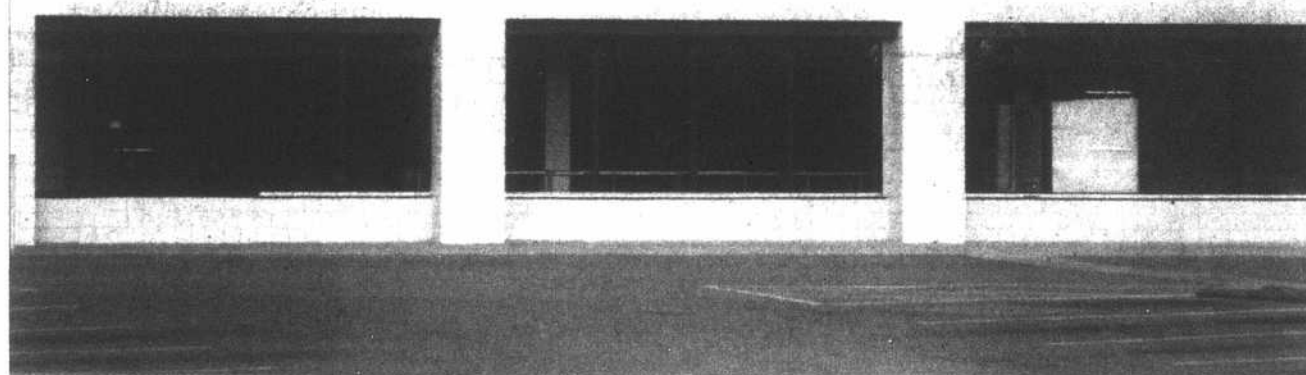
Frank Miglorie, executive director of the Edenton Chowan Partnership, discusses the issue of retail "leakage" in the grocery industry - money local residents spend on groceries at stores outside their county - at an Edenton Town Council meeting Monday.

Residents call for 'transparency' from Food Lion

STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

This building in Edenton's Chowan Crossing Shopping Center, which previously housed the Farmer's Foods grocery store, has been leased by Food Lion. The company says it plans to relocate its existing Edenton store to this site, near exit 227 off U.S. Highway 17.

Farmer's FOODS



BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

In a community known for an 18-century tea boycott by 51 women, more than 375 people have joined a social media movement calling for a boycott of the Edenton Food Lion.

Local residents Lisa Baker and Tommy White have worked together in setting up the page on Facebook.

Their specific proposal is that local residents not shop at Food Lion on Wednesdays.

Some shoppers have vowed to take their business elsewhere, altogether.

The two are troubled by the company's reluctance to provide information about its plans for the current store location at Edenton Village shopping center after it relocates across town to the Chowan Crossing space formerly occupied by Farmer's Foods.

In particular, they are disturbed by the possibility that

Food Lion might continue to control the Edenton Village site in an attempt to keep a competitor from opening a store there.

Food Lion spokeswoman Christy Phillips-Brown, asked about the public's expressions of frustration and about the company's future plans for the Edenton Village site, issued the following statement:

"We remain in discussion with town officials about Food Lion in the Edenton, N.C., community and are committed to continuing this dialogue as we work to provide great service at our current store, make plans for our new location and better understand the future needs of the Edenton community for the current site we occupy. Given that these discussions have just begun, it's too early to speculate on the outcome of the conversations. We want to assure the community that we are

See RESIDENTS, 2A

Steinburg to chair House Agriculture Committee

BY PETER WILLIAMS
The Perquimans Weekly

Rep. Bob Steinburg (R-Chowan) has been named chairman of the House agriculture committee and a member of six others.

The appointments were made Monday.

The last local lawmaker to head the agriculture committee was Vernon James who served in Raleigh from 1945 to 1949 and then again from 1973 to 1995. James started in agriculture as young boy on his family's farm in Weeksville in Pasquotank County. He died in 2002 at the age of 92.

"This is an appointment I asked for above all others," Steinburg said of the agriculture appointment. "This wasn't just something I got at random."

Steinburg said he hopes to use the position to help the state's farmers, especially those in the northeastern part of the state. His district includes Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Pasquotank, Perquimans, and Tyrrell counties.

"What I am focused on, and have been even as vice chairman, is trying to see if we can get some processing facilities here for all the things that we grow here. As

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STEINBURG

Rep. Bob Steinburg
Chowan (R)

chairman I may be able to have a little bigger say and can help market the area.

"It (the chairmanship) opens doors. I can talk about all the wonderful things about this region. We can grow almost anything

here. If there is a demand for a certain product, we can grow it."

"As chairman I can be a voice for the farmers, for farmers in District I and for farmers across the state. I'd like to meet with them at

least on a quarterly basis."

Steinburg was already scheduled to be in Perquimans County Feb. 6 to tour area schools.

"Perquimans County has always been very kind to me," he said.

Steinburg is serving in his second term, and held the vice chairman's role in his first term.

In addition to agriculture, Steinburg will serve on committees dealing with Commerce and Job Development, Environment, Finance, Judiciary I, Transportation, and Wildlife Resources.

"These committee assign-

ments mean I will be working closely on the issues most important to our area," said Steinburg. "Agriculture is the most important industry in our state, and I am committed to serve as a friend of the farmer. From fighting to restore the Historic Preservation Tax Credit on the Finance Committee to implementing policies that will attract new jobs on the Commerce and Job Development Committee, few committees are as important to the job growth our area needs as these.

"I am especially glad to

See COMMITTEE, 3A

Council holds on housing regs

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Those interested in seeing whether the town will adopt new rules regarding multi-family housing will have to wait a while longer for an answer.

The town council at its Jan. 13 meeting was unable to reach a consensus on



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the plan that would remove "multi-family dwelling" as a permitted use in the R-40, R-20, R-14 and R-10 zoning districts and would prohibit multi-family units of three or more in the town's downtown commercial/historic district.

The issue first came before the council at its Dec. 9, 2014 meeting and was tabled so that more fact-finding and discussion could take place.

Following some heated discussion among council members at the Jan. 13 meeting that was not lead-

ing to a clear-cut consensus on the issue, Mayor Roland Vaughan asked for a motion that the council go back to the town's planning board and share its concerns.

"We clearly need some language of a different type," the mayor said. "What I'm hearing is, we're still not ready (to vote)."

In a memo to town council members prior to the meeting, Town Manager Anne-Marie wrote, "Following up on the proposed text amendment you tabled

See HOUSING, 3A

Jackson proposes academies

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Superintendent Rob Jackson unveiled a proposal Monday that would establish a series of student academies at John A. Holmes High School.

His plan, shared with the school board during its annual retreat, would establish academies in several different curriculum areas starting with a STEM Academy, a Public Safety Academy, a Health Academy and a Public Safety Academy.

"It's really taking what we have and using it in a new way," Jackson explained. "These are areas that would be exciting to young people."

The superintendent said the idea would



JACKSON

meet a number of needs, including a way to halt statistics that show graduation rates are 10 percent to 12 percent lower for teenage boys than for girls.

"Here's the opportunity for us to do something about that," Jackson told the board.

He pointed out, for example, that many boys are typically drawn to job opportunities in such fields as law enforcement and firefighting. Offering programs that would result in skills learned and the chance to gain certification would benefit them,

See ACADEMIES, 3A

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