

UPFRONT PEOPLE / UPFRONT PRICES



WWW.CAROLINACHRYSLER.COM | 252-335-0724 | 1001 HALSTEAD BLVD
ELIZABETH CITY

Officials eye summer opening for jail

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Local officials hope to have the historic Chowan County Jail open as an attraction and educational exhibit by this summer.

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners and the Edenton Historical Commission are working toward an agreement they hope will allow the old jail to open for visits by tourists and locals alike.

Sally Francis Kehayes

of the Edenton Historical Commission told the county commissioners at their Feb. 6 meeting that the EHC is very interested in the 1825 Chowan County Jail.

The jail is located behind the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse.

Kehayes mentioned that Dawson Tyler, John Morehead and Keith Nixon, a former county commissioner and former chairman of the Chowan County Tourism Development Au-

thority, had been doing a lot of work on the historic jail project.

Local researchers have determined that the building is the oldest surviving jail in North Carolina. They also believe it was the longest-serving jail in the nation at the time of its decommissioning in 1983.

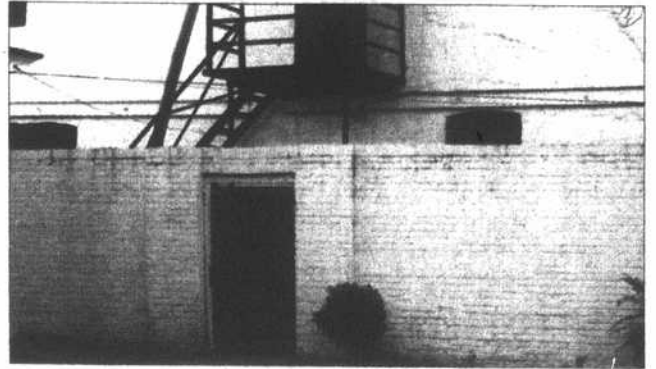
Tyler told the county commissioners that there is a good working plan in place to clean up the building and make it safe for citizens and tourists.

The exterior door at the historic jail has already been replaced, Tyler said.

The county commissioners put \$5,000 in this year's county budget for renovations at the historic jail and Kehayes reported that the EHC has raised \$17,000 for the project.

The proposal from the EHC is to get a signed agreement between the EHC and the county that will enable the project to

See JAIL, 2A



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

The new wooden door at the historic 1825 Chowan County Jail is among the first of the renovations being completed to get the jail ready for visitors.

IMPORTANT PART OF HISTORY

Alumni push for saving Walker

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Alumni of the historic D.F. Walker School continue to call for the preservation of the two-story Walker School building on North Oakum Street.

"This building matters," Carolyn Anthony of the D.F. Walker Alumni Association told the Chowan County Board of Commissioners during the public comment period at the board's Feb. 6 meeting.

Anthony called the building, located on the Edenton-Chowan Campus of College of the Albemarle, an important part of the historic Edenton community.

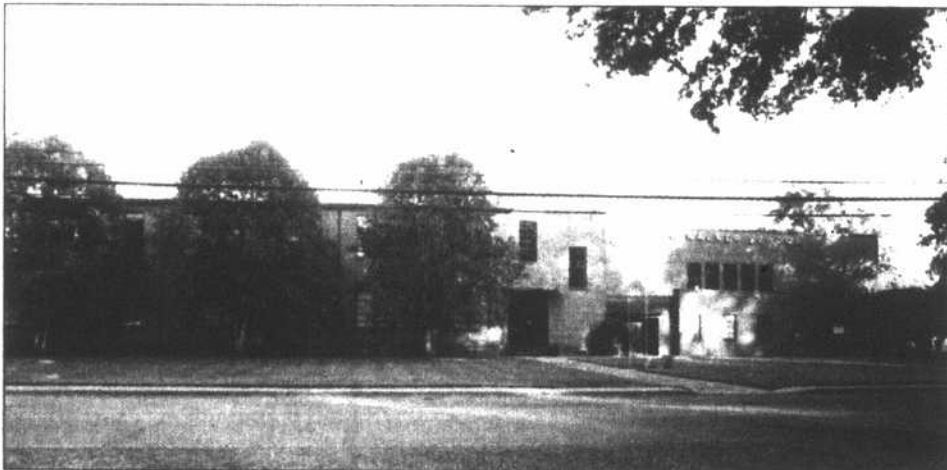
In March of last year the county commissioners indefinitely suspended a committee that had been looking at future uses for the former D.F. Walker High School building on the COA's Edenton-Chowan Campus. One of the concerns expressed at that time was a need to clarify what the possibilities for the building might be under the terms of the county's lease agreement with COA.

County and college officials also are awaiting a successor to former COA President of Kandi Deitemeyer, who left the college late last year to take a post at another community college in the state.



FILE PHOTOS

Carolyn Anthony of the D.F. Walker Alumni Association addresses a forum on the future of the former D.F. Walker School building in this file photo. The Walker alumni group is calling for preservation of the building, which is shown below.



Anthony has been a vocal advocate for finding a way to save the building and keep it in use for educational purposes.

The idea of using some part of the two-story building as a museum or cultural center drew broad support

at a forum on the building's future that was sponsored last year by the local Racial Reconciliation Group and the D.F. Walker Alumni Association. The museum has been envisioned by its supporters as one part of a multi-use project at the

building that might also include office space, tutoring programs and recreation.

D.F. Walker High School educated generations of black students in the Edenton community in the years

See ALUMNI, 2A

Audit: County fund balance still growing

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Nearly a decade after Chowan County officials stared into the abyss of a fiscal crisis and began an effort to rebuild the county's financial foundation, the county's cash reserves continue to grow, according to the latest audit report.

The county's available fund balance in the General Fund was \$7.45 million at June 30, 2016, up from \$6.9 million at June 30 of the previous year, according to the report. That represents an increase of \$540,000 in the available fund balance.

The available fund balance was at 43.1 percent at

the end of Fiscal Year 2016, up from 40.9 percent at the end of Fiscal Year 2015.

Jill Vang of Martin-Starnes and Associates presented the audit report for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016, at the county commissioners' Feb. 6 regular meeting.

Although the report that Vang prepared shows a 43.1 percent available fund balance, county officials are quick to point out that the percentage is somewhat lower when longterm county commitments such as capital funding for College of the Albemarle's Edenton-Chowan Campus are taken

See FUND, 2A

Solar growing part of power supply

From staff reports

As solar farms begin to show up with increasing frequency in northeastern North Carolina, Dominion North Carolina Power is adopting more solar power as part of its overall power supply.

Dominion spokeswoman Daisy Pridgen said recently that while the company has no wind generation in North Carolina or Virginia, the company has longterm agreements in place to purchase 553 megawatts of solar generation in its northeastern

North Carolina service area. In Virginia, 398 MW have either been completed or are under construction, she added.

"Dominion's goal is to have a balanced generating portfolio that is highly reliable, cost effective and environmentally responsible," Pridgen said. "The cost of energy powered by the sun is coming down and becoming more and more affordable for residents and businesses. With their help we will continue to work hard to find ways to develop projects

See SOLAR, 2A

Governor urges communities to apply for disaster relief

From staff reports

Help is still available through the state for communities affected by flooding last fall and other natural disasters that have affected the state during the past few months, according to Gov. Roy Cooper.

Cooper last week urged local governments affected by four 2016 natural disasters to apply for disaster relief funds immediately.



©2009 The Chowan Herald
All Rights Reserved

"Disasters struck North Carolina hard last year, from Hurricane Matthew in the east to wildfires in the west," Cooper said. "Communities are working tirelessly to get back on their feet and we're offering a hand to those who need it most."

Local governments are encouraged to apply for grants from \$30 million in funds available through the Disaster Recovery Grants Program, offered in partnership by the Golden LEAF Foundation and the N.C. Department of Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division.

The funds will aid recovery

from Hurricane Matthew, wildfires that affected North Carolina's western counties, Tropical Storm Julia, and Tropical Storm Hermine. Grants will be awarded to local governments for repair, replacement, or construction of infrastructure projects like water, sewer, sidewalks, and storm damage, or similar projects.

The Disaster Recovery Grants Program was authorized in December when the North Carolina General Assembly passed the Disaster Recovery Act of 2016, which allocate funds to both the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Rural Economic Development

Division and the Golden LEAF Foundation. The two organizations developed a partnership to accept applications and distribute relief funds to qualifying projects.

Projects that address urgent disaster relief, disaster recovery, and community resiliency will be prioritized.

Initial applications for funding are due March 3, 2017, and initial grant awards will be distributed by April 6, 2017.

For more information on eligibility and how to apply for the Disaster Recovery Grants Program, visit goldenleaf.org or nccommerce.com.

Home repair assistance for Matthew victims

From staff reports

North Carolinians in 49 counties whose homes were damaged by specific natural disasters in 2016 may now be eligible for repairs financed by the N.C. Housing Finance Agency. Using a special appropriation from the General Assembly to the state's Housing Trust Fund, the Agency is awarding funding to local organizations

for the rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes in counties affected by natural disasters.

To be eligible for assistance, households must have been damaged by Hurricane Matthew or Tropical Storms Julia and Hermine and have incomes below 100 percent of the area median income. Chowan is among

See MATTHEW, 2A

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE ADDITION **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH** **ROCKY HOCK COMMUNITY CENTER**
5:00 PM TILL 7:00 PM
ALL YOU CAN EAT!! \$6.00 For more information call 333-8567
AUCTION: 7:30 UNTIL SPONSORED BY ROCKY HOCK RURITAN CLUB