

# Council candidates reach out to Democrats

From staff reports

NAACP leader Darnell White and Town Council hopeful Tray Taylor were the featured speakers at the September meeting of the Democratic Women of Chowan County.

White, who serves as president of the NAACP, spoke about the history of the local chapter that works to educate people concerning important community issues such as Medicare/healthcare, education, the economy, the environment, criminal justice, voting rights and redistricting.

The organization's vision statement is "Ensure a society in which all individuals



Edenton Town Council hopeful Craig Miller talks with members of the Democratic Women of Chowan County prior to the start of the group's Monday, Oct. 9 meeting.

have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination."

White invited members of the Democratic Women to attend the annual

STAFF PHOTOS BY REBECCA BUNCH

NAACP Banquet in fellowship on Oct. 28 at Leon Nixon Catering on Virginia Road when the speaker will be Joyce Mitchell, president of the North Carolina

Democratic Women.

Taylor is in a three-way race for an at-large seat on the Edenton Town Council being vacated by incumbent Bob Quinn. He faces opposition for the seat from Craig Miller and Derrick Armstead.

Taylor said he hopes to be an advocate for the community in such areas as youth development opportunities, improving the local school district and encouraging better housing for the town's middle class citizens, he said.

Earlier this summer, Armstead too spoke to the group to talk about his plans to improve Edenton by focusing on local busi-



Edenton Town Councilman-at-Large candidate Derrick Armstead, at right, answers questions concerning local issues posed by a group of members of the local Democratic Women's group at their meeting on Monday.

ness development among other ideas he hopes to bring to Town Council if elected.

Miller spoke to the group

on Monday about his candidacy and his ideas for attracting a brew pub to downtown among other plans he hopes to accomplish if elected.

## MILLER

Continued from 1A

tain our historic treasures. State law dictates that Town Council does not

have the power to remove any historical markers. If the law is changed, do you think the Confederate monument at the tip of South Broad Street should be removed? Why

or why not?

What needs to be removed is not the Confederate monument but the hatred and prejudices some of us associate with the existing monument. The removal of the Confederate monument is not going to free our hearts of past injustices. We all need to think of the future and move forward together.

Do you support the town's efforts to attract a Brew Pub to the waterfront? Why or why not?

Absolutely! The Brew Pub has the possibilities of being an economic development catalyst within our community. It would help our local economy generate additional income, improve tourism, provide a waterfront restaurant for our citizens and

guests, add jobs, and expand our existing tax base.

In general terms, what are your ideas to improve/repair infrastructure? And would you support a tax increase to pay for these repairs?

The Town of Edenton needs to take steps to improve the safety and quality of our drinking water, upgrade the wastewater treatment plant, expand the capacity of the East Water Street storm sewer pump station, upgrade water treatment plants at Beaver Hill and Freemason, and resurface the many streets that need attention.

I do not support a tax increase to pay for these improvements. I believe the costs and work involved

could best be addressed through grant funding, USDA loans, and our own skillful public works staff.

Do you think Edenton can support another grocery store?

Yes, I believe most certainly Edenton can support another grocery store. Edenton has demonstrated in the past that we can support more than one grocery store (i.e., Winn-Dixie and IGA). We have a proven market to attract other grocery store chains.

What steps do you think Town Council can do, while working closely with the police department, to reduce crime?

The Town Council can take steps to encourage and support the "Neighborhood

Watch" program, reduce the number of abandoned houses that provide a safe haven for criminals, create a "Crime Free Agreement" for landlords, and improve the Police Community Partnership (i.e., Citizen Watch groups and Personal Police Zones).

Lastly, say something nice about your opponents.

I admire and commend both my opponents for their commitment and willingness to run for public office. I have the highest respect for the manner in which they both have conducted their respective campaigns without resorting to negative tactics. Regardless of the outcome, I wish them both much success in the future.

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## TAYLOR

Continued from 1A

er to remove any historical markers. If the law is changed, do you think the Confederate monument at the tip of South Broad Street should be removed? Why or why not?

I think if it's going to cause division among the people of the town they should it stand. But I also would love for the town to consider adding monuments honoring African Americans.

Do you support the town's efforts to attract

a Brew Pub to the waterfront? Why or why not?

Yes, I support the town's effort to have a Brew Pub on the waterfront. I think it would bring a different vibe to the town, it would provide employment. And it's something new to the town beyond the old stories of a fading away town that have been told for decades.

In general terms, what are your ideas to improve/repair infrastructure? And would you support a tax increase to pay for these repairs?

Most definitely we need to work on roads in this town, also there is a need for more streetlights in different ar-

reas around town. So if that means raising taxes I'm all for it to fix these issues.

Do you think Edenton can support another grocery store?

I think this town could support another grocery store. We have always had at least two or more grocery stores here in this town. If I recall correctly there was Food Lion, Winn Dixie and IGA and the business was steady to my knowledge.

What steps do you think Town Council can do, while working closely with the police department, to reduce crime?

I think strongly that the Town Council should work

with the Police Department on starting some type of program that would attract more young adults (African American). Someone that could relate to the teenagers, and develop more like a brother-to-brother relationship. That would reduce the crime rate by 50 percent.

Lastly, say something nice about your opponent(s).

I've known Craig Miller for some time. I think he is a great guy that is heavily involved in the community. I don't know Derrick Armstead like that but have seen him around town a lot. He seems to be a great guy and very family-oriented.

## ARMSTEAD

Continued from 1A

graphic and viewpoints.

I am a native of Chowan County and have been incredibly blessed by this community. I want to continue to work toward making it the best possible town. I want to help lead Edenton into the future by focusing on local business development and exploring green jobs, while at the same time preserving opportunities for small business owners.

I want to give back to the community that invested so much in me and protect the interests of families. I also want to vigorously support our local public school system.

Once elected, my goal is to foster an environment of free and open dialogue where people from all four

wards with differing viewpoints and from various socioeconomic levels come together to explore innovative solutions. I also want to help other council members in continuing to provide the important municipal services we have all come to expect in our fiscally challenging times.

As the next councilman at-large, I will bring a different perspective to the Edenton Town Council because I will ensure that the voices of working people with families, people like me, are always represented and included in the conversation. I am eager to be of service for the future benefit of all residents.

These are the issues that I, if elected, will advocate for as the next town councilman at-large. Our town is full of incredible, talented and motivated citizens. To-

gether, we will leverage the strengths and resources of our community to achieve economic and social prosperity.

Do you think the Confederate monument at the tip of South Broad Street should be removed? Why?

We look forward to a community that acknowledges the past, but is not held captive by those preceding events. The Confederate monument is not truly a memorial and is really a reminder of a period in American history when some citizens were not afforded an equal opportunity to succeed.

It is important to acknowledge that on July 23, 2015, the state of North Carolina adopted the Historic Artifact Management and Patriotism Act, which precludes "permanent removal" of our town's Confederate monument. Notwithstanding this law, I firmly believe that the statute should be replaced with the construction of a monument that references a diverse cross-section of our fallen service members. However, until there is an opportunity to achieve this ultimate goal via the repeal of the current law, I will seek to add a memorial or plaque that honors all men and women who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Do you support the town's effort to attract a brew pub to the waterfront? Why or why not?

The brew pub, is in many communities, a social gathering place of the 21st century. It is a venue where families and neighbors can

# Municipal Election Town of Edenton November 07, 2017

### Absentee Voting by Mail:

First Day to request absentee ballot - Friday 10/06/2017  
Last Day to request Absentee Ballot - Tuesday 10/31/2017

### Registration Deadline:

Last Day to register to vote (5:00 p.m.) - Friday 10/13/2017

### Required Board Meetings - Elections Office

730 N Grenville St Edenton NC

Absentee Meeting (5:00p.m.) - Tuesday 10/17/2017  
Absentee Meeting (5:00p.m.) - Tuesday 10/24/2017  
Absentee Meeting (5:00p.m.) - Tuesday 10/31/2017  
Absentee Meeting (5:00 p.m.) - Monday 11/06/2017  
Election Day Meeting (2:00 p.m.) - Tuesday 11/07/2017  
Abs\Prov\Canvass Meeting (11:00 a.m.) - Friday 11/17/2017

### One-Stop Absentee Voting - Elections office

730 N Granville St Edenton NC

One-Stop voting begins: - Thursday 10/19/2017  
One-Stop opens from 9:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. during the week day.

Last day for One-Stop early voting: Saturday, 11/04/2107

- opens at 8:00 a.m. and closes at 1:00 p.m.

### Election Day - Precinct voting

MUNICIPAL ELECTION - Tuesday 11/07/2017  
East Edenton and West Edenton Precincts  
- open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

### Canvass Day - Elections office

730 N Granville St Edenton NC

Abs.\Prov.\Canvass election 11:00 a.m. - Friday 11/17/2017  
At Elections office

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