

SERVICE LEARNING FOOD DRIVE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The JROTC cadets did a service learning food drive over the past month and a half and collected over 750 cans of food. Recently, these ROTC cadets dropped off over 550 cans at the local Edenton-Chowan food pantry. The remainder of the food will be taken to the food bank of eastern North Carolina. Pictured from left to right are: Derrick Chamblee, Katrina Sawyer, Jamilah Burgess, Angela Hollis and Noah Mills

HOOD

Continued from 5A

threatening rise of populism, progressivism, and socialism. It was a case of longtime rivals, traditionalists and classical liberals, forming first an alliance of mutual need and then, through fits and starts, forging a more systematic integration of their ideas.

The result wasn't a catechism. It was and remains messy and incomplete. There are areas of disagreement and differences in emphasis. But the various strands of modern conservatism have enough in common to work together — and what they have in common, for the most part, is a belief that governmental power should be minimized so that freedom can be maximized.

Why? Because it is in the nature of humans to thrive, in the long run, when they are free to make their own decisions, rather than being compelled to comply with some central plan. The empirical evidence for this proposition is massive and constantly growing.

For example, a recent peer-reviewed study by North Dakota State University economist Jeremy Jackson employed the Frasier Institute's Economic Freedom of North America Index and a set of survey data on life satisfaction. All other things being equal, states with lower taxes, smaller budgets, and fewer regulations had a higher share of happy residents than did those with expansive, expensive governments.

My conservative colleagues and I here in North Carolina fight for freedom not as an abstraction but as a practical tool for promoting opportunity, progress, happiness, and virtue. And we welcome converts to the cause.

John Hood is chairman of the John Locke Foundation.

PUB

Continued from 5A

grandfather subsequently owned it. Mr. Glover would restore this historic building and develop it into a family-friendly brewery. The benefits to us are lim-

ited: drawing new tourists to Edenton; generating revenue from the sale of the building; saving tax dollars used to maintain a vacant building; creating a significant taxable asset from a building that currently provides \$0 tax dollars; increasing our tax base for

our community to generate additional tax revenue that supports our schools and other community services; providing a handful of jobs immediately with a longer-term goal of adding a bottling plant that would employ dozens at one of the Town's two industrial parks.

The small-craft brewery industry is booming nationally, but also in NC. Margo Metzger, the director of the North Carolina Craft Brewers Guild, noted: "[c]raft brewing — generat[ed] \$1.2 billion and 10,000 jobs in 2014" in NC and at that time, NC had roughly half the number of breweries it does today. 4 She also stated, "when it comes to real economic impact people can feel, it's the small towns, where someone makes a bet on a little-known street, where it matters." 5 She specifically mentioned that "breweries in forgotten Eastern North Carolina towns such as Rocky Mount and Tarboro — giv[e] people a public house and a reason to want to live there. But more importantly, it makes people feel like they're in a relevant place." 6 Edenton would unquestionably benefit from the same effect that Mother Earth Brewing has on Kinston. Tourists previously unfamiliar with Kinston now flock there due to craft-beer tourism.

The opposition to the brewery enumerates four

primary arguments against the sale and development of the building:

1) The brewery's close proximity to the park: Many seem outraged that alcohol would be served anywhere close to where our children play. However, community fundraising events offering alcohol are frequently held at the Barker house or by our town's waterfront. These events are closer in proximity to the park than the Conger building and I have heard of no concerns from these events. Also, at least three past restaurants (Chero's, The Dram Tree, and Edenton Bay Trading Company), all of which served alcohol, have occupied the buildings adjacent to or across from the Conger building without incident. Finally, at the first public hearing, countless families with small children, all of who frequent the park, spoke strongly in support of the brewery.

2) The brewery's close proximity to residential properties: A commercial property located adjacent to a residential property could present a myriad of issues. However, please note that the Conger building and its surrounding land, including the adjacent residence, are zoned for commercial property use, not residential.

3) The Conger building's appraised value: Many argue that the building's ap-

praised value is too low. The Town had the building appraised and posted the appraisal on its website. Many similarly situated small towns have taken advantage of NC statute, which permits a town to give away property when necessary to incentivize economic development. Thankfully, Edenton is not in this position. Mr. Glover's proposal offered the full appraised value and included a plan to renovate and develop this vacant building into a significant taxable asset. For many, the value of bringing life to this aging vacant asset and further revitalizing our downtown historic district far exceeds the building's appraised value.

4) The yacht club's displacement: Yacht club members express a great deal of concern that if the Conger building is sold and developed, then they will lose the area where they currently store their boats. Mr. Glover met with members to try to develop a plan for the brewery that would allow for ongoing boat storage in the building currently used for that purpose. Mr. Glover's stance on collaborating with the yacht club has never faltered, even after the July 25, 2016 town council meeting at which a Council member suddenly proposed that the Town enter into a ten-year lease with the yacht club at \$50 per month for the storage shed and adjacent land to the Conger Building (despite the fact the yacht club's used that space at no cost and without a lease for the past twenty years). Mr. Glover could have questioned whether this action was a subversive attempt to thwart the sale of the building, but instead, he seems to trust that we are still working towards a common goal.


Many developers would have been dismayed at our community's hesitation and taken their investment elsewhere. Mr. Glover has gone to great lengths and (presumably) expense to respond to each concern. For example, his architect reworked his exterior plans to incorporate a barrier to shield the park from the brewery's patio area and revised his floor plans (twice)

to respond to neighbors' concerns. He has never asked our town to offer an incentive to his proposed development. His level of responsiveness to our concerns has been extraordinary, especially given that he is unsure whether he will even be allowed to purchase the building after committing approximately three years to this project.

In order for our town to have a future, we need to carry our traditions forward and ensure that we are a community that appeals to future generations. A brewery on our little beloved town's waterfront is a perfect way to combine our appreciation for our past with our need to move forward. Just as our colonial ancestors used village pubs as conduits for community leaders to gather with neighbors and citizens, the modern day brewpub serves much the same purpose. It offers us a place where we can meet with old and new friends alike, all while taking in our majestic waterfront.

Edenton is a town steeped in rich colonial history. We have a history of speaking up. Town Council, please listen to the voices of over 800 people that signed our original petition or joined us throughout our ad campaign. The citizens have spoken loudly; we want this opportunity for our town. We are grateful for Mr. Glover's unwavering commitment to our community and to our Town Council members who have worked hard to ensure that this brewery development happens in a thorough and well-planned manner. I like to think that if Penelope Barker could visit us for a day, she would be proud that her legacy of community activism and involvement lives on in Edenton 243 years after her brave efforts. Who knows? She just might even appreciate a craft beer brewed right here in Edenton. Or maybe she's like I am and detests beer. Regardless, I know she would get that this effort is not about alcohol; it's about progress and opportunity.

Susan Stocks on behalf of Progress Edenton



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Write a letter, email it to Santa@dailyadvance.com, and see your letter published in The Daily Advance on one of these dates: December 14th or 21st.

AND, we at The Daily Advance have arranged for you to get a response to your letter from the North Pole!! Yes, that's right. Santa is VERY busy, but his executive assistant, Susanna Elf, will personally show your letter to Santa and write an email back to you!

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