



BALLANCE

Former N.C. Rep. Frank Ballance dies at 77

The Associated Press

RALEIGH — Services are this week for North Carolina Democratic politician Frank Ballance, who served briefly in Congress and later went to federal prison for activities related to a charitable organization.

Family spokesman Carlton Pressley confirmed on Monday that Ballance died Feb. 22 at a Raleigh hospital, said he did not survive after undergoing a procedure there. He was 77. Ballance served over two decades in the state House and Senate, rising to the No.

2 post in the Senate chamber. He was elected to North Carolina's 1st Congressional District seat in 2002, but resigned in June 2004, citing ill health. Ballance pleaded guilty later that year to conspiring to divert taxpayer money to his family and others through a foundation

he helped start while at the General Assembly. Prosecutors said Ballance, during his time at the legislature, channeled \$2.3 million in state money to the John A. Hyman Memorial Foundation, created to help low-income people fight drug and alcohol abuse. Ballance then diverted some of that money from its intended purpose, according to authorities, giving some of it to his children and to share with his mother for community programs. Ballance left prison in

See BALLANCE, 6A

RENTAL

Continued from 1A

Town Hall, the ordinance has several purposes:

1. To clearly define short-term rentals
 2. To clearly identify where short-term rentals are permitted
 3. To establish basic safety regulations for visitors renting short-term properties
 4. To reduce the liability of the town
 5. To protect neighborhoods from unwanted short-term rentals and the problems that arise as a result (parties, noise, parking, dogs, trash, etc.)
 6. To maintain property values
 7. To have a local contact to quickly and effectively address issues that may arise during a rental stay
 8. To allow homeowners the opportunity to legally rent their dwelling units where permitted
 9. To regulate short-term rentals consistent with authority given by NC General Statutes.
- A few takeaways from the council's questioning/parsing of the ordinance include the need for short-term rentals

al providers to apply for a permit to conduct business, same as hotels or Edenton's well-known bed and breakfast inns.

Records would be required and upon request, made available to the local tax office.

Permit holders would have to comply with the town's ordinance regarding the permitting, upkeep and safety requirements associated with existing rules that regulate rental properties.

For example, that means these places may require additional common sense measures such as additional smoke alarms, carbon dioxide detectors and fire extinguishers. Thus, such places would be subject to inspections by code enforcement — same as any other business. Permit holders would be subject to penalties or even having their short-term rental permits revoked. Also, a person operating without a permit would be subject to penalties.

Anyone receiving a permit may be required to publish a note within this newspaper so as to inform affected property owners and perhaps the neighborhood about any develop-

ments regarding short-term rental permitting.

While the ordinance is still being tweaked, questions arose as to how many parking spaces would be permitted per bedroom — one space per bed or space for three vehicles per bed. On that note, there are occupancy standards that limit the number of people allowed to stay in such an establishment. As the ordinance reads, that standard is two persons per bedroom and the maximum number of guests in a short-term rental is limited to 15 persons, excluding children under three years of age.

Special events like weddings or receptions are not permitted.

On that note, if the noise gets too loud or something should happen, someone local should be on hand to deal with the matter, not an out-of-town property owner.

Though it is hard to sue Town Hall, for damages, the ordinance provides an extra layer to reduce the town's liability because it can show that it took the measures needed to protect the public's health and safety.

Insurance — not just standard home owners insurance — would be required,

potentially a \$500,000 policy or maybe more coverage. Questions arose as to whether there would be a sliding scale. Would someone renting a bedroom from time to time have to provide the same amount of coverage as someone with a giant house with seven bedrooms?

On that note as to seven bedrooms, no longer would someone with a giant house be allowed to put seven locks on bedroom doors, as a hypothetical example, and call themselves a hotel.

In the weeks ahead, more ink will be spread on these pages as this proposed ordinance evolves.

On a related note as to rental properties, Chowan County Tax Administrator Melissa Radke gave council a presentation about the county's efforts to register rental property owners and collect 5 percent occupancy taxes not only from traditional rentals but Airbnb type places.

Radke said rental property owners are required to register their property or face penalties that may include a forced assessment of \$1,000.

Radke said currently, the

county is aware of 32 properties for use as traditional or short-term rentals.

Twenty short-term rentals are listed and rent through Airbnb. Of those, the county only has received information from three.

Radke contends that while it is difficult to locate such places, the county has done some "sleuthing" to discover where these places exist.

Of the five bed and breakfast inns, four are paying occupancy taxes with the county reaching out to the fifth, no success thus far.

All three hotels are paying occupancy taxes.

Radke said the county is seeking a fair and equitable approach to tax collection.

If a rental property isn't registered with the county's tax office, Radke assures folks that they will locate these properties, ask property owners to register and to start submitting the proper paperwork needed to collect occupancy taxes.

Due to space constraints, more about Monday's meeting will be appear in next week's edition of the Chowan Herald.

PLANT

Continued from 1A

to invest \$1.1 million in the renovation project, according to a press release from N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland.

The grant was one of 11 totaling \$4.1 million the RIA awarded to local governments in the state Feb. 21. Six of those grants were for projects using Building Reuse program funds.

Michael Reardon, founder of Daedalus, said the company appreciated the grant and the community's support.

"We are very thankful for all of the help and support we have received from The Town of Edenton, Mayor Roland Vaughn, The Edenton Chowan partnership, Small Business and Technology Development Center, State Economic development team, State Secretary of Commerce, Tony Copeland as well as Kenny Flowers, the Governor Roy Cooper, the Small Business & Technology Develop-

ment Center at Elizabeth City University," he said. "We are very grateful for the opportunity to expand our factory along with our team. We look forward to continuing to thrive and grow our business and our community in the town of Edenton."

Edenton Mayor Roland Vaughan said the town was "thrilled to get the good news" the grant had been awarded and that Daedalus will be creating 50 new jobs in Chowan County.

"It was truly a collaborative effort with the town, county and the Edenton Chowan Partnership sticking together and working with the Department of Commerce to get the grant approved," he said. "(Founder) Michael Reardon and his Daedalus team are committed to Edenton and we are delighted we could assist them in getting the grant approved."

According to Commerce officials, the RIA grants will help create a total of 153 new jobs and spur more than \$69 million in private

investment in rural communities like Edenton.

"With the projects approved today, rural areas of North Carolina have new resources to help attract jobs, support business expansion and prepare sites for future development," Assistant

Commerce Secretary Kenny Flowers said. "The Rural Economic Development Division at Commerce and the Rural Infrastructure Authority work closely with leaders in rural communities to facilitate opportunities for economic growth."

"We always welcome new patients."

COMFORT • QUALITY • EXPERIENCE

Modern Dentistry in a relaxed environment for the entire family.



ABA
ALBEMARLE
DENTAL ASSOCIATES
General and Cosmetic Dentistry

DR. CHRIS KOPPELMAN, DDS
DR. ETHAN NELSON, DDS
482-5131
103 Mark Dr. Edenton, NC
(behind Chowan Hospital)

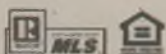


Are you looking to Buy or Sell:
Historic, Waterfront, Equestrian,
Farmland or a Country Home?
United Country has been doing this
for over 90 years. Let us help you
make your Real Estate Goals a
Reality in 2019!

United Country
Real Estate
Forbes Realty
and Auctions, LLC

Heather Whistler 252-339-2717
LIC # 275898

Stacey Williams 252-333-9394
LIC #244303



201 OCEAN HWY S, HERTFORD, NC 27944



Get back to your best self

Whether your health needs are routine or urgent, choosing the right surgical team is crucial. You want peace of mind knowing expert surgeons are focused on you personally, backed by a hospital that's passionate about quality.

That's why the locals prefer Vidant Chowan Hospital, where highly trained specialists practice advanced techniques. With minimally invasive procedures, less pain, fewer complications and quicker recovery, you can relax and get on with your life.

Endoscopy | Colonoscopy | General surgery | Obstetrics/gynecology
Ophthalmology | Orthopedics | Urology

For more information, call 252-482-6292.
VidantHealth.com/Chowan



VIDANT
Chowan Hospital