

# Community members read at White Oak

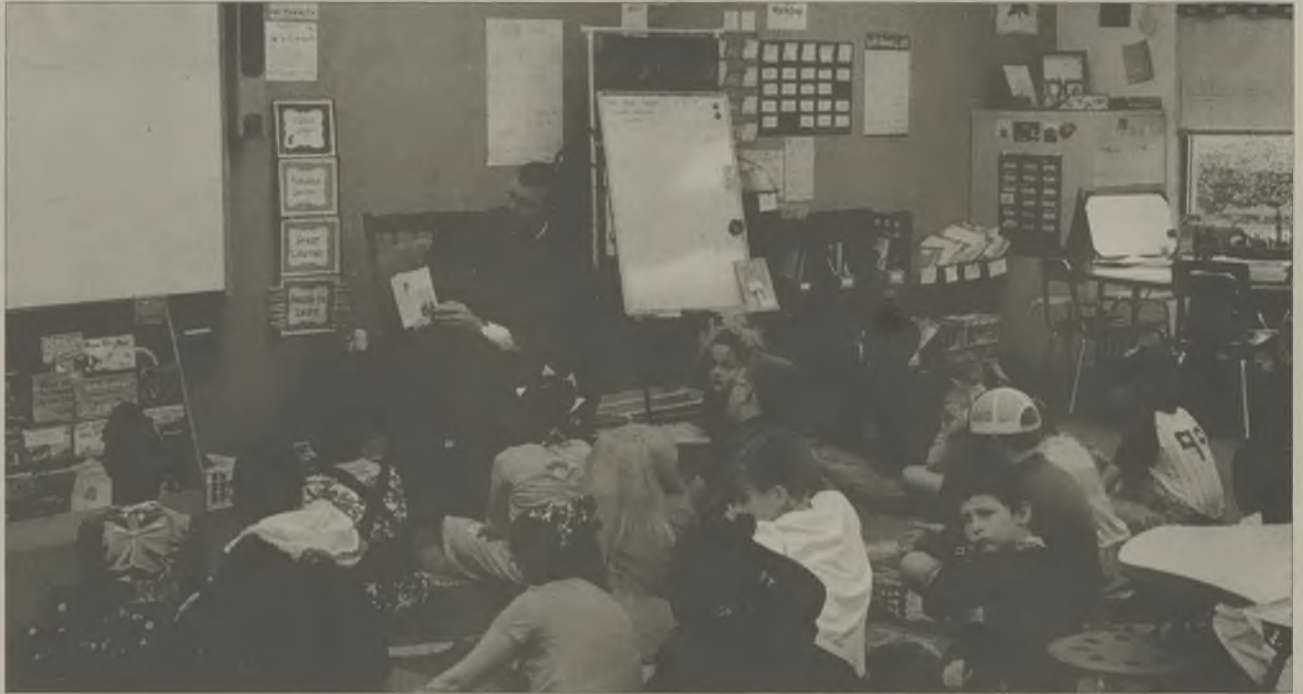
**STAFF REPORT**

Some visitors came to White Oak Elementary School on Thursday during book character day.

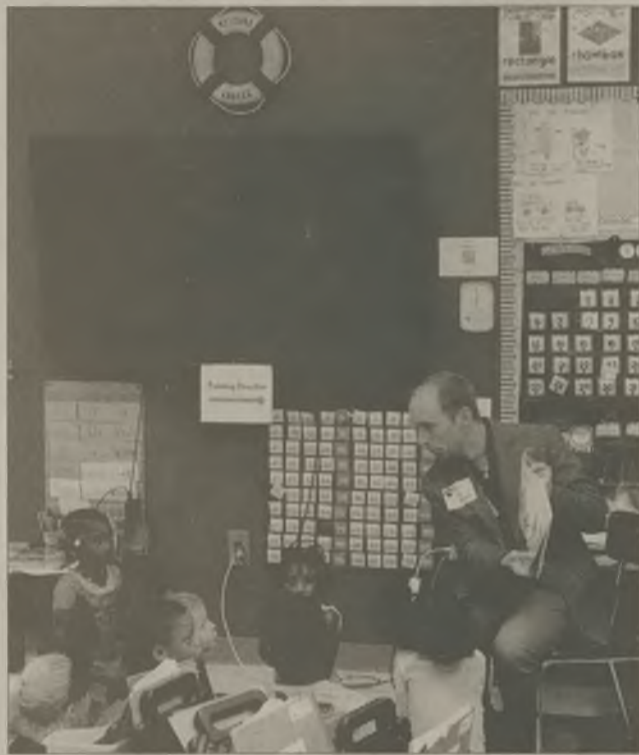
Member of the community gathered first at the library, then went off into the classrooms to read a room full of excited, dressed-up children.

The children were dressed up as characters from their favorite books. The White Oak staff also took part, with each grade's teachers coordinating their costumes.

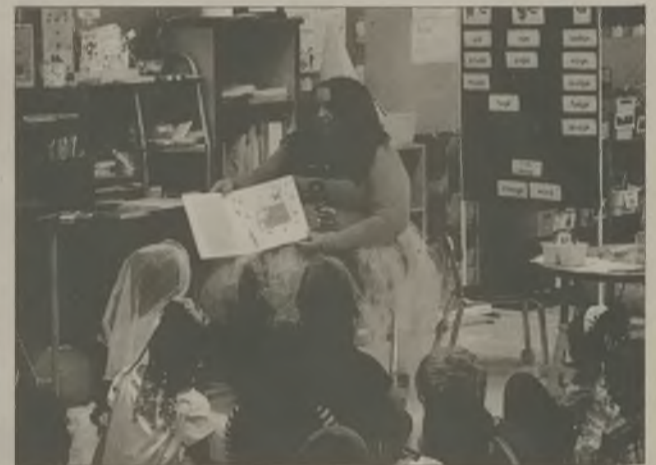
The annual event helps bring stories to life and show the students that the community supports them.



Judge Meader Harriss reads to second-graders during Book Character Day on Thursday at White Oak Elementary School. He was among several community members who came out to read to students.



PHOTOS BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD  
Brian White, director of Strategic Operations at Vidant Chowan and Vidant Bertie hospitals reads during Book Character Day at White Oak.



# No tricks, only treats for downtown Halloween



PHOTOS BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD  
The sidewalks of downtown Edenton were filled with trick-or-treaters and their caregivers Thursday for Halloween.



A coven of witches await trick-or-treaters as Annette Wright sits ready to give out candy.



Trick-or-treaters get ready to get some candy.

## HOUSING

Continued from A1

of Albemarle Plantation. "I think you have to adjust to the marketplace. The biggest demand for amenity these days is natural areas, walking trails and getting people back in touch with nature. As we move through this and develop our marketing programs, it's very likely that some of these areas perhaps will be turned into more parkland and whatnot, but we had to know what our master plan was and what we had to work with. Then, we will go in and respond to the marketplace accordingly."

Water, sewer, roads, stormwater planning, police and fire protection would be added as the development, which may come to be known as Albemarle Preserve, evolves in the eastern end of the county by Harvey Point Road near Holiday Lane and continues northeast to the Perquimans River, where a marina may be built.

Pending market forces, development of a maximum of 150 lots at a time could start as soon as 2021.

County's water service is able to handle the additional load of up to 320 lots, but beyond that would require changes to the system.

The county's Planning Board approved zoning and plans for development.

Commission approved a similar planned urban development in 2005, but the property's vested rights reverted back to farmland in the years following the Great Recession of 2008 so it was necessary to acquire approval for a reboot.

The housing development is consistent with the county's Land Use Plan.

"We believe the community is in harmony with the surrounding area," Masters said. "We have addressed that issue and believe this is consistent with the Land Use Plan and does not have negative effects on the other areas around it."

Peruimans Development Company is a subsidiary of Preserve Communities, a Georgia based

real estate development corporation with a portfolio that stretches from Alabama to North Carolina.

"Preserve Communities is named that for a reason. Most every community that we have developed has a fairly significant preservation factor to it. We love the natural areas, walking trails and more," said Masters, an executive with Preserve Communities.

Commissioners endorsed the proposed housing development.

Commission Chairman Wallace Nelson said the plan provides the county with a plan to grow its residential community and complements nearby Albemarle Plantation.

"In my mind, this development is in harmony with the land around it," he said.

Commissioner Alan Lennon said the development will provide more housing, lead to economic development and would benefit the county in many ways.

County Manager Frank Heath noted that

Albemarle Plantation is 16 percent of the county's tax value.

Julie and Mark Phelps live in an historic home known as the Edmund Blount Skinner House, an 1845 antebellum plantation manor located at 118 Halsey Bay Road.

Julie Phelps said she is concerned about how the housing development would impact her home that she and her husband have been restoring for more than 30 years. She was worried about how increased traffic would make Harvey Point Road more dangerous as the residential community grows. She stressed concerns about how the county's water capacity would be affected.

Phelps suggested that a fire house be built before any construction begins so as to better serve the growing development and associated underserved areas nearby.

After Phelps voiced concerns about any commercial development across from the couple's home,

Masters said that land would not be developed.

Chuck and Mattie Paylin of New Haven Missionary Baptist Church voiced concerns about how the development would affect their rural church near Harvey Point Road.

Masters said land near

the church would not be developed.

Jim Blackman of Hertford praised the project that he said would be great for the county's tax base, provide jobs.

"I fully support this because it will be great for the community," he said.

## CHOWAN HERALD

(USPS 106-380)

Published Every Wednesday  
Adams Publishing Group

Entered as a second-class matter August 30, 1934 at the Post Office of Edenton, North Carolina, under Act of March 3, 1870.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

**Daily Advance home delivery area \$39.50**  
(Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, parts of Gates)

Elsewhere in continental United States \$50.17  
\*Plus applicable sales tax. Activation fee of \$2.99 will be collected with all new subscriptions.

Deactivation fees may apply for early cancellation.  
To place a classified advertisement, call our Customer Care Center at 252-329-9505.

**POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:**  
The Chowan Herald • P.O. Box 207 • Edenton, NC 27932  
Telephone: (252) 482-4418 Fax: (252) 482-4410  
nlayton@ncweeklies.com