

SEWER

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a system designed to absorb and cleanse nutrients. It is anticipated that this will lessen the impacts of the discharge to the surface waters downstream of Filberts Creek.

Must assuredly, Santa will be paying close attention to these Public Works employees; gold stars by their names on the "nice" list that not even Elf on the Shelf can take away.

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Edenton Public Works staff works to repair a sewer line leak.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

An Edenton Public Works employee is lowered into the sewer to help repair a leak recently on North Broad Street.

LIFE

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Thirty minutes later, Chris arrived home and found Lisa unresponsive.

Immediately, Chris called their cousin Beth Evans, who is a nurse and lives right down the road.

Within two minutes, Beth Evans and her husband along with other family arrived and the ambulance was called. In no time, the ambulance arrived along with a sheriff's deputy.

"The response and concern of the local responders was exceptional," Chris Evans said.

Once at Vidant Chowan Hospital, Dr. Bryan Gerber, the Emergency Department doctor, let Evans know that his wife was very sick, but the hospital was doing all it could do to get her stable.

Her temperature was 107 degrees and she was in no way responding.

Evans said Gerber knew there must be some horrible infection or something neurological was happening. With kidney function a concern and a fear of lung failure, he ordered her to be placed on a ventilator.

"Dr. Gerber and the staff were so 'calm, cool and collected' as they did their work," Chris Evans said.

Gerber then ordered East Care Helicopter and organized taking Lisa to Vidant in Greenville.

"Another impressive thing to watch was when the East Care Team arrived," Evans said. "I watched as they came in and did the transfer. Truly amazing to see all the hands and minds working together to see that her care was complete." Lisa spent 10 days in the

critical care ICU where they determined she had a kidney stone that had created infection in her kidney, and she went septic.

"The continual care that we received once in Greenville continued to be amazing," Evans said. "Without our local hospital and the care, they provided, we feel Lisa's outcome would have been gravely different."

With Evans' wife near death, was he scared?

"Not sure if 'scared' is the word, but truly in a zone of real concern," he said. "The hardest thing I had in front of me was contacting our children."

The couples' daughter and her husband live in the western part of North Carolina and their son was traveling with his work and was in San Antonio, Texas, but they traveled home to be with mom.

"When Lisa woke up it was extremely important that her children were there and she knew they were with her," he said.

Always best to give God his due.

"We are active members at Rocky Hock Baptist Church," Evans said. "I cannot imagine going through what we did without the close-knit church community that we have. Between them, our family and friends along with friends from across the state we were loved on and cared for wonderfully. Prayers were offered up by so many people."

While events were transpiring one Sunday morning, the church was there when the respiratory team came in to remove Lisa's ventilator.

"Our Sunday school class Face Timed to pray for Lisa and prayed for the ones re-

moving the ventilator," Evans said. "Technology was awesome. The vent was then removed without any problems. Shortly thereafter, we were Face Timed again during church so Lisa could hear the praise and worship music."

Lisa Evans said the experience brought her close to God.

"My faith has always been strong, but this experience has certainly drawn me nearer to Christ and makes me really appreciate life in a new way," she said.

The family spent weeks in Greenville all together.

"Once home we were under home health care for another three weeks along with physical and occupational therapy, Evans said. "Again, wonderful care provided by the Vidant Team."

Weeks later, Lisa got personally thank and hug Ger-

ber for saving her life.

"Dr. Gerber showed his kindness and compassion as he took time to sit and let her talk with him about that afternoon," Chris Evans said. "It was great for her to hug and thank him and to hear him tell his part of what had happened. It was also good for the doctor to meet a patient whom he had the great experience of treating and saving."

Last note, praise for the miracle would not be complete with paying tribute to Chowan's first responders and other medical professionals.

"We want to make sure that our local EMS, Sheriff's Dept, Chowan Hospital and Greenville get lots of praise," Chris Evans said.

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VAUGHAN

Continued from A1

personable, a perfect Southern gentleman - the type of politician who doesn't need to raise his voice to get things done.

There's a warmth about Vaughan and his wife Peggy that make the couple one of Edenton's treasures. Anybody whose has ever walked past their house on East Water Street knows this to be true as the Vaughans wave to everyone walking by their historic home.

"Roland has been the Mayor of Edenton for an entire generation," longtime Councilman Sambo Dixon said. "Children born here have only known an Edenton with Roland as its leader."

Vaughan's leadership has kept the Town Council's agenda rolling along with progress being made.

"Roland has guided Edenton with a firm hand and his leadership has produced extraordinary results," Dixon said. "Many companies here are expanding, much of our infrastructure has recently been updated and our downtown is thriving. Roland has throughout his administration fostered goodwill and helped create a political environment where there are no real political divides. He has made sure that we have all come together for the good of everyone."

Think about what's Vaughan's done for a brief moment.

Conger Building being sold and becoming a brew pub - took a long time for that to happen. Most politicians will like violets when facing the hot sun of opposition, but not Vaughan. He stayed the course over more than a few years and the place is on target to become a top notch attraction for our waterfront.

Millions of dollars in water infrastructure upgrades can be attributed to Vaughan too. Beaver Hill water plant went online in late November. Town Hall expects that renovations and upgrades at Freemason to be completed in April 2020.

Earlier this year, the town received a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a \$2.6 million 40-year low interest loan (2%) to renovate and upgrade the two water treatment plants - Beaver Hill and Freemason plants, with the latter going online within the spring of 2020. Total cost of the project is \$3.75 million. Town Hall seeks to pay

the loan off in 30 years.

Planning and money for that project didn't fall out of the sky like rain drops, so give thanks to Vaughan for preserving the infrastructure for another 50 years or so.

In large and small towns across the South, mayors and city councils are grappling with what to do about Confederate statues.

Some places have become so polarized that statues are being torn down in the dark of night and Christmas parades are being canceled because some folks are determined to make their voices heard though it is the season of good will.

Edenton has avoided this media-manufactured insanity because of Vaughan's diplomacy, tact.

Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton has worked alongside Vaughan since he was sworn in as mayor.

"Mayor was a good person to work for - he was so supportive of all of us who worked for the town, he really is beloved by the employees. We miss him already," she said.

Knighton talked about some of Vaughan's accomplishments during his 24-year tenure in office.

"I would say Mayor's greatest accomplishments have been leading the effort to transform the waterfront into a stellar public place and weaving the downtown economy as an important segment of the overall Chowan County economic base," she said. "Within months of Mayor being sworn in as Mayor in December 1995, he challenged the Council to identify ways to maximize assets - immediately the Council embraced the vision of creating a true harbor town. Mayor appointed a blue ribbon commission made of people with knowledge and skills and before you knew it we had a plan. Four years later, the break water, harbor and slips were built and dedicated for use."

Knighton said Vaughan's next years were devoted to promoting economic development that was in harmony with the County's agricultural economic base

and heritage. In 2003, Mayor summoned the Council to invest and commit to reviving downtown after the 2001 recession. Edenton applied for and was designated a NC Main St Community in 2003.

"This designation is one of the hallmarks of the Mayor's accomplishments as Mayor, we work every day to implant the principles of the National Main Street Center program," Knighton said. "And the Mayor worked to strengthen partnerships and the relationships we have with the Chamber of Commerce, the Tourism Development Authority and the Edenton Chowan Partnership - these partnerships are valued and important to the Town."

Dixon said all the citizens of Edenton owe Roland a huge thank you for his service.

"Roland has spent countless days traveling to meetings to promote Edenton,"

Dixon said. "He almost never missed a meeting even when he was dealing with a serious illness and he always embraced and advocated for new and exciting opportunities."

When political leaders fade from view, what does the public remember? Do they remember all the kind words and policies pursued that improved the quality of life for everyone or will they forget. In Vaughan's case, his legacy of public service will echo an eternity.

"I think to fully understand Roland's legacy we need to look at other small town across America that have vacant buildings on Mainstreet and a general loss of vibrancy and then compare these places to Edenton," Dixon said. "Roland's legacy is all around us. I encourage everyone to just walk down to the waterfront and look around. There you will see children

playing on a new playground, a breakwater with benches for those wanting to enjoy the view, a magnificent lighthouse, and boats moored in Edenton as they travel the intercoastal waterway. You will also hear the sounds of renovation at the old Conger building as the work on the new brewpub begins and on warm weekends people will be picnicking on the grass. This is just one example of what Roland has helped create for us all to enjoy and this is why we need to be exceedingly thankful for his public service."

Next week, we'll hear from more voices about the impact Vaughan has had on the community and the

lives of others. Vaughan has worked with several governors, served on many economic development boards and currently serves as chairman for the Boys and Girls Club of the Albemarle where he led a \$1.5 million fundraising effort and negotiated with the Chowan County Commission to buy and renovate the old D.F. Walker High School.

A teaser to next week's story comes from entrepreneur and successful businessman Charlie Creighton who said, "Roland was a fabulous ambassador for Edenton and brought big city respect to our little town. We will miss him more than we know. All the best to friend!"

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