Edenton Tea Party NSDAR decorates downtown tree

Part of annual waterfront holiday celebration

BY SANDRA LANCASTER **SPERRY**

For Chowan Herald

In addition to the beautifully decorated homes, churches and businesses, there is a phenomenon that has appeared in the downtown waterfront park. It began as the inspiration of Edenton resident Vonna O'Neill and has continued and grown over the last two years!

In 2017, O'Neill approached the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce and the Edenton-Chowan County Tourism Development Authority and presented her vision of creating a "Spirit of Christmas" with lighted, decorated trees at the waterfront park next to the Roanoke River Lighthouse. These two groups embraced her idea and she received additional support from Destination Downtown Edenton,

In 2017, there were 12



PHOTOS COURTESY SANDRA SPERRY

Edenton Tea Party NSDAR members (I-r) Clara King. Beth Taylor and Dolores Poole begin to decorate the Christmas tree at Colonial Park in Edenton.

grew to 18 beautifully decorated trees, and there promises to be more this year. The Town of Edenton ran the electric cords to each tree, and the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library provided additional assistance.

The Edenton Tea Party trees -- each one having a Chapter, NSDAR, decorated theme. In 2018, the display a tree in the park, as they

have for the last two years. This year the tree was donated to the chapter by Kellogg Supply Company. It is adorned with red, white and blue decorations and has American Flags inserted in the tree that are patriotically blowing in the breeze. The tree this year is dedicated to tributed the tree topper, and "Welcome Home Veterans"

Edenton Tea Part NSDAR's finished tree. and has Christmas balls rep- ored Christmas decorations resenting the Army, Navy,

Air Force and Marines.

Chapter members Clara King, Dolores Poole, Sandy Sperry and Beth Taylor were led by Regent Anne Rowe in the decorating process on a cold and windy Dec. 4 morning. The chapter conmilitary and patriotic-col-

to make the tree look extra special.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to tonTeaPartyNSDAR/

promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.

Since its founding, DAR has admitted more than 1,000,000 members. As one of the most inclusive genealogical societies in the country, NSDAR currently boasts over almost 190,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and internationally.

Any woman 18 years or older — regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background — who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership.

Any woman who believes she may be eligible for membership should contact Edenton Tea Party Chapter Registrar Candy Roth, 252-548-2648, or Membership Chairman Beth Taylor, 252-482-3592. for information. You may also go to the chapter website, http://www.ncdar.org/ EdentonTeaParty_files/, or the Facebook page, https:// www.facebook.com/Eden-

FOREST

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spending (previous GA spent only \$2.5 million)

■ \$100 million per year investment in school connectivity

NC became the first state in the country to have every single classroom connected to high-speed broadband.

■ \$2.5 million investment in Computer Science

Governor Cooper has: Vetoed a 9.9% pay raise in a previous budget

■ Vetoed 4.9% worth of pay raises for all teachers, including a \$1,000 bonus this

■ This would have given teachers almost a 25% pay increase since 2013.

■ Vetoed the General Assembly's 6th consecutive education spending package and teacher pay raise

Vetoed \$91 million in

school safety measures

■ Vetoed \$4.4 billion in new school construction and repairs

■ Vetoed \$1.43 billion in public education spending

■ Vetoed \$400 for each teacher to buy school supplies

Now, we can continue to debate about how much is enough for public education, however, the facts speak for themselves and paint a much different picture than the information you are being given by the Governor and the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE).

This is the same NCAE who claims to be the ONE VOICE of educators in the state, but of the 100,000 public school teachers only about 5,000 are members (according to a recent State Auditor's report).

This is the same NCAE who has been fighting tooth and nail to ensure that you

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was I traveling up U.S. 17 North, so I had to coast into a gas station. Not good. Not good at all.

Ordinarily, I'd just suck it up to walk or jog 12 miles back to Edenton, but it was a dark night so that was not really much of an option.

My wife asked Castellani who graciously picked me up that night, delivered me safe and sound back to Edenton. Much thanks. I don't say it enough (not my way), but thanks for your friendship.

Anyway, merry Christ-

mas to all.

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do not receive a pay raise from the state this year for purely partisan reasons. This is the same NCAE who praised the Wake County school board for giving their teachers a half percent raise, while smearing the General

Assembly year over year for

almost a 20% increase. Does the NCAE really speak for all of you, or would some of you like to have seen your 6th and 7th consecutive raises, school construction funds, school supplies and more school

support funds released? Please know that we will continue to fight for increased teacher compensation and overall public education funding just as we have done for the past six years, as well as in the most recent budget and standalone education funding bills that were vetoed by the

We will continue to do so in a balanced approach that ensures government is not overspending, and we are prepared for any downturns in the economy. We do not want to ever put our state, or you, in a situation like North

Carolina went through from 2008-2011, when education spending was severely slashed, and teacher pay was

Thank you for all that you do for our 1.5 million students and your communities. My office is always open if

you have any questions or concerns. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and success through the rest of this school year.

Dan Forest is the lieutenant governor of North Carolina.

Healthy Habits, Healthy Families with WIC

More families than ever are finding it hard to put healthy food on their dinner tables. For young children, a lack of good nutrition can put them at risk for health problems and problems in school North Carolina's WIC program helps low-income families meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children up to age 5.

"While adding more fruits and vegetables to these families' diets is an important part of our program, participants get more than food from WIC," Sara W. Foreman, RD, LON, CDE, WIC/Nutrition Director, said, "WIC offers families nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding promotion and support, supplemental foods, and even healthcare referrals.

The North Carolina WiC Program currently serves an average of 270,000 participants each month Studies show that children who participate in WIC are more likely to receive regular preventive health services and are better immunized than children who did not participate in WIC. WIC participants receive helpful one-on-one counseling with a nutrition professional. Group nutrition classes may also be offered by trained staff on topics ranging from healthy drink choices to grocery shopping on a budget.

Breastfeeding promotion and support are important components of the WIC Program. All WIC agencies have trained staff ready to assist moms in making informed decisions about how they feed their babies. WIC also teaches moms the basics of breastfeeding. Better educated moms mean healthier babies. Medicaid beneficiaries who participated in WIC

had lower infant mortality rates than Medicaid beneficiaries who did not participate in WIC. WIC participation also decreases the incidence of low birth weight and pre-term births. foods that WIC provides really give children a healthy start in life, which is so important." Now WIC is easier than ever with the new e-WIC-electronic benefit cards. No more paper checks!

Give us a call today. Albemarie Regional Health Services (ARHS) This Institution is an equal opportunity provider. For more information about WIC or to make an appointment, please contact ARHS or the local health department for Pasquotank at 338-4400, Perquimans, 426-2100, Hertford 252-862-4054, Camden, 338-4460, Chowan, 482-6003, Currituck, 232-2271,

Gates, 357-1380, and Bertle, 794-5322 between 8 AM - 5 PM, Monday through Friday. You may also visit the WIC Web site at www.nutritionnc.com.

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The Chowan Herald

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