

THE EDENTON UPDATE



Photo Courtesy of Kate Wemple Jordan



The Town recently dedicated the Crowder-Patience Memorial on Dr. MLK Avenue, devoted to two African American brothers who escaped enslavement and joined the Union Army. (more on page 2)

Six Important Decisions Affecting You

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER HIRED

Following a request from Town Manager Corey Gooden, the Town has hired its first-ever Public Information Officer: former Chowan Herald reporter Tyler Newman. Tyler will work to increase public engagement, operate the Town's social media pages, distribute the newsletter, work with the press and handle public records.

RECYCLING TO RESUME

Curbside recycling is returning! Town Manager Corey Gooden and the Mayor's Task Force on Recycling recently met with Tidewater Fiber Recycling to discuss how to best bring back the service. Stay tuned to our social media pages more updates as we move forward with this exciting project.

MONUMENT LOCATION DECIDED

Following months of hard work by town officials to determine a plan forward for Edenton's Confederate Monument, a new location has been decided upon. Hollowell Park will be the new site for the monument, which was approved by Town Council in March. While leaders are eager to move forward, the Town is awaiting resolution from the court system, as a restraining order is in place that is currently blocking any relocation effort.

DDE DIRECTOR HIRED

Destination Downtown Edenton has recently selected its newest Executive Director – James Chesson! Under James' leadership, DDE will continue to work with downtown merchants and developers on economic vitality, as well as assist in maintaining Edenton's revered historic district.

EFD PURCHASES NEW EQUIPMENT

Town Council recently approved the purchase of new air packs and radios for the Edenton Fire Department. The equipment will replace old units that are 20+ years old. EFD had only 5 working air packs out of 25 due to unrepairable parts. Meanwhile, the new radios will keep EFD up to date and will be able to upgrade to new signal bands.

STREET PAVING

We are sure that many of you are excited to see streets being paved across Edenton. We sure are! The first week of paving wrapped up in late April and a second round will take place in May, ultimately paving over 15 streets across town. More information will be shared as streets are paved!

EDENTON DEDICATES MEMORIAL TO BROTHERS ON DR. MLK AVENUE

It was a momentous day at the Providence Burial Ground on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue on April 22!

A groundbreaking and dedication ceremony was held for a new burial marker installed by the Town to honor two brothers from Edenton – Crowder Patience and Thomas Lawrence -- who both escaped enslavement and went on to serve the Union Army in the Civil War.

Dr. Juanita Patience Moss, of Alexandria, Virginia, located long-lost relatives in Edenton many years ago after researching on 23andme. After connecting with her family, they learned of a connection to two brothers born into enslavement in Edenton. Both eventually gained freedom and enlisted in the war effort under the surname "Patience," but never saw each other again.

Crowder eventually settled in Pennsylvania. Thomas, on the other hand, returned to Edenton to live his life. His direct descendant, Joseph Lawrence Jr. of Edenton, was discovered by Dr. Moss in her research.

On April 22, the marker was dedicated to the brothers at the forefront of the old mystery – Crowder Patience and Thomas Lawrence Jr. The pair was also the subject of Dr. Moss' recent publication: "Deeply Rooted in North Carolina."

"The Town is truly honored to unveil this memorial to Crowder Patience and Thomas Lawrence," said Town Manager Corey Gooden. "We thank Dr. Moss, Mr. Lawrence and their entire family for their commitment and participation, as well for allowing Edenton to cherish this intimate family history."

Town Council Meetings

All Town Council meetings begin at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers, 504 S. Broad St. and are open to the public. For information on attending by Zoom, please visit townofedenton.com

May 9 – General Meeting

May 22 – Committee Meetings

June 13 – General Meeting

June 26 – Committee Meetings)

July 11 – General Meeting

July 24 – Committee Meetings

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For additional information visit
www.townofedenton.com

HARBOR TOWNS FERRY SERVICE TO BEGIN

By early summer, the Harbor Towns ferry service is expected to begin operation! While this timeline is tentative and subject to change, we are eager to welcome a new scenic attraction and economic driver for residents and visitors. Stay tuned for more information about how to purchase tickets and tour times, as well as updates on the dinner ferry boat and other excursions!

