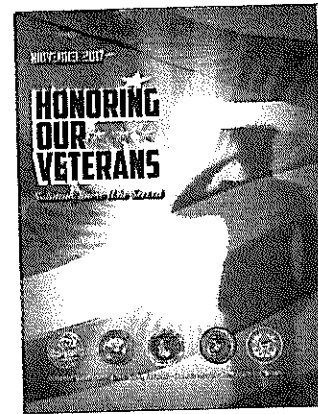


# CHOWAN HERALD



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publication.

32-4418

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

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## Taylor Theater poised for a second act

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Taylor Theater may be getting a second act soon because local investors are trying to raise money to purchase the iconic cinema and make needed repairs.

To learn more, there will be a meeting at 5 p.m. today (Wednesday) at the Colony Fire Training Center on North Broad Street.

The cinema closed in June after a storm damaged the building.

A trio of Chowan County's leading local acolytes is

leading the charge: Charlie Creighton, Samuel Dixon and Larry Sellers.

Creighton said the group's goal is to reach out to at least 45 people who can invest \$10,000 each toward this worthy cause. He stresses that this is a business venture and toward that end, Friends of Taylor Theater LLC has been established.

Imagine seeing the new Star Wars: The Last Jedi movie in Edenton — it might happen.

"We're optimistic that we will be able to raise

the funds this week and show movies perhaps before Christmas," Creighton said.

Creighton said the funds raised will not only be used to purchase the theater from Montanaro Family NC Properties, but to make necessary repairs. He said the group is hoping to raise the money by the end of the week so as to be able to "fast track" the purchase that he hopes to conclude next week.

"We believe that Edenton needs a theater and citizens want the theater as

would anyone," Creighton said. "Taylor Theater helps Edenton stand out among small towns. We plan to be showing first run movies. This'll be a great thing for the citizens of Chowan County and surrounding areas."

Creighton offered high praise for the husband and wife team of Ryan and Belinda Respass for stepping up to the plate to manage the theater. He said the couple has worked many years at the cinema, even got married in the theater, so they know the ropes and

what it will take for the theater to be financially successful. Creighton said the couple won't be employees, but rather they will be entrepreneurs who will be managing the theater and renting the facility as tenants.

"They have a passion for the theater," he said. "They are extremely optimistic and have so many great ideas to bring."

Dixon commended those investors who have expressed an interest in keeping curtains open.

"I am very excited that

the people of Edenton have once again banded together to save an important landmark," he said. "Having first run movies at the historic Taylor Theater is so important to the vitality of our downtown. I do not want to imagine an Edenton without a movie theater. These amazing and caring citizens have decided that Edenton is special and that they want to invest in the future of our community. These generous individuals want to provide our

See THEATER, 2A

Goodwin  
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### FIGHTING FOR #1!



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A funeral service was conducted on Friday, November 3, 2017 at 11 AM by Bishop Isaac Lathan in the Metropolitan Baptist Church, 125 County St. Suffolk VA 23434. Burial followed at Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery with military honors. The family received friends in the R. W. Baker & Co. Funeral Home and Crematory, 509 W. Washington St, Suffolk on Thursday, November 2, 2017 from 6 to 8 PM. Condolences may be registered at [RWBakerFh.com](http://RWBakerFh.com).

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## THEATER

Continued from 1A

children the opportunity to see movies on the big screen in the future. I am once again reminded that we are so fortunate to live in Edenton surrounded by people that take their civic responsibility seriously and want to preserve so many of the special things that make Edenton unique. Today, I am very proud to be an Edentonian."

Sellers added, "This is what makes Edenton so different from all the other communities when you can

bring a group together to buy a movie theater for the benefit of everyone."

Destination Downtown Edenton, the nonprofit that helps boost the town's downtown, has been closely monitoring Taylor Theater's closing since the June storm, said executive director Jennifer Harriss.

"The process has been time consuming and tedious. We are happy that after much effort and patience, there is a plan in place to renovate and re-open the Taylor Theater," Harriss said. "Charlie Creighton's willingness to step up and negotiate with the property owner was tru-

ly remarkable. Now, the entire community is involved in the future success of the Taylor Theater. As Preservation Planner Ed McMahon once stated, 'No place stays special by accident.' This philosophy is alive and well in Edenton. We should be very proud."

This is not the first time the community has rallied behind the theater.

In 2013, the community rallied to raised more than \$157,000 to help keep Taylor Theater open.

According to Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton, Hollywood movie distributors decided that movies would no longer be produced on film. Instead, all movies would be released in a digital format, meaning all film movie projectors and equipment currently in use would be obsolete. She said independent theaters like the Taylor had a short deadline to convert their equipment to digital.

Otherwise, they would have to close.

The Edenton community rallied to keep the theater open, forming a "Save the Taylor Theater" campaign, Knighton said. The town served as the collection agent for the campaign, receiving donations from individuals, businesses and through fundraising events.

All of the funding from the campaign, which didn't include any taxpayer funds, was used to purchase and install the digital projection and sound equipment the Taylor Theater needed to screen movies, Knighton said. The project also included some slight renovations — electrical upgrades, for example — but all expenses were paid for by community donations, she said.

The town currently leases the equipment to the for a dollar a year, Knighton said.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH	DUMPSTERS
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH	RECYCLABLES WILL BE PICKED UP
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH	YARD WASTE WILL BE PICKED UP

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