

county. While the first thing you might think about is the seasoning in the kitchen, sage has another important use.

“The sage we raise here is used to produce a resin for perfume and self-care products to keep these on skin. We are about the only place in the world that does that,” explains Denham. And given the county’s temperate climate, the land is actually ideally suited to grow just about any crop, so there is a lot of untouched potential for agricultural development.

There has also been the recent addition of high-tech boat-builder, Daedalus Yachts. This start-up is applying the latest in self-sufficient technologies that apply the use of electric propulsion, lithium batteries, solar power and hydrogen systems to promote zero emission sailing.

“The gentleman had a dream and we put together a package for one of our old buildings and got him a North Carolina grant through the building reuse program to help him get the building where it needed to be for him,” Denham says.

And while it’s nice to have new businesses in the community, it’s not enough to simply sit back and wait for more to come. To continue attracting new and different enterprises, Edenton-Chowan Partnership has been promoting skill development for the area’s youth to build up an available workforce for potential businesses. The workforce skills initiative has partnered with the high school and the local College of the Albemarle to develop the skills that extend past the soft skills “to make the employees ready and employable,” Denham says. “Our latest endeavor is coming up with posters of people who have gone to work in the factories locally, showing some of the youth who stayed here and are making a good living instead of leaving the area. It’s a pretty neat concept.”

One major change coming to the area is the development of Interstate 87. This project is a \$1 billion highway that will connect Norfolk to Raleigh. It will also run right through Edenton-Chowan. While there have been no official economic studies conducted at this point, the potential for increased ease of travel and more commercial activity throughout the area seems like a sure bet.

The hope, of course, is that businesses will take advantage of Edenton being located at the unofficial halfway point and want to set up business here. As Denham puts it, “Interstate 87 is going to change the whole area of northeast North Carolina. We are also seeing educational opportunities as the manufacturing base is expanding. You gain a little bit here, you gain a little bit there, and then you look back we have made some major strides.” ■



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A 2020 Regulator 28 with Seafoam hull color nears completion of assembly



2020 Regulator 26xo as it leaves the factory. This was the first 2020 model of the year to leave the factory.



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