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Two deadlock votes kill zoning change

Plans murky on home-based businesses

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

After nearly two years, Arrowhead Beach residents remain divided about whether a home-based business is a public nuisance while county officials are deadlocked on deciding the matter.

Efforts to control home-based businesses by implementing a text amendment that would require aspiring residential businesses to seek a special-use permit failed Monday morning. A motion to adopt the text amendment ended with a 3-3 tie (Commissioner Ellis Lawrence was absent). Seconds earlier a motion to table the matter, pending further research as the impetus behind the county's original zoning restrictions also failed due to

deadlock. Neither the owners of the neighborhood deer processing business nor county leaders seem willing to comply with Chowan's current zoning regulations that prohibit the business. When specifically asked whether Danny and Angela Dupraw's seasonal Hunter Deer Processing business, located at their 307 Chinook Trail residence, was permissible under Chowan County's zoning, Landin Hol-

land, planning project manager, informed the board that the Dupraws had been in violation. Chowan County inspectors had also previously ruled that the couple had been violating the county's zoning ordinances and were ordered via a letter to cease and desist their operation. "Meat processing is not permitted in the R-15 district, and an operation such as this would only be permitted in the Industrial Districts," wrote Morgan

Jethro, interim county planner, on Nov. 5, 2010. "This is not a permissible home occupation, due to increased traffic, noise, and odors which have been documented by numerous complaints to our Code Enforcement division." But, Chowan never enacted any enforcement or imposed any fines, Holland said. Meanwhile, the Dupraws

See ZONING, 3A

Two incumbents seek re-election

From staff reports

Two of three incumbent school board members up for re-election say they plan to run again.

Jean Bunch, who holds District 1, Seat 2 and Ricky Browder, who holds District 2, Seat 2 and serves as the board's chairman, both said Monday afternoon they would file for re-election once the filing period opens. The filing period for the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education begins at noon June 29 and ends at noon on July 27. Interested candidates must pay a \$48 filing fee.

Win Dale, who currently fills the at-large seat on the board said he has decided not to seek re-election after completing his first 6-year term on the board.

Dale, 53, said he made the decision several months ago not to run again. He said he is a firm believer in term limits and wants to give someone else the opportunity to serve.

"I think it's time for some new blood and some fresh ideas," Dale said.

Bunch, 55, is also nearing the end of her first term on the board.

Bunch said she decided to seek re-election because of a desire to give back to the community. She also said she would like to continue to be a part of seeing the school system progress in its use of technology.

"We're going to lag behind if we can't provide that resource," Bunch said. "I want to be a part of making sure that we can do that."

Browder, 49, is seeking a third term on the board. He has served as chairman for the past four years.

"If I am re-elected," Browder said, "my primary goals would be making sure we continue to



Browder

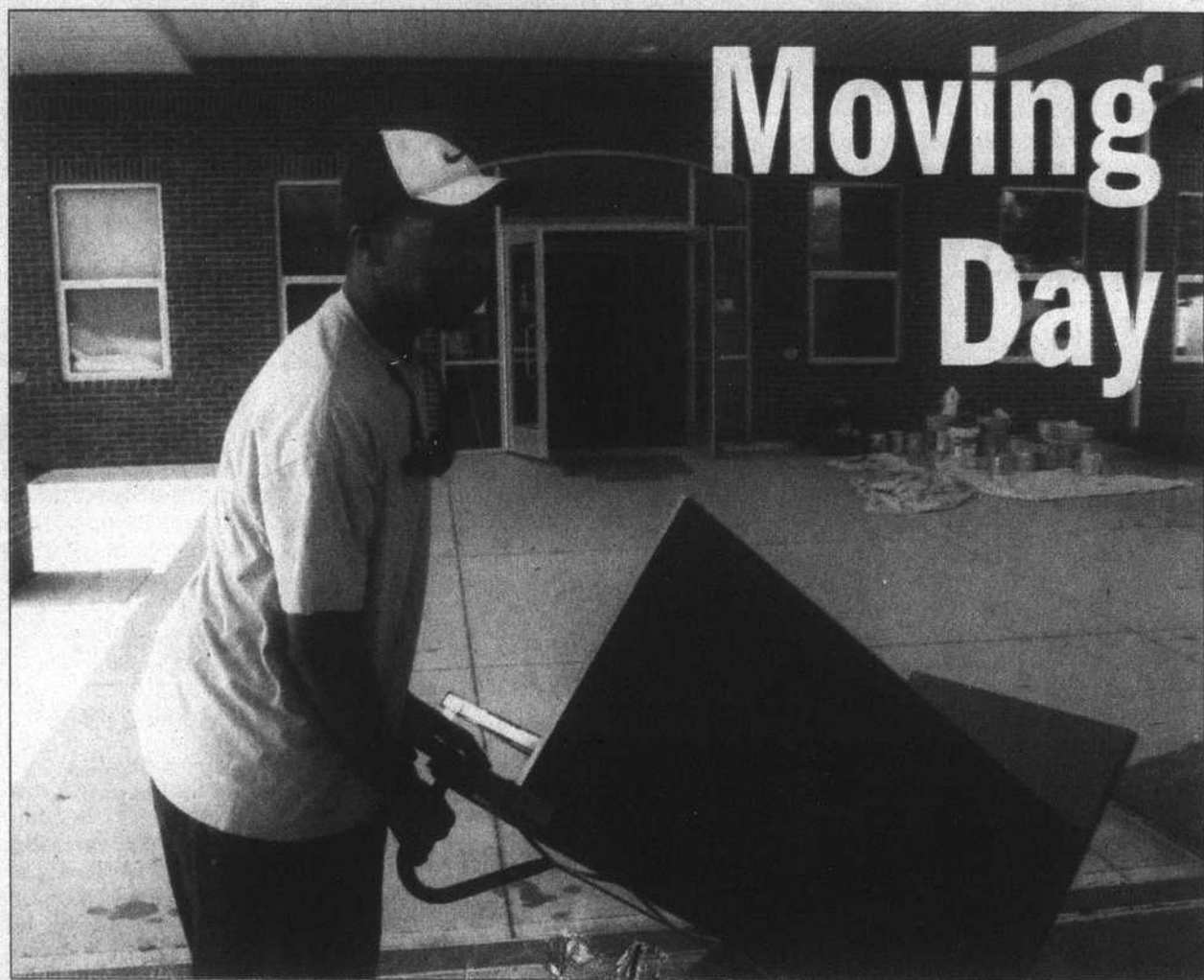


Bunch



Dale

See BOARD, 3A



STAFF PHOTOS BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

Chowan County's Gentry Bradley begins moving furniture Tuesday as the Department of Social Services prepares to relocate at 100 West Freemason Circle, adjacent to the Public Safety Center. Today marks the official three-day move date with DSS offices reopening for clients on Monday.

DSS begins three-day move

Veterans Affairs share jail space

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Add the Department of Social Services and Veteran Affairs to the final list of agencies vacating the former county office building.

Today marks the final moves from the East King Street building that formerly housed numerous county offices as well as the central office for Edenton-Chowan Schools. Chowan leaders decided two years ago to abandon the dated and energy-deficient building that originally served as a hotel for newer digs.

DSS begins a three-day move to 100 West Freemason Circle, or the former building that housed the Albemarle Regional Health Services and across from the Public Safety Center.

"It's going to be a great facility," said Clifton Hardison, DSS director. "This is going to be more conducive for serving the citizens of Chowan County."

DSS will be closed to clients until next Monday due to the relocation.

DSS previously occupied two stories in the county building, but will now field all of its services and its 30 employees on a single floor.



Chowan County's Gentry Bradley wheels furniture into the Department of Social Services new location, Tuesday. DSS and Veterans Affairs is the last two county agencies to vacate the former county office building on East King Street.

"Sometimes a two-story building is like working in two different offices," Hardison added.

The driving force behind these relocations is fiscal savings. In addition to moving out of a building that often required maintenance repairs and bled high utility bills, Chowan offices will all be housed in newer county-owned facilities.

Because the state provides the county reimbursement of roughly

50 percent for its services, the county will be able to apply lease proceeds toward the debt service on the building where DSS will be located.

Nine years remain on the building's construction loan, which has been bundled with the Northern Community Center with a balance of \$1.67 million balance.

Before DSS could assume its new quarters that was first built in

See MOVE, 4A

Changes await trash pick-up

Town expects net savings

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The town is looking at changing its trash collection in an effort to make it more efficient and cost-effective.

Public Works Director John Norris said during the Town Council's June 12 meeting that, "Our goal is to cut costs while maintaining the exceptional level of service that residents expect."

Norris said that a newly developed restructuring plan calls for dividing the town into four garbage collection areas and collecting four days a week. Each participating resident or business would have their trash picked up once a week.

Recyclables would be picked up on Wednesdays.

The current operations schedule provides for garbage collection on Mondays and Fridays. Dumpsters are emptied on Tuesdays and Thursdays; yard debris is also collected on Thursdays. Recyclables are picked up on Wednesdays.

The plan also calls for the elimination of commercial dumpster service currently provided by the town. Those dumpsters are limited to small businesses such as banks and retail stores, according to Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton. She said that larger commercial businesses such as grocery stores and fast food restaurants contract with private haulers for trash collection.

Knighton said that the town services approximately 86 dumpsters. Of those, she said, about 15 dumpsters are utilized at residential properties such as condos and apartments.

A monthly rental fee ranging from \$20.80 to

See PICK-UP, 2A

Judges seek to limit delays in DWI cases

Prosecutors have 9 months to produce blood test results

By WILLIAM F. WEST
Staff Writer

District Court judges in the Albemarle are no longer allowing driving-while-impaired cases to be delayed when it takes too long for blood test results to be received from the State Bureau of Investigation.

Chief District Judge Christopher Bean, in a letter to prosecu-

tors, defense attorneys and law enforcement officials, said that in cases after June 1, prosecutors in the 1st Judicial District will only have a nine-month window for obtaining blood test results from the SBI lab in Raleigh. The nine-month window starts when a suspect is arrested, Bean said.

If prosecutors are unable to obtain the blood test results for a case within the nine-month time

frame, they will not be able to get that case postponed, Bean's letter states. The only exceptions to the new rule, Bean said, are cases involving injuries or deaths or when delays are needed for "the proper administration of justice."

The other four district judges in the 1st Judicial District — Edgar Barnes, Amber Davis, Eula Reid and Robert Trivette — joined Bean in issuing the letter, which

is dated June 1. The district covers Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, Chowan, Perquimans, Gates and Dare counties.

In a phone interview Tuesday, Trivette said he drafted the letter after discussions with other judges in the district over the past six months.

Trivette said he believes the move was needed because of a backlog of DWI cases created primarily by an increase in the

See DWI, 3A

