

# Despite losses, citizens say they feel blessed



Cindy Cody lost her automobile beneath the crushing weight of a tree on Stratford Road following Hurricane Isabel. (Staff photo by Rebecca Bunch)

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Despite the loss of cars, trucks, and in some cases, homes, local citizens expressed thankfulness in the days following the storm.

"We were truly blessed," said Kristi Holland as she and other family members worked to clear huge chunks of trees and debris from her home on Hawthorne Road in Edenton. Gesturing toward hers and other yards around her, Holland said she felt God had protected people's lives during the fury of Hurricane Isabel. "Just look at the way all these huge trees fell in between the houses and not on them," she said. "This could have been so much worse."

Holland said that she and other family members had walked downtown at about 7 a.m. on the morning after. "It

was unbelievable," she said. "There were power lines that had blown down everywhere. It was just unreal."

Others in the neighborhood lost vehicles beneath the enormous weight of some of Edenton's old trees. Cindy Cody of Stratford Road had her automobile crushed that, and at the nearby home of Eva Spruill a mangled Ford pickup truck was pushed into a shed and covered by the mighty limbs of another tree.

Still, Spruill said, things can be replaced but people can't. "I just feel so blessed to be alive," she said.

Chowan County did lose one citizen during the hurricane. Angelique Jones, 32, of the 300 block of Coral Lane in Cape Colony died when her car was pinned underneath a tree Thursday afternoon. No lives were lost in Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden or

Currituck counties.

As the clean-up effort moved into the weekend, road crews made solid headway into clearing trees and debris from the community's streets and highways.

Local residents were able to leave the shelters that had been set up at local schools and churches, and return to their homes. Officials assisting with the relief effort praised the patience and "can do" spirit shown by local residents. Far from being downhearted and depressed about the loss of water, lights and phone service, people for the most part exhibited great patience with the difficulty in securing such basic services, and the necessity for standing in long lines to receive water, ice and meals.

"We'd like to commend everybody for their patience," said Peter Rascoe of the local Disaster Relief team.



(Left photo) The site of Edenton's Pembroke Creek condos was littered with tree limbs and debris in the aftermath of Isabel. (Right photo) The Blount Street home of Jim and Sally Blount sustained flood damage as well as downed trees. Neighborhoods throughout Edenton and Chowan County struggled to clean up yards and restore some semblance of normalcy to daily life in the days that followed. (Staff photos by David Crawley)



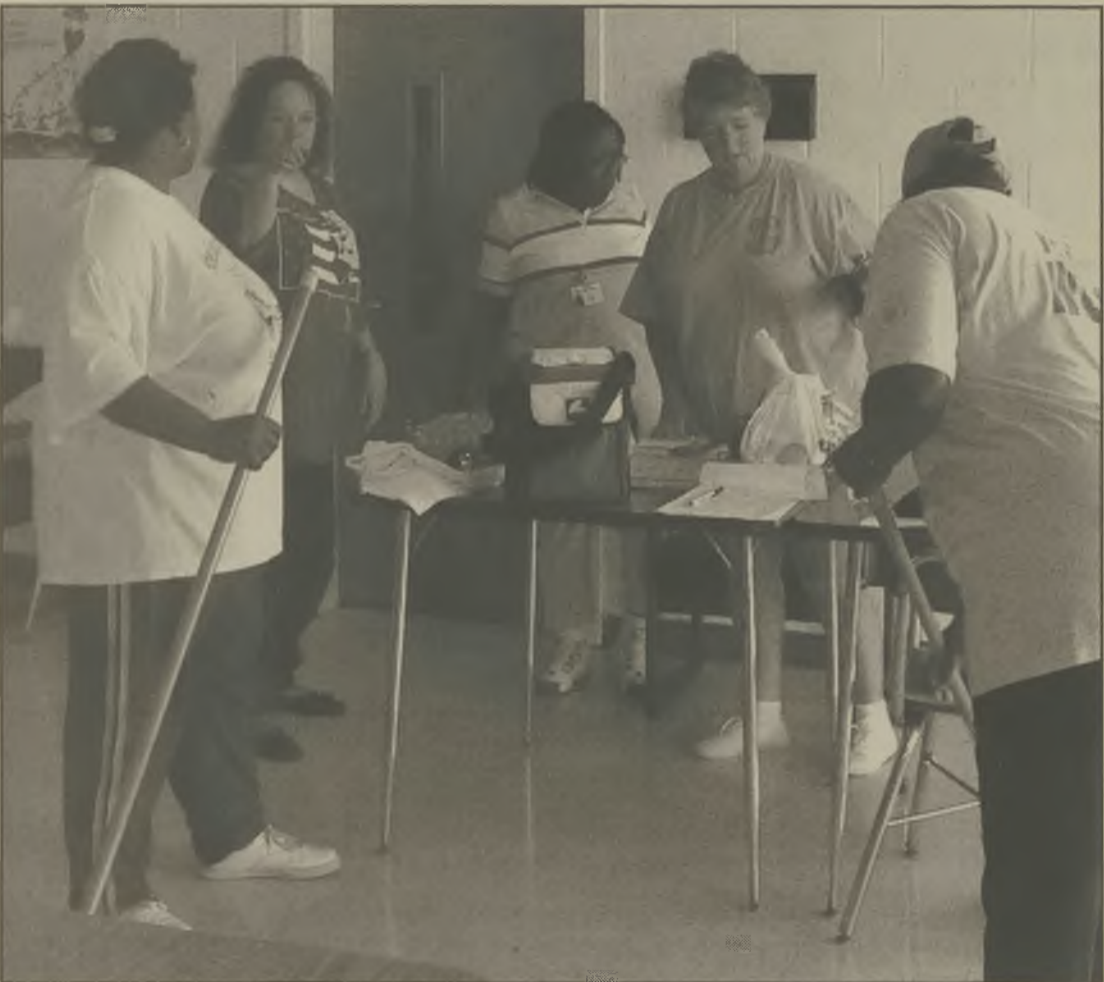
## Highways blocked

Trees and debris along Highway 32 made for hazardous driving for a few days after the storm.



## Business hit hard

Evans Self Service on Rocky Hock Road suffered a lot of damage. According to Joe Bivens, he was already out of many supplies before the storm hit, such as ice, propane and gas.



## Over 300 sheltered

DSS workers clean up after having a little over 300 overnight at Chowan Middle School which was used as a shelter in the county. Janet Respass, DSS employee expressed their appreciation to CMS staff who were extremely helpful in preparing for the storm. She also mentioned that they had approximately 65 sheltered that were under 18 years of age. "They were well behaved and enjoyed playing together" according to shelter workers.



## Working hard

State officials as well as citizen volunteers were out early Friday trying to clear up area roads. Martin Copeland cautioned those out on the highways to avoid the power lines, and admitted that those riding around could sometimes get in the way.