

Town to seek bids to repair its street lights

Power systems still fragile countywide

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Within days of devastated power grids from Cannon's Ferry to Sandy Point, utility workers scrambled to piece Chowan County and Edenton's electric systems back together.

But in their dash to repair miles of dead power lines, the workers left behind a vulnerable system Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said.

"Our system is fragile," Knighton said last week. County Manager Cliff Copeland said the county's mended power system is in a similar state.

"I think common sense tells you that the system is fragile," Copeland said Monday. With so much work done in such a short amount of time, Copeland said the system's frailty is not surprising.

Knighton also said that the town's streetlights aren't oper-

ating as they did prior to the storm. In some cases, lights on one side of the street are working but are not on the opposite side of the street.

"It's strange how one side of the street will work and another side won't," she said.

The town should receive bids on work to repair the streetlight problems this week, Knighton said. The cost for the work is roughly \$150,000, she said. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has required the town go through the bidding process in order to receive federal reimbursement. The Town Council could

approve a contractor for the work during its council committee meeting next Monday night, Knighton said.

More than 130 linemen worked for nearly two weeks to re-string lines and bury new poles after the Sept. 18 storm. Power was restored to most town and county customers within the first week. But frequent, brief interruptions have occurred since the systems were repaired.

Last week, a power outage swept across Edenton. High winds caused isolated interruptions in the county. Copeland and Knighton both said the situation will im-

prove as newly installed systems are corrected.

"We are working hard every day," Knighton said, "repairing, readjusting, resetting and even clearing trees leaning into power lines."

"With every passing day it's going to improve," Copeland said.

The Nov. 12 outage in Edenton lasted about an hour, affecting all town electric customers.

The outage occurred as the result of power lines that bumped together during high winds, Knighton said. A feeder line at the town's East Freeman Street substation

was sagging and was blown against a Dominion Power-owned line, she said.

"We temporarily fixed the problem Thursday (Nov. 12)," Knighton said. "We are coordinating with Dominion to schedule a permanent fix, which I am told should be accomplished without any interruptions to power."

Knighton said residents are being understanding of the situation.

"We appreciate our customers' patience and support," Knighton said, "as we work to make our system reliable and dependable, like it was before Isabel."

FEMA being asked to reimburse Edenton for tree stump removal

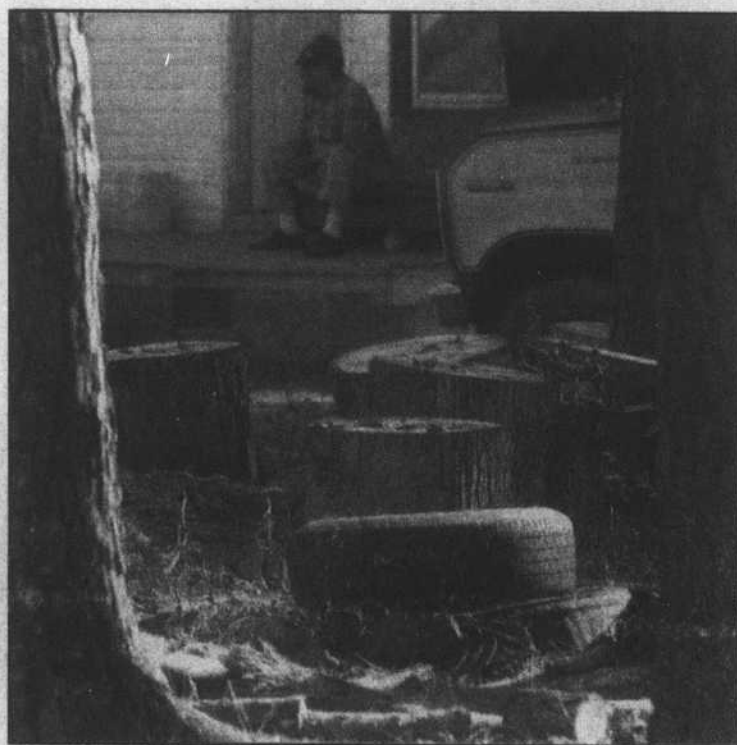
BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Drive along the streets of Edenton and it's hard to miss the tree stumps along roadsides.

Peter Rascoe, Special Projects Coordinator for the town and Chowan County, is hoping it will be a short-lived sight. But unless federal dollars arrive to offset the costs of finishing the cleanup of Hurricane Isabel's mess, the town may have to pay that price.

Rascoe said last week that the town would submit its stump-removal costs to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Whether or not FEMA will reimburse the town remains to be seen. Rascoe said FEMA officials have been told the town wants to be reimbursed.

The town is currently accepting bids for the removal



Unightly tree stumps litter streets throughout Edenton after Hurricane Isabel. The town has asked FEMA to reimburse it for the cost of stump removal. (Cox NC Publications file photo)

FEMA extends its deadline

From Staff Reports

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has extended the deadline to apply for disaster aid stemming from Hurricane Isabel to Dec. 8.

"We are still getting hundreds of people registering every day," Gracia Szech, the FEMA official coordinating the federal disaster response, stated in a press release. "We don't want anyone with uninsured damage to their home or business to miss the chance to register. That's why we are extending the deadline."

To date, 2,825 Chowan County residents have applied

See AID On Page 3-A

Farm City Banquet is Nov. 25

This year's Farm City Banquet, hosted by the Extension Advisory Council, will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening, November 25, at the American Legion Post 40 in Edenton. This annual event recognizes the close ties between the agricultural and business community that is so important to the economic well being of communities across the nation and particularly here in northeastern North Carolina.

The Farm City Banquet is also a time to recognize achievement in the community. This year we will recognize the 2002 Champion Peanut Producer for Chowan County, The 2003 Woman in Agriculture, The 2003 Outstanding Young Farmer, and the 2003 Outstanding Youth. In addition, Mr. Dick Vail, Chowan Interfaith Council, will speak about this organizations volunteer role in our Hurricane Isabel disaster recovery. The Chowan Interfaith Council was appointed through our Isabel Emergency Operations Center to coordinate volunteer efforts for disaster relief.

The Farm City Banquet is supported by business and civic organizations in Chowan County and is open to all. For reservations, please call the Extension office (482-6585) by November 21 with your plans to attend. We will look forward to seeing you for some good food, a good message and plenty of door prizes.

Lawsuit dismissed

BY CARRIE OLSON
Cox NC Publications

A Superior Court judge dismissed a lawsuit against the Edenton Police Department and one of its officers Friday after the plaintiff failed to show up for a deposition hearing.

Tristan Spencer filed suit against Edenton police in July, alleging the department and police officer Denise Wilder had failed to protect him from being attacked by two other men while he was in police custody.

Spencer asserted that Wilder allowed the men - Umoja Powell and Bashiri Powell - to attack him after he had been handcuffed. His lawsuit had sought damages in excess of \$10,000.

Judge Dwight L. Cranford ordered Spencer to attend a deposition hearing in Chowan on Aug. 8. But, according to the attorney representing the Edenton police department and Wilder, Spencer never showed up.

"We waited for over 30

See LAWSUIT Page 3-A

Ferebee gets probation, community service for Labor Day burglaries at business, school

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

Lamar Ferebee of 1352 N. Broad Street was sentenced for his involvement in the Labor Day burglaries of Sound Feet Shoes and John A. Holmes High School. Ferebee was also charged in con-

nection to the August 5 robbery of Sound Feet Shoes.

A brick had been thrown through the glass window of Sound Feet Shoes and twenty hats valued at \$500.00 had been stolen from the store. It was later discovered that John A. Holmes had been robbed

during early morning Labor Day hours.

A number of items were stolen from the high school including a CD player, video camera and three radios with chargers that were later returned.

During the November 17 session of Administrative

Superior Court, Ferebee accepted a plea bargain and was convicted on three counts of felony possession of stolen goods.

His sentence of six to eight months in the custody of North Carolina Department of Corrections (for each charge) was suspended.

Ferebee was placed under thirty-six months of supervised probation and twelve months of intensive probation to run concurrently for each charge.

He was also assigned no less than ninety hours of community service.

Struttin' their stuff

In a tribute that recalled the antics of the Village People, locals (l-r) Jeff "Chief Jeff" Sackrison (Indian), John Caveney (soldier), Peter Lokema (construction worker) and Craig Miller (cowboy) had the crowd cheering during the annual Chowan Hospital fundraiser Saturday night. (Photo by Blair Currie) (See related story and photos on page 8-A)



INSIDE THIS WEEK

Historical Commission welcomes a new Chairman 1-C

Aces win second round playoffs 1-B

Slots open for Christmas Parade 4-D

Candlelight Tour nears 3-A

CENTER HILL CROSS ROADS FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNIVERSARY SUPPER FIRE HOUSE CHICKEN SAT., SEPT. 20 4 PM - 7 PM \$6.00 per plate