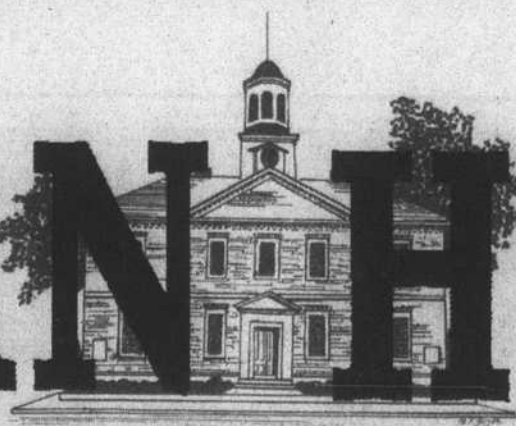


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Snowfall blankets entire community

More snow could come as early as late tonight

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Nearly four inches of snow fell on Friday, causing schools to close and ushering in frigid temperatures.

The snow began in earnest early Friday morning and continued to fall until about 4 p.m. Chowan County schools were closed all day. Schools superintendent Dr. Allan Smith said he will discuss a makeup day with principals this week.

"The specific date has not been identified yet," Smith said Friday.

All parents will be notified of the makeup date once it has been said, he added.

Locally, roads did not ice over during the daylight hours as temperatures hovered just above freezing.

A spokesperson with the N.C. Highway Patrol said Monday that two wrecks were reported Friday in Chowan County. Neither wreck was serious, the spokesperson said.

"There was nothing major at all anywhere," the spokesperson said regarding traffic accidents in the area on Friday.

A spokesperson with the Chowan County Sheriff's Department said one wreck Friday involved a vehicle that "rolled over" into a ditch on Rocky Hock Road. There were no serious injuries reported from that wreck.

Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said the town's power system — which suffered extensive damage during a September hurricane — withstood the wintry weather.

"I think the accumulation was not enough to cause us any concern," Knighton said Monday. "We did OK."

Knighton said crews are still trimming damaged limbs, but that none of the remaining hanging limbs fell onto power lines during the snowfall. She also said temperatures, which remained just above freezing until late Friday, helped keep ice off of lines and transformers.

The National Weather Service forecast for Wednesday through Sunday calls for a 30 percent chance of rain mixed with snow here after midnight tonight (Wednesday).



The first snowfall of the season left Edenton and Chowan County looking like a wintry wonderland Friday. And while the snow was too wet to allow for building a really first-rate snowman, it did give the community a lovely, clean look. And best of all, roads did not ice over during the day as temperatures hovered above the freezing mark. More snow could fall over the area tonight, according to the National Weather Service (Staff photo by Bud Weagly)

Proposed development draws praise

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A proposed development along the Albemarle Sound south of Edenton could bring more than 1,000 new homes to Chowan County over the next decade.

If approved, the Sandy Point community would include single-family homes, public beaches, boat slips, tree-lined sidewalks, upscale bistros, and produce gardens. Sam Young, president of The Fund for Sandy Point North Carolina, LLC, told the county planning board and 16 citizens and county officials of his organization's plans Monday night.

"If I can (sell) 1,000 units in 10 years," Young said during the 90-minute public meeting, "this will be a successful development."

The 927-acre development is planned to straddle the Albemarle Sound Bridge and N.C. Highway 32. Duany



Sam Young, standing, points to a map of the proposed Sandy Point community development project during a public meeting Monday night. The 927-acre development could create more than 1,000 new homes in southern Chowan County over the next 10 to 20 years, Young told the county planning board. (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

Plater-Zyberk & Company — a Miami land-planning firm known for its fight against "urban sprawl" — is the principal developer for the project.

Young said plans will con-

tinue to be tweaked. Developers have yet to request "major CAMA permits" for the project, Young said. In addition, planners will discuss the state's 30-foot waterfront set-

back requirements with the Coastal Resources Commission, he added. Having to abide by the requirement would result in Sandy Point looking like "any other development," Young said.

"We want to avoid that," he added.

While the developers stand to make money, county and town could also reap benefits from the proposed community of several thousand new residents. In addition to expanding the county's property-tax base, Sandy Point could pay for public services.

The development will use county water but will also create its own sewer system. Young said Sandy Point will likely purchase electricity from either the Town of Edenton or Albemarle Electric, a publicly-owned cooperative.

Young said initial construction (building roads and digging harbors) wouldn't begin until at least the spring of 2005.

Construction won't disturb the site's 300 acres of wetlands.

"We made a conscious effort," he said, "to design the land-plan around the wetlands."

The development will be completed in phases and take as long as 15 to 20 years to complete. Once completed, it could become Chowan's second municipality, Young said.

"I believe in 20 years (Sandy Point) may incorporate as another town in Chowan County," he said.

The development will be split into halves, a west and east side. The west side will be more "urban," Young said, with about 1,000 homes, a pair of man-made harbors, a business district with a "main street" approach, and public beaches. The east side will contain about 350 homes — larger than those on the west side — and be more ru-

See **DRAWS** On Page 3-A

Main St. interviews on Jan. 21

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

With Edenton now a full-fledged member of the state's Main Street revitalization program, plans are to install a new local director of the program — ASAP.

Former Edenton Main Street director Belinda Washlesky stepped down last summer. The deadline for applications expired Jan. 9.

Richard Bunch, executive director of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, said a selection committee will whittle that list down to six applicants. Interviews are expected to be held Jan. 21.

"They've got some really good candidates," he added.

Bunch said the new Main Street director will become a part of the Chamber's staff, joining him, Membership Director Brenda Spruill and Tourism Director Nancy Nicholls. He said the Main Street director will continue to work from the Chamber offices on East King Street.

"It gives us the chance to share resources in the building," he said.



Bowles visits Edenton

In a visit to Acoustic Coffee in downtown Edenton Monday evening, Democratic Senate hopeful Erskine Bowles talked about his commitment to improving highway conditions in northeastern North Carolina, his opposition to the proposed OLF in Washington County, and other issues. Bowles hopes to replace U.S. Sen. John Edwards. Earlier in the day, he visited other Albemarle area counties. (Staff photo by Angela Perez)

Commissioners approve 'storm-proofing' system

BY ANGELA PEREZ
Staff Writer

Monday morning Chowan County Commissioners approved the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund to storm-proof the county water system. The fund is part of an aggressive program to ensure the sustainability of the county's water system during any type of emergency, including that of a hurricane.

The need for upgrading and improving the current system became painfully apparent during the 4-day gap between the time the county ran out of water and the state's response to remedying the problem after

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Herbert Ray Byrum, of Byrum Brothers Fishery, along with his brother Bobby (not pictured) leads a group of Chowan County officials to Holladay's Island to plant the county flag on the newly acquired tract of land. Commissioners visited the site on Monday. (Staff photo by Angela Perez)

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