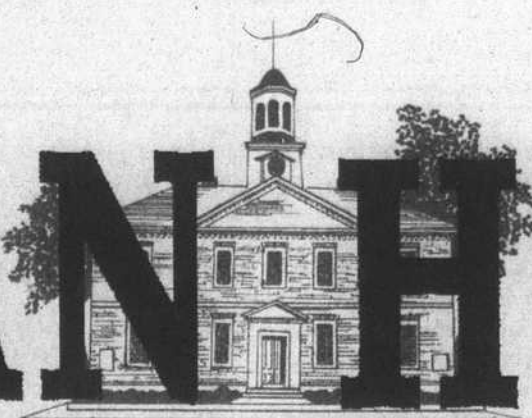


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Town Council asked to help pay for power lines

Subdivision owners want assistance

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

The Edenton Town Council wants more time and information before it decides if it will help pay for installing underground power lines for a new subdivision.

Developers Paul and Janie Waff have already announced plans to build Waff Landing, just outside of town on the Chowan River. Prior to Hurricane Isabel the Waffs had approached town officials about the town possibly helping to pay costs to install

underground electric service for Waff Landing.

Monday night, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said the town adopted a policy about three years ago that requires developers to pay the full costs for installing underground electric services in new subdivisions. Developers must also pay to install water and sewer services, she added.

The previous policy allowed cost sharing between the town and developers to install underground power systems. The policy allows the town to pay for overhead systems.

"Is there any reason to change (the policy for Waff Landing) other than that we were asked" to do so by the Waffs, Councilman Jerry Parks asked Knighton.

Seven previous subdivisions did not receive town assistance to pay for underground power services, Knighton wrote in a memo to council.

Knighton said Paul Waff had planned to make a presentation on the proposed subdivision Monday night but was unable to attend the meeting. She also said the Waffs are interested in having the subdivision being voluntarily annexed by the town.

She said it could cost from \$150,000 to \$175,000 to install electric services at Waff Landing "whoever puts it in."

"(And) I think the estimates are very preliminary," she said. The town would have to borrow that amount of money or pull it from cash reserves, Knighton added.

Knighton surveyed other

towns regarding their policy for aiding — or not aiding — developers pay for underground power systems. The results include:

- Elizabeth City pays to install primary underground service;

- Kinston, which has low residential growth, generally pays the costs;

- Apex, which has high residential growth, determines need if there is competition between that town and another electric provider to supply power to a development

- Clayton, which also has high residential growth, does not pay the costs.

"So far," Knighton wrote in the memo, "the policy most commonly cited is 'it depends.'"

The memo also stated that

ElectriCities, the town's electric supplier, indicated Edenton "cannot have one policy for underground service for subdivisions inside the city limits and another, different policy for (a) subdivision in the (extra-territorial district) or outside the city limits."

Councilman Willis Privott said council should review any potential policy change carefully, since other developers would question why it was changed for one developer and not another.

"... They're going to be on our backs," he said, "to give an answer why we did it."

Knighton and Mayor Roland Vaughan said the town could increase its revenues if the Waffs' subdivision is prosperous. Knighton

said Monday there was no way to forecast how much of a revenue increase the town could expect to see.

Knighton and Parks both said not every subdivision meets the expectations of its developers.

"We're taking as much risk as the investor is to get our money back," Parks said.

The Waffs have said the subdivision could have from 75-80 dwelling units as well as a motel, restaurant, and marina, Knighton told council.

She said Paul Waff could make his presentation at council's April 13 regular meeting.

"I think we need to wait for him," to make that presentation, Councilman Jimmy Stallings said.



First days of spring

While the first official days of spring made a chilly arrival in Edenton this week, local residents took comfort from the beauty of blossoming flowers in local gardens and at historic sites such as the Cupola House (above) in downtown Edenton. The Cupola House garden is maintained all year-round by a group of dedicated volunteers. (Staff photo by Earline White)

Jennifer Harriss is new director for Main Street

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Jennifer Harriss may be young, but it's old things that she's passionate about.

Harriss, Edenton's new Main Street Program director, majored in historic preservation and community planning at the College of Charleston. Edenton, she said, in many ways is more charming than Charleston, even if it is smaller.

"I think it's one of the most well-preserved places I've ever seen," Harriss said during a trip into town from Lumberton, her current home and workplace. She has been Lumberton's downtown coordinator for the past 18 months.

She and husband Meader fell in love with Edenton during their first visit. She'll get to continue that relationship with Edenton in mid-April, when she begins work at the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce's offices on East King Street.

She wants to help preserve the town's treasures while helping to improve an already vibrant downtown.

"The community here seems to be very proactive and preservation-minded," she said. "I think they try really hard to make the downtown special. It's worth preserving."

She looks forward to work-



Jennifer Harriss

ing with local business leaders and public officials, as well as the Main Street board of directors. It's a job she's been shooting for.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity to be involved in Main Street in a hands-on way," she said.

In the near future she just wants to absorb how things are done, what people downtown want.

"I think my goals should be the community's goals," she said.

A long-time advocate of the state and national Main Street programs, Harriss will strive to continue the programs four-point approach: downtown revitalization, marketing the downtown business district, recruiting and working with program volunteers, and improving and protecting the downtown's aesthetics.

She begins work at the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce in mid-April.

Dr. Slade to be honored

Dr. James Slade will be the guest of honor at a celebration on Monday, March 29 from 6-8 p.m. and the entire community is invited to come out and thank him for his 40 years of selfless service to the people of Chowan County.

The observance will take place in classrooms A and B at Chowan Hospital in Edenton. All are welcome.

Wrecks block traffic on Hwy. 32

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

TYNER — A tractor-trailer overturned on N.C. Highway 32 North early Tuesday morning, blocking and intersection, while another mishap just south also caused traffic problems near White Oak Elementary School.

The 18-wheeler reportedly swerved to miss a dog in the road and overturned on its right side, blocking the Dillard's Mill Road intersection with N.C. 32. Workers with the N.C. Highway Patrol and Center Hill Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department were



Emergency workers surround an overturned tractor-trailer at Dillard's Mill Road and N.C. Highway 32 North Tuesday morning. (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

still on the scene after 9 a.m. Tuesday morning.

In addition, emergency workers responded to a wreck at the Sandy Ridge Road intersection with N.C. 32 that reportedly involved a minivan and car. That accident scene was cleared shortly after 9 a.m. Traffic was delayed earlier in the morning as workers cleared debris from the highway. That accident occurred at the intersection used to ferry students and staff to White Oak and D.F. Walker elementary schools.

Further details about both accidents were unavailable at press time.

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