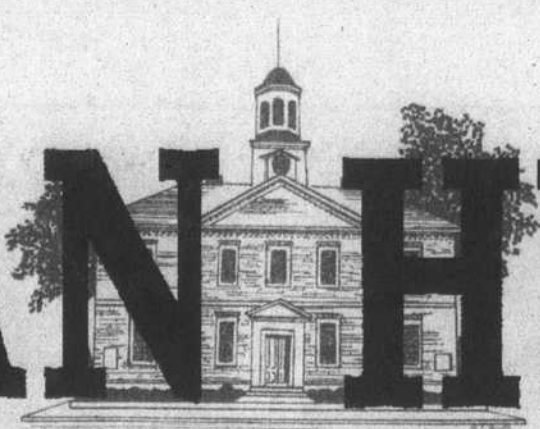


THE CHOWAN HERALD

Wednesday, April 21, 2004



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Temporary permit could decide fate of flea markets

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

The Town Council didn't act on a civic group's hopes to host flea markets last week, but they'll likely do so Monday night.

At their April 13 meeting, councilors held a public hearing on the Edward G. Bond American Legion Post 40's request to hold flea markets at the fairgrounds on West Queen Street Extended. The markets would be held in a pavilion on the 40-acre site, which includes a fairground.

The Legion would need to get a conditional-use permit from the town to host flea markets. The town's Unified Develop-

ment Ordinance does not allow such regularly held events. It only allows one-time church and residential yard sales and flea markets.

During the 45-minute public hearing, Post 40 commander Ron Green offered details about the Legion's plans. The club hopes to use profits from charging vendors for renting space to pay for its youth programs and scholarships, as well as upkeep costs for the property.

"We would appreciate any consideration that you would give us in our favor," Green said.

Plans are to host flea markets on Saturdays from 7 a.m. until noon. They will not occur on Sundays, he added.

Still, he was unable to tell council how many events would be held throughout the year. But all vendors would be either inside the pavilion or within the fairground's fences, Green added.

Green was also unable to say just what type of merchandise would be sold at the site. Chowan County Commissioner Jimmy Alligood, who said he was neither for nor against the Legion's proposal, said he has been to other flea markets where vendors are more like professional craftspeople than citizens selling personal items.

Alligood said he was concerned that professional vendors could take business away from existing merchants in the town and

county.

"That (type of flea market), to me, is not a yard sale," Alligood, a former town councilman and current Chowan County Commissioner who joined the debate, said. "That, to me, is a vendor bringing in their wares."

Edenton pharmacist John Mitchener also voiced concerns about a large-scale flea market drawing shoppers away from downtown businesses. He questioned if the markets could outgrow the Legion's projections.

"At what point," Mitchener said, "does (the flea market) become more than the Legion can control, more than what the ordinance allows?"

Mitchener asked council to consider "how big is too big" for

any allowed flea markets.

Mayor Roland Vaughan said council can address such concerns through it changes would make to the UDO.

"The scope of (what conditions a permit grantee must abide by) can be defined through the ordinance," Vaughan said.

Neighbors of the fairground also voiced concerns about the potential for increases in trash and traffic, should the events grow larger than anticipated.

Green said Legion staff would not keep the site clean and orderly. The property also has ample parking, he said.

Overall, Green said, the events would bring visitors and money to the downtown, not

take away from it. The Legion just needs the opportunity to gauge if the idea works.

"It may not work, we may not be able to do it," he said. "We need the chance . . . to see."

Council did not take action on the request, saying more study and information was needed before any decision was made.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said Monday that she might recommend a temporary conditional-use permit. For example, such a permit could limit flea markets to a 30-day period, allowing both the Legion and the town to assess up to four events and to gauge what type of success, crowds, and vendors could be expected.

No action taken on developer's request for help

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

An Edenton developer seeking help from the town in burying power lines at his planned subdivision presented his case to the Town Council last Tuesday evening.

Paul Waff told town officials at the April 13 meeting that the town would benefit from property sales tax and electric revenues if Waff Landing is annexed. Waff indicated he would likely ask to be annexed if he the town endures the cost of burying power lines at the waterfront project, currently a storage site of his contracting business next to the Chowan River Bridge.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said preliminary estimates indicate it would cost \$150,000 to \$175,000 to bury the lines at Waff Landing. The town's current policy requires developers to endure the cost of burying lines.

At a March meeting, some councilors had concerns about

the risk of paying to bury lines for Waff. The concern stemmed from the potential for any developer to miscalculate the potential profits from a new project and then be unable to reimburse the town.

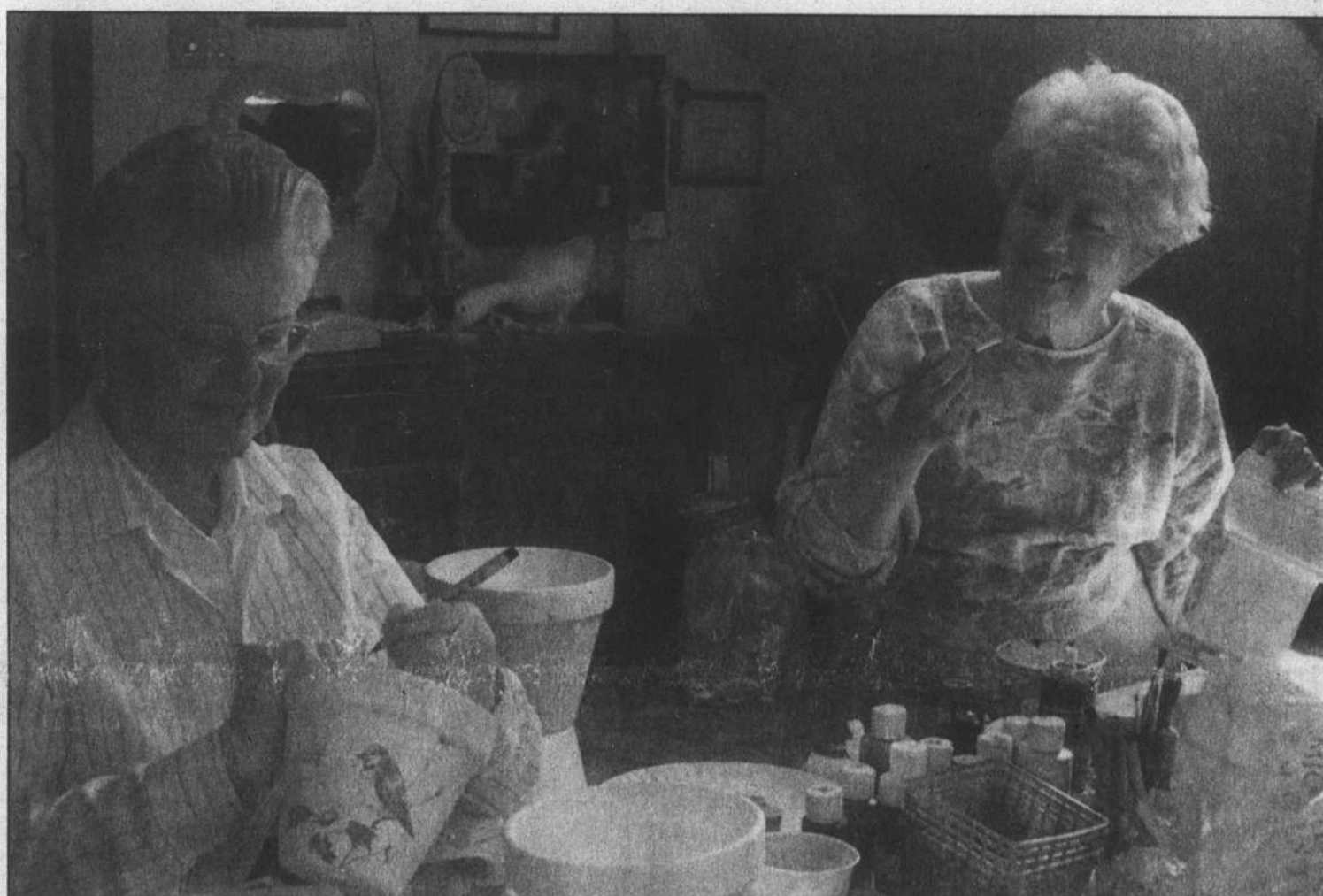
During his nearly 20-minute presentation, Waff assured council his company plans for Waff Landing to prosper.

"We're not a fly-by-night company," Waff said, adding that he already has another project underway.

Edenton Lake & Harbor, a subdivision off of West Queen St., is half sold, Waff said. Waff Landing, he added, could grow to 120 condo units. Nine of the waterfront condos have already been pre-sold, he said.

A marina is "well on the way," he added. Other plans are to also build a restaurant/inn at the site. In addition, boat slips — some of which are already being rented — will be available.

Council did not act on the request. The issue will be discussed again at a later date.



Staff photo by Earline White

Getting ready for Garden Bazaar

The Edenton Woman's Club will host a Gift and Garden Bazaar on Friday, April 23 from 11:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 24 from 8 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at the Barker House on the downtown Edenton waterfront. Sale items will include lovely handmade crafts, potted/unpotted plants, white elephant, painted pots, and Mother's Day gifts. Lunch plates will be available too. Above, Barbara King (left) decorates a flowerpot while Kyra Hicks (right) paints a design on a bird house in preparation for the sale.

Millpond event coincides with Earth Day

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

The Bennett's Millpond Project environmental action teams of students, teachers and university researchers have actively studied the Millpond since January 2003. To coincide with Earth Day, the second annual "Bennett's Mill-

pond Environmental Learning Project" student symposium will take place on April 28. Teams of students and teachers from four Northeastern North Carolina counties are currently testing water quality and recording microclimate data about Bennett's Millpond in Edenton.

The teams have developed fo-

cus research problems based on their observational data. They will be sharing their work with the educational and professional community from 1-3 p.m. Dr. David Haase, Director of The Science House and physics professor at NCSU, will be the keynote speaker for the event.

The community is invited to at-

tend the interactive poster session from 3:30-5:30 p.m. This session will feature hands-on environmental learning stations with The Albemarle Learning Center's computerized sampling equipment. The Albemarle Learning Center is located at 131 Morristown Road, Edenton. Call 482-5769 for more information.



Fundraiser planned

Preservation North Carolina is hosting a Preservation Celebration at the historic Privott/Goodwin/Sexton House in Edenton on Friday evening, April 30. This fun and casual outdoor event will celebrate the relocation and renovation of the historic home. Tickets are \$35 person /\$65 per couple. PNC members may attend for \$15. Tickets should be reserved by April 27. Call PNC, (919) 832-3652, for yours.

Caucus turnout very light

Only 29 of Chowan County's nearly 6,000 registered Democrats, or .5 percent, cast ballots Saturday during the presidential caucus. John Kerry received 18 votes, or 61 percent, while U.S. Sen. John Edwards, picked up 9 votes, or 31 percent. John Dean and Rep. Dennis Kucinich both received 1 vote.

Injunction on OLF is in place

District Court Judge Terrence Boyle on Tuesday issued a preliminary injunction against the U.S. Navy, stopping any further efforts relating to establishing a proposed outlying landing field until such time as two related civil lawsuits can be heard.

His ruling, issued in Eastern District Federal Court, followed the Navy's purchase last week of Washington County land worth about \$3.7-million.

Mother's Day Contest

Want to tell the world how proud you are of your Mom? Well, now you can by entering *The Chowan Herald's* Mother of the Year contest. Your Mom will also be eligible to win one of several great prizes being awarded.

Letters are being accepted until noon on April 30 from children of all ages. Entries should be one hundred words or less and may be e-mailed to the newspaper at chowanherald@earthlink.net. Letters that are typed or legibly written may also be mailed to *The Chowan Herald*, PO Box 207, Edenton, NC 27932 or brought to the newspaper office at 421 South Broad Street in downtown Edenton. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. To be eligible, all of the mothers described in the letters must currently reside in Chowan County.

Judging will be done by an independent panel made up of members of the Chowan Herald Reader Advisory Board and other community residents. Those serving as judges may not enter the contest. Family members of *Chowan Herald* employees are also not eligible to participate.

If you have questions, please call the *Herald* at 482-4418.



Abducted

North Carolina residents are asked to be on the look out for Jai Mya Glover (pictured above). The three-year-old was reportedly kidnapped early Tuesday in Robeson County. If you see this child please call (910) 671-3170 immediately.

Z.T. EVANS FAMILY (RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM)

Fried Chicken, Barbecue & Fish Dinner

April 29, 2004 • Dinner 4pm - 6:30pm (Buffet Style)
Entertainment by the Rocky Hock Rebels

Price: \$6.00 • Eat In or Take Out •
AT LEON NIXON CATERING, 749 VIRGINIA ROAD

