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Sandy Point Land Use Plan set for Monday vote

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, August 2. A highlight of the meeting was the Planning and Enterprise Committee report given by Commissioner Wayne Goodwin and Elizabeth Bryant of the Chowan Planning/Inspection Board.

The upcoming Sandy Point waterfront community is applying for a Land Use Plan Amendment to be voted on by the Planning Board Monday, August 9 at 7 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room of the Courthouse. The commission-

ers will hold a special meeting August 23 at 6 p.m. to consider the amendment designating 500 acres on the Albemarle Sound from "limited transition" designation to a "new urban waterfront area" designation. If approved, Chowan County would implement the "New Urban Waterfront Designation" as a result of the pilot program as specified under the Coastal Area Management Act of 1974. This would be the first development of its kind in North Carolina.

With the new specification the 30-foot setback can be foregone only on newly created shorelines. Contingencies for the development include that

the development must have central water, sewage and storm water management system. Two independent engineers will review the plan and check to see if the air and water quality meets national standards, which are higher than the previous state standards. Sandy Point must encompass a non-gated community where the streets are open to the public and maintain a much-needed public beach access.

"This is an interesting proposition," said Cliff Cope-land County Manager. "The legislation and national environmental groups have worked together in order to produce

something that could serve as a model for other counties." There will be a central sewer system on site and the total area shall not exceed 500 acres and not include more than one mile of natural shoreline.

Bryant also reported that the new Chowan County FloodPlain Maps are currently being made. The newly released Pasquotank River Basin FloodPlain map gives the best idea of the susceptible areas until the county plan arrives.

Ray Goodwin of the Chowan County Water Department reported on the surge of complaints received from residents. A letter to the editor in the newspaper prompted an

investigation within the department to see if each complaint was being recorded. "We are implementing thorough tracking of complaints and documenting every one," Goodwin said. "In fact, the day the paper came out, we were in that area fixing the leaks. We spent two weeks working in that area to insure workability."

In preparation for the hurricane season, generators for the water department are being shipped mid-September and by mid-October should be up and running.

Ranger Ferrell Banks reported on the North Carolina Forestry Annual Report. "Our

number one priority is fire control," Banks said. "Between July '03 and June '04 we had 6 fires over-113 acres caused primarily by debris burning. Chowan County averages about 14 fires a year. Smoke management complaints are down. But there has been a huge effort to replant trees. Total payments made to landowners in Chowan County this year were \$58,344. Isabel damaged 40% of the county's trees. 2,500 of those trees have been cut down. Another good note reflects the work of the crews during Hurricane Isabel. Chain saw crews from

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Renovations at Holmes close to being completed

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education met in regular session Monday, August 2. Marvin Stryzyski and Mike Brusko, leader of the CMS Odyssey of the Mind team, were on hand with the team members to explain their award-winning product in the category of Envirover at the National Competition. The team placed 5th out of teams from all over the world including China, Japan, Canada, and Poland. The Envirover was a self-propelled vehicle with at least three wheels that moved and picked up trash that would be reassembled into other items. "We are very fortunate," said Stryzyski, "some of these students have been on the team three years in a row. They did a great job."

Dr. Allan Smith gave the John A. Holmes renovation update. The major thing left to be completed is painting and cleanup, but there is quite a bit of each to do. Meanwhile, modulars are set up in place and the teachers are in, ready to go. The exceptional children's class is complete and ready. The canopy for the handicapped buses is set up as well.

However, the exceptional children's suite is not ready. The deadline for completion was July 23 and liquidated damages accrue \$500 for each day it is not completed. As of

Monday, damaged were reported at \$5,000. Also, the guidance and counseling areas are not complete either. Alternatives have been set up in case the guidance area is not finished by school's start on Thursday. The deadline for the counseling area is August 6. "We are not moving in until the quality of work is done to our satisfaction," Smith said. Comments from the guidance staff are positive despite the working area's current ruggedness. The staff feels that the setup is much better now that they are all together in one central area.

Speculation is that scheduling conflicts and a lack of time management are the likely culprits for the construction delays. This project required the least amount of work (compared with the past three summer's construction) but have not been completed in the timely manner.

"It is difficult finding people to work nights and weekends in order to get the job done. And with the original site supervisor being released and a new one brought in three weeks ago, I am sure that those things contributed to the delay. But I can't fathom why the project was not completed on schedule," Smith said.

"With the future long-range plans, the board needs to prepare themselves for disruption. It will be nothing like

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ALEX SKIRTS NC COAST



Photo by Matt Artz/The Coastland Times

Residents and visitors throughout the Outer Banks took a last minute pre-storm walk on the beach on Tuesday morning and prepared to ride out the first hurricane of the year.

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Creeping ever closer to the northern Outer Banks, Hurricane Alex was poised to brush northeast North Carolina by midday Tuesday.

Packing sustained winds near 100 mph, the season's first hurricane was forecasted to cause little damage in Chowan County and Edenton. It was expected to bring more headache than the heartbreak Hurricane Isabel delivered in September.

Edenton officials were hoping Alex would take the forecasted track that would steer

it just east of the Outer Banks, sparing Chowan.

"We've been doing our normal pre-storm preparedness," Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said Tuesday morning.

Ditches and catch basins were being cleared of debris to allow for better storm-water runoff. Town officials were also double-checking generators, including a new one at the storm-water station.

Patty Madry, assistant director of Chowan County Emergency Services, was somewhat relieved by Tuesday's 11 a.m. storm advisory, which put Alex

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Photo by Matt Artz/The Coastland Times

Surf was beginning to pick up at Nags Head Pier by 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, with Hurricane Alex about 30 miles south of Cape Lookout with winds of 100 mph.

Steamers seeking to bring home trophy

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

After two months of chasing the Coastal Plain League's regular-season victory mark, the Edenton Steamers will be headed to Hampton, Va. this weekend seeking to bring home the Pettit Cup trophy.

Through Tuesday, the Steamers remained one win away from tying the league win mark. Rain washed out games on both Sunday and Monday. Edenton (32-10) trails only the 2001 Durham Braves (who no longer play in the CPL) and the '99 Wilmington Sharks.

"Ironically, those two clubs went on to win the Championship at the end of the season for those respective seasons," Justin Sellers, CPL director of media relations, said Monday.

Edenton is scheduled to play the last regular-season game Thursday against the Florence RedWolves in South Carolina.

"Even if we don't get both games in or win both games," Steamers general manager Joe Dapper said Tuesday, "we still will have the highest winning percentage in a season."

The Clams head north to War Memorial Stadium this weekend for the league's winner-

take-all series. Seven other teams will join the fray. At press

CPL TOURNEY

Games dates and times
Friday, Aug. 6
Game 1 — 10 a.m.
Game 2 — 1 p.m.
Game 3 — 4 p.m.
Game 4 — 7 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 7
Game 5 — 10 a.m.
Game 6 — 1 p.m.
Game 7 — 4 p.m.
Game 8 — 7 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 8
Semifinal Game — 1 p.m.
Championship — 4 p.m.

time, only Gastonia, Wilson, Thomasville, and the Peninsula Pilots were guaranteed slots in the series.

"Because the seeding is done by overall winning percentage," Sellers said, "we do not know who will be playing whom just yet. We will know more as each day goes by."

With a .762 winning percentage, Edenton is almost guaranteed to lock up the No. 1 seed in the series.

The Pettit Cup Championship Tournament, sponsored by Home Depot, will be held Aug. 6-8 in Hampton at War Memorial Stadium, home of the Pen-

insula Pilots. The tournament will consist of eight teams made up of the three divisional (North, South, West) first half champs, the three divisional second half champs, and two at-large bids.

The Steamers' first game will be Friday at 4 p.m. Edenton's opponent was undetermined at press time. Tickets are \$5 for a single game, \$10 for a whole day, and \$20 for the entire tournament. Tickets are available at the gate.

Come Sunday, the team could have wrapped up the best season in the CPL's 8-year history and the coveted Pettit Cup.

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ATTENTION YOUTH CHEERLEADERS, FOOTBALL AND SOCCER PLAYERS

The Recreation Department and Northern Chowan Community Center will take registration for Cheerleading (ages 6-12), Flag Football (ages 6-8) and Tackle Football (ages 8-12 with weight requirement) and Soccer (ages 5-18) the week of August 2-August 6. The cost is \$10.00 (\$15.00 after Aug. 6).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, YOU MAY CALL 482-8595 OR 221-4901.