

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## Council scraps plan following opposition

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

Plans allowing the sale of alcohol to outdoor diners dried up during Monday night's Town Council meeting. Council's administrative committee chairman Steve Biggs said Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton had polled councilors about their opinion on forwarding the matter to the April 12 meeting. Council typically votes on issues during such regular meetings.

Knighton said Tuesday that council unanimously opted to shelve the issue.

"Council members heard from a lot of citizens who were opposed to concept," she said.

During its March Feb. 28 meeting, council was told that at least one downtown restaurateur had expressed interest in being able to serve alcohol to outdoor tables on South Broad Street.

Restaurants are allowed to serve food outdoors to patrons, but the town ordinance governing that activity does not allow alcohol to be served.

## Koonce leadership graduate

Chowan Middle School principal Willie Koonce graduated March 18 from the nationally recognized Leadership Program for New Principals offered by the Principal's Executive Program of the University of North Carolina.

One of 63 principals throughout the state selected for the program, Koonce completed more than 130 hours of training over a six-month period. He studied state accountability programs, analysis of test data, finance, instructional leadership, technology use, community and diversity, ethics, integrity and vision.

"The goal of the program is

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Koonce

## Potential new site for 911 Center identified

Public hearing on proposal set for April 4th

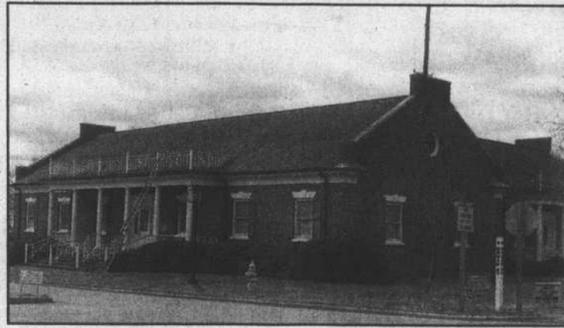
BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

After the 911 Communication Center was flooded out during Hurricane Isabel, the county realized the need to relocate its central communications to higher ground.

That new locale for an Emergency Operation Center (EOC), to house the 911 Communications, Sheriff and Law Enforcement officers has been potentially identified as the area behind the Chowan Life Center on Freemason Street.

A public meeting will take place April 4 at 6 p.m. during the Chowan County Commissioners meeting at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse. The Commissioners will welcome comments on possible environmental impacts of the EOC project. The meeting will not focus on the need for the facility itself, but on the possible pollution that may result or any historic areas that may be disturbed.

"We (the Chowan County Board of Commissioners) plan to obligate mitigation of monies made possible by the USDA after Hurricane Isabel to the EOC project," County Manager, Cliff Copeland said. "We hope to identify grant resources to reduce the amount of money we will



Staff photo by Earline White

The 911 Communication Center and other law enforcement offices may relocate to the area behind the Chowan Life Center on Freemason Street in Edenton.

have to borrow...As far as we know there are no environmental issues involved, nor disturbances of any historic

landmarks. We feel it will be a good investment for that part of town—a sort of rejuvenation for the neighbor-

hood," Copeland added.

The site was chosen because of its proximity to the hospital, highway 17 and its already existing infrastructure including natural gas, water and sewer lines. As a bonus, the site is also near the Adult Day Care center where the emergency workers will be able to take advantage of the facilities.

Also open for public comment during the April 4th Commissioners meeting will be the use of the County's Rural Operating Assistance program (Rural Transportation Program) appropriation and the 2005 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program.

## Plans for Cotton Mill development change

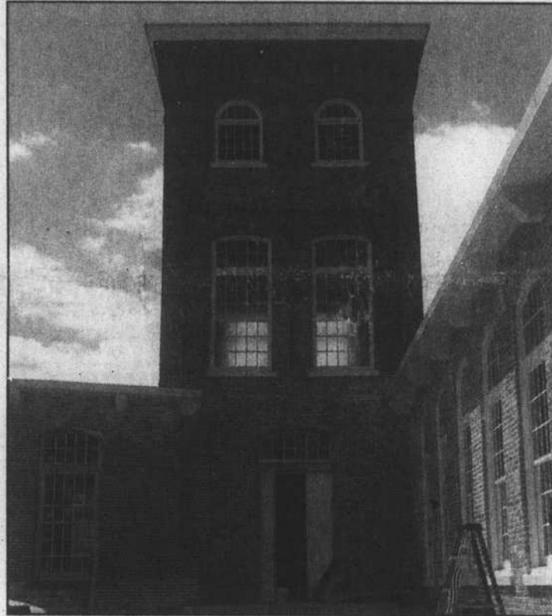
By SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

The development of Edenton's historic cotton mill has had a change in plans, and town officials support the developers' move to an all-residential blueprint.

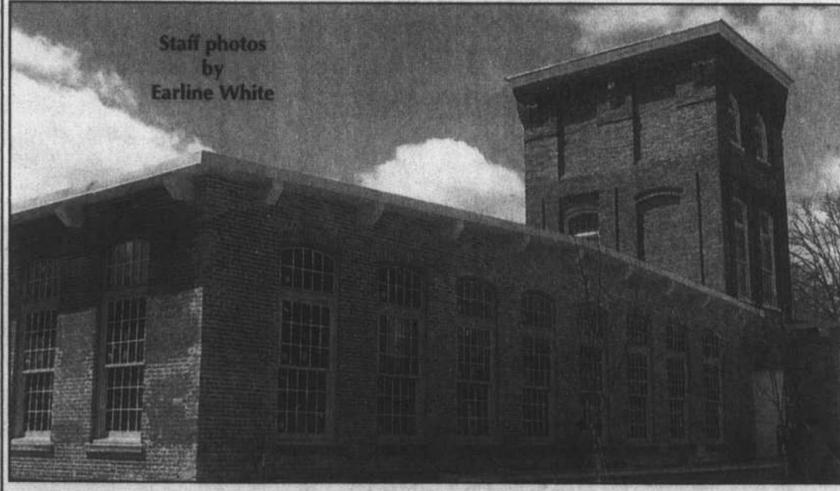
Developer Henry Yates told council that the Cotton Mill development will contain 58 residential condos, and no retail or commercial spaces. Original plans included a potential restaurant and other businesses.

Yates was on hand for council's special meeting Monday night for discussion of an amendment to the development's conditional use permit. Town officials had sought the change to permit for the inclusion of a secondary emergency access road.

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Edenton Cotton Mill will soon be an all-residential facility



Staff photos by Earline White

## Battle over proposed OLF site continues as Navy files motion

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

The battle over the proposed Outlying Landing Field to be situated in Washington and Beaufort counties continued as the Navy filed a motion to stay, suspend or modify the permanent injunction placed upon the OLF by US District Court Judge Terrance Boyle last month.

Boyle's reason for the permanent injunction was the lack of analysis done by the Navy on the proposed field's potential harm to the nearby Pocosin Lakes Wildlife Refuge and the minimized risk of bird-aircraft collisions.

In a release dated March 25, U.S. Navy officials announced that they plan "to pursue every avenue available under the law to make this critical training resource available to our pilots as soon as possible."

According to language contained in the release, the court's ruling that the Navy did not meet the EPA requirements does not outweigh the "urgent and critical" need to appeal while initiating additional EPA work, which was directed by the court.

The Army Corps of Engineers is requiring six wetland studies before the training airfield can be built. Because wetland permits are needed, federal law requires that the state approve the future of the project and can also require an evaluation of alternate sites. So far the Navy has bought and condemned more than 2,000 acres for the 30,000-acre, \$186 million site. No further progress can take place until the Navy obtains the state and federal permits.

Derb Carter, an attorney for three environmental groups that are opposing the project told the *News and Observer*, "There is more uncertainty for the Navy about whether this site can be permitted. They are going to have to deal directly with the state. That gives the state more control in ensuring a site is chosen that has the least environmental impact."

Meanwhile North Carolina's two Republican Senators, Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr, have refused to sign a joint agreement calling for negotiations with the Navy to break the standstill, despite encouragement from Democratic Rep. Butterfield to do so.

"They're (Dole and Burr) are going to let the judicial process run its course," said Butterfield's spokesman, Ken Willis.

The 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, VA will hear the Navy's appeal.

## Edenton soldiers among those deploying

National Guard troops may be sent to Iraq in future

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

Soldiers began arriving at a National Guard Armory in Williamston Monday for a possible deployment to Iraq later this year.

Reached last week, 1st Sgt. Marshall Carroll said the 725th Quartermaster Company has received an order to deploy. The company is comprised of soldiers from

Edenton, Elizabeth City, and Scotland Neck.

Carroll could not say how many soldiers from Edenton would join the company's deployment.

"Any estimation at this time would be simply that," he said.

But he was able to say how long the deployment would last.

"Our orders are for 18 months," he said when asked how long the company, which specializes in convoy transport, would be deployed.

"How much time we actually spend overseas," Carroll added, "I don't have a definitive answer for that."

He was also unable to say exactly when and where the company

would deploy.

The unit has a capacity of 170 soldiers, Carroll said. Soldiers began arriving at the Armory in Williamston on Monday.

A "send-off ceremony" will be held for the soldiers at the Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center in Williamston on April 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Carroll said. The public is invited to attend.

E.C. Toppin, with the Post 40 of the American Legion in Edenton, said his group was set to serve the soldiers dinner Tuesday at the Williamston armory.

"We're trying to do whatever we can to say goodbye to them," Toppin said last week.

## Schools receive safety guidelines

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

Since the 1999 Columbine tragedy, approximately 1,400 schools in NC have received specialized Critical Incident Response training and kits to respond to such a crisis as a school shooting.

Chowan County is no exception. The teachers and staff have been trained about proper procedures and have periodic drills with local law enforcement to maintain the training.

The need for such training hit home again following the recent shootings at

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