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The 1767 Chowan Courthouse will be the site of an upcoming gathering by the Clean Water Management Trust Fund Board of Trustees.

Board will convene at Courthouse

From Staff Reports

Last October, the state Supreme Court met at the newly reopened courthouse. This spring, the state House of Representatives held session in the pre-Revolutionary War building.

Later this month, the state Clean Water Management Trust Fund Board of Trustees will convene for a three-day session at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse on East King Street. The board is set to meet in Edenton on Oct. 8-10.

The agency has funded a number of projects over the years, including two large land acquisition projects for Chowan

See BOARD on Page A2



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

The John A. Holmes parking lot adjacent to Hicks Field soon will be paved. Bids will be opened Oct. 20 with work scheduled to start in November.

Lot gets new look

BY GLENDA JAKUBOWSKI
Edenton-Chowan Schools

Students and Steamers fans will be glad to know that the John A. Holmes High School parking lot next to Hicks Field soon will be paved.

Superintendent Allan T. Smith told the board that the system already has begun accepting bids for the project. Bids will be opened on Oct. 20, with work scheduled to begin in November. The newly paved

See LOT On Page A2



Jim Carr accepts his Communications Manager of the Year award from Sheriff Fred Spruill.

Chowan growth prompts plan

Drainage, runoff requires comprehensive study

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Chowan County continues to grow, primarily through the emergence of new subdivisions. Resulting concerns over the possible impact to roads and drainage have prompted a new strategy. The Planning/Enterprise Committee is seeking grants to develop a compre-

hensive drainage and storm water runoff plan for the entire county.

At Monday night's County Commissioners October meeting, Elizabeth Bryant, Planning Director for Chowan County said that as developments continue throughout the county (one of the newest ones is located on County Line Rd and NC 37), drainage prob-

lems will only escalate.

"Currently we are undertaking a subdivision regulation rewrite," Bryant said, "where the developer will sit with the Soil and Water Department to look at a drainage plan, identify potential problems and ways to correct the problems. The county will afterwards go

See PLAN On Page A2

'A fond fair-well'



Staff photo by Earline White

The bright lights of the midway at the Chowan County Regional Fair drew large crowds every night. Attendance this year reached an all time high of about 23,000.

Record turnout boosts Chowan Regional Fair

BY REBECCA BUNCH
The Chowan Herald

Candy apples. Funnel cake. The bright lights of the midway. The roar of a happy crowd. All these are part of a county fair. And they are part of what keeps folks coming back year after year.

In Chowan County, Sept. 27 through Oct. 1, thousands of people poured through the gates at the American Legion in Edenton to enjoy just such an experience. About twenty-three thousand people, to be exact. According to Fair spokesman E.C. Toppin, this was the largest crowd ever to attend the Chowan County Regional Fair, now in its fifty-eighth year. "This was absolutely the best year our fair has ever had," he said.

Toppin credits "the quality of every exhibit, the entertainment, and especially the quality of the midway" with the fair's overwhelming success. "It was all good," he said.



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Toppin added that the reasonable prices charged and the advance publicity regarding the fair also played a key role.

"Everybody worked really hard to get the word out," he said. "And it was great to see the response. The kids thought the rides were great, and there was plenty for the adults to enjoy too."

Not a group to rest on its laurels, the committee that

plans the Chowan County Regional Fair is already hard at work planning for next year. "When did we start?" chuckled Toppin. "We got to work on it last week." And the group's first act? Making sure it had nailed down arrangements for the continuation of a three-year contract with Playworld Limited which provided this year's midway at the fair.

Lowe returns 'home' to elections post

Elections board veteran returns to Edenton after Raleigh stint

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Just 16 months after leaving her post in Chowan County for a job with the Wake County elections team, Rebecca Lowe has returned to her Edenton office on East King Street.

Lowe resumed her role as director of the Chowan County Board of Elections on Monday. This time around, Lowe and fellow elections staff are across the street from their former digs, now in an office at 103-A E. King St.

Lowe, who left for the Wake County Board of Elections in June 2004, said she was "a bit nervous" on her first day back. She was shifting from the specific job of mapping voting precincts in Wake to running the whole show in Chowan.

"But it feels good to be back home," she said, adding that the task at hand is getting ready for the Nov. 4 municipal elections for the Edenton Town Council.

County Manager Cliff Copeland said Lowe is quite welcome back in her old post.

"Rebecca did a great job last time," he said, "so there's no reason to suspect she won't do a great job this time."

A veteran elections director is valuable in this era of added scrutiny on officials on election day, in light of recent snags at the polls.

"It's a strong plus to have someone with her experience in this position," Copeland added.

Elections board chairwoman Mildred Vanterpool also welcomed Lowe — and her 16 years in the field — back to Chowan.

"It makes the board's job a lot easier, that's for sure," Vanterpool said Tuesday. "We're looking forward to it."



Rebecca Lowe

Lowe spent 14 years as Chowan's elections chief prior to leaving for the job in Raleigh. She's already moved back into her former home in Edenton, one that was damaged by Hurricane Isabel more than two years ago.

"We believe it is storm-ready," she said jokingly, "not that we want to have another one."

Lowe said she decided to return to Edenton mostly "for personal reasons." She'd lived in Raleigh before and just wanted to come back to Chowan after her replacement, Rennie Harrington-Jones, stepped down this summer.

"Living in a large town is just that: living in a large town," Lowe said.

She recalled the state capital's notorious traffic snarls during an interview Tuesday morning. Most notable was last winter's ice storm that crippled traffic flow on the beltline surrounding Raleigh.

"It took me four hours to get home," she said, "and it usually took 15 minutes."

She said the speed of life in the Raleigh area "might not be what I want at this point in my life."

See LOWE On Page A2



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Seven homes in the new Colonial Village subdivision have already been sold. A total of 120 homes are planned for the subdivision, the first to be built in Edenton in 20 years. Prices are set to begin at \$169,000.

Edenton gets peek at subdivision

First new development in twenty years opens

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

The last time a subdivision came to the Town of Edenton, Ronald Reagan was in the White House.

Fast-forward 20 years, and Colonial Village on Coke Avenue is bringing the first large-scale housing development to town since Oak Hill arrived.

Contractor Gil Conner, of Virginia Beach, VA-based

Conner Construction, said seven homes have already been sold. He hopes to have the homes built-out within two to three years.

"With the way it's taking off," Conner said during a grand opening for the subdivision at the site last week, "we feel it's going to be a good project."

A total of 120 homes are planned for Colonial Village. Prices are set to begin at \$169,000. The sizes are

the homes are slated to range from 1,450 square feet to 2,350 square feet.

Currently, Conner said, the larger-model homes are selling more quickly than the smaller designs.

Portfolio Real Estate, also based in Virginia Beach but with local offices open in Edenton and Elizabeth City, has an agent, Justin Holland, on site. For more information about the homes, call Holland at 482-5755.

INSIDE

- Calendar C2
- Church C5
- Classifieds D1-4
- Editorials A6
- Obituaries C6
- School C7
- Society C3
- Sports B1-4

On Page C1 . . .

Young local artists get statewide recognition