



Council rejects Evergreen's subsidized housing

Original SUP expired too

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Raleigh-based Evergreen Construction has lost its bid to build a 50-unit development on 11.64 acres on Coke Avenue. And the special-use permit the Town Council granted last year

for the developer's original plan expired May 10.

On May 29, the Edenton Town Council voted against giving Evergreen a special-use permit to expand its original plan of 45 units.



Quinn

Mayor Roland Vaughan broke a 3-3 deadlock and sided with those councilors who found that the proposed project would not be in harmony with surrounding properties. The project also failed to get a second to Councilman Willis Privott's motion that the government-subsidized development would not injure surrounding or adjoining property values.

Tim Morgan, vice-president for Evergreen, said as late as Monday afternoon that his company is considering legal action, in response to the decision.

"We're still evaluating where we go from here," Morgan said after the vote. Evergreen's prior request to have councilmen Bob Quinn and Sambo Dixon recuse themselves from participating in the

quasi-judicial hearing also failed. Morgan had argued that because Quinn and Dixon own rental property they had a conflict of interest. Neither Quinn nor Dixon offered to recuse themselves. Town attorney Hood Ellis found no reason for them to be disqualified.

Evergreen had no objection to Privott or Councilman Jimmy Stallings hearing the matter, although

they too own rental properties.

On behalf of his client Evergreen, attorney James Barron specifically challenged Quinn after the councilman took issue with the group's marketing study during a previous Council meeting.

Quinn said that rather than provide a positive

See EVERGREEN, 3A



PHOTOS BY REBECCA LOWE AND RITCHIE E. STARNES

High winds from Friday's thunderstorm snapped area trees like this one located along Virginia Road in front of Vidant Chowan Hospital. Heavy winds (top right) and rain quickly dismantled a day's work of erecting this tent at the Barker House for a wedding reception scheduled for Saturday. The reception was moved as a resort.



Strong winds downed trees, power lines and bent this utility pole near the ABC store north of downtown.

A thunderstorm dumped heavy rain in Edenton-Chowan last Friday, leading to localized flooding as seen here at Filbert's Creek.

Heavy rain, winds storm area

From staff reports

What Beryl failed to do, a quick moving thunderstorm last Friday wreaked enough havoc to do for a while.

Strong winds followed a deluge that brought thunder and lightning in much of Edenton-Chowan. Downed trees and broken limbs littered the area while swollen creeks led to

localized flooding. The storm also caused repeated power outages throughout the afternoon.

There were conflicting reports of a tornado sighting in Pasquotank County.

Much of the strong winds here came toward the end of the two-hour storm.

Two days earlier remnants of Beryl, a tropical depres-

sion, brought rain and wind, but nothing like Friday's downpour. Although Beryl was forecast to dump several inches of rain here, the National Weather Service reported only 2 inches of rain fell in Edenton-Chowan.

Soggy conditions, however, led to an Edenton-Chowan Schools bus getting stuck on the shoulder of Virginia Road

near Valhalla. Bus No. 75, carrying 15 students from John A. Holmes, ran amuck on a northbound shoulder, when the driver veered to miss a car turning into the bus' path, according to Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin and Superintendent Allan Smith.

No one was hurt in the mishap and the bus was soon freed from the mud.

Lamb must find \$157K more cuts

Board balks at \$8k for Steamers' lights

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

After County Manager Zee Lamb managed to cut his original budget by more than \$400,000, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners requested that he slice it another \$157,000.

Instead of fulfilling Lamb's request to adopt his proposed budget Monday night, the board voted that he return \$157,000 from the solid waste fund and apply it toward the county's debt payback.



Lamb

"We've already cut over \$400,000 in the budget," said Lamb, suggesting his budget is already cut too thin.

Just weeks ago, Vice Chairman Keith Nixon expressed that the solid waste revenue not be used to balance the budget, instead favoring the money go in the county's fund balance. He explained that the county had previously

See BUDGET, 3A

Queen Anne Creek bridge closes Monday

Early completion will fetch \$1,500 daily

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Plans call for the N.C. Highway 32 bridge over Queen Anne Creek to be closed for the summer, beginning Monday.

With school out for summer vacation, N.C. Department of Transportation plans to proceed with the \$1 million bridge replacement that connects downtown Edenton with southeastern Chowan County, including the Northeastern Regional Airport and the Sound Bridge. Motorists will be forced to use a roughly 10-mile detour until the Aug. 24 expected completion date.

DOT had planned to wait until school was out to minimize disruption with a completion timeline before the next

See CLOSING, 2A

Council: Golf carts need to be as safe as possible

Carts could be approved June 12

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Town Council could



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vote on the merits of a proposed ordinance to allow the use of golf carts on local streets as soon as its June 12 monthly meeting.

Councilman Steve Biggs, who chairs the administrative committee that will bring the issue before the full council, said that the desire to make the carts as safe as possible had delayed a vote on the issue which has been under consideration for several months.

"I think it is extremely

important that we make them (carts) as safe as humanly possible before we allow people to start operating them," Biggs said. He added that he was particularly concerned about protecting any children that might be riding aboard the carts.

Proposed safety features for the carts would include lap seat belts as well as working headlights, tail lights and signal lights because the proposed ordi-

nance would allow for use of the carts for one hour past sunset.

Biggs said during the council's May 29 committee meetings night that he felt the addition of lap seat belts to the previously discussed safety features was absolutely necessary.

"I would like to see that put in the ordinance," Biggs said. "I'll be able to sleep at night knowing we have done all we could to make them (carts) safe."

Councilman Willis Privott said he would too. "I agree with Steve," Privott said, "because I'm looking at safety."

Mayor Roland Vaughan said he felt once the safety concerns were satisfied, the golf carts could provide an important benefit to the community.

"Any time you can get a little sizzle in your community, it's a good thing. This is sizzle," Vaughan added. In addition to the pro-

posed safety features, the ordinance under consideration would require that only licensed drivers operate the vehicles. The carts would have to be inspected and registered at the Edenton Police Department.

The proposed ordinance also includes a disclaimer that would hold the town harmless in the event of any accidents, injuries or deaths that might occur as a result of the carts' operation.