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Preservation panel delays demolition decision

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

Chowan County's application for a demolition permit for the former county office building on East King Street will lay on the table until the next meeting of the Edenton Historic Preservation Commission.

The Historic Preservation Commission voted unani-

mously at its meeting Monday afternoon to table the county's demolition permit request for the former office building, also known as the historic Hotel Hinton.

The motion by member Bill Shultz called for tabling the matter until the commission's meeting next month. Shultz said he needs to see engineering studies and have more information

before making a decision on the county's request.

Preservation commission member Libby Pope said Edenton is very historic and this is an important historic structure.

"I'm violently opposed to tearing the hotel down," Pope said.

County officials emphasized at the meeting Monday that they hope to sell the

property rather than tearing the building down.

Chowan County Manager Zee Lamb told the preservation commission that the county is trying to sell the property and is in serious negotiations with one potential buyer.

Chowan County Board of Commissioners Chairman Keith Nixon reiterated that the board hopes to sell the

property.

"I do hope it sells," Nixon said.

Nixon said it might even come down to the last hour and the county could get an offer on the property that would be worth considering.

The county is simply beginning the process of applying for the permit, Nixon said. He told the Chowan

Herald later that county officials understand the process could take up to 18 months. It is a time-consuming process that is just now starting, Nixon said.

Several speakers urged the preservation commission to reject the demolition permit application — or at least delay it until additional

See DELAY, 2A

LIGHTING UP THE SKY



Fireworks light up the sky over the Edenton Bay on July 4.

PHOTO BY JEFF KNOX

Independence Day celebration draws crowd

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

The promise of the largest fireworks show ever sponsored by the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club drew between 4,000-5,000 people to the downtown Edenton waterfront on July 4 to enjoy the show.

Optimist President David LaFon said he thought the club's annual Fabulous Fourth of July celebration was a big success.

"I think everything went great," LaFon said. "The

PHOTOS INSIDE

See more photographs from the July 4 celebration in Downtown Edenton — 4A

community pulled together and helped us reach our goal of having the biggest fireworks show we've ever had in honor of Edenton's 300th anniversary."

New events this year included face painting and a softball toss, LaFon noted. But it was the fireworks show that drew the most

interest, he said.

"I think the crowd was a little bigger than in previous years," LaFon said.

Mike McArthur, who chairs the fundraising committee for the event, agreed. He said that support for the celebration, which cost \$31,000, was stronger this year than in previous years. He said he thought that could have been because people were excited about having a bigger than normal fireworks show in honor of the

See CELEBRATION, 4A



PHOTO BY WAYNE WOODBURY

Fireworks light up the sky over the Edenton Bay on July 4.

Rocky Hock farmer sees first cotton bloom

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

The Carroll Peele farm reported the first cotton bloom of the 2013 growing season in Chowan County.

Peele's son-in-law, Paul Ward, discovered the bloom in a field on Rocky Hock Landing Road July 2 and reported it to Katy Shook at the Chowan County Cooperative Extension office.

That same day, Peele noticed several blooms in another field on the farm.

Ward said having an

earlier crop really doesn't make much of a difference in terms of yield.

It's mainly a fun thing to see who will find the first cotton bloom, he said.

"It's just a big deal to see our first cotton bloom in the area," he said.

The early bloom is a direct result of early planting, Ward explained.

"It was some of the first planted," Ward said of the cotton on his father-in-law's farm.

Ward said they planted the cotton April 30. Cotton typically is planted in May, he said.

Sometimes early-planted cotton will run into problems due to cooler weather, but that was not the case



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Carroll Peele and his 13-year-old grandson Ben Ward kneel beside a cotton plant with the first cotton bloom reported this season in Chowan County.

Curtin files for Fourth Ward seat

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

Neighborhood activist Lorj Ann Curtin has filed as a candidate for the Fourth Ward seat on the Edenton Town Council.

Also, incumbent Third Ward Councilwoman Norma Simpson has filed for election to the



CURTIN

seat after being appointed to fill the unexpired term of Councilwoman Phyllis Britton, who died in December. Simpson was sworn-in in February.

Curtin, 48, who ran as a write-in candidate in 2009, said she had planned to file and run whether Councilman Willis Privott decided to retire from the council or not.

Privott, the current council member from the Fourth Ward, announced last week that he would not be seeking reelection. He has served on town council since 1980.

Curtin said she thinks Privott has done a good job as a member of the town council.

"I think that Mr. Privott



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See BLOOM, 2A