

CHOWAN HERALD



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Wednesday, November 13, 2013

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Chowan County misses 'Golden' opportunity

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Chowan County was not among those selected to take the next step in the quest for a grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation — but that won't stop county officials from continuing the search for funds to renovate the D.F. Walker Building on College of

the Albemarle's Edenton-Chowan campus.

In June of this coming year, Golden LEAF will be awarding grants on a competitive basis within the state's 21-county Northeastern Prosperity Zone.

Preliminary proposals called "requests for invitation" were due from counties on Oct. 15. Each county was allowed to identify up

to three projects and up to \$1.5 million in grant funding.

Golden LEAF had announced it would select six-10 counties to move forward in the process.

Chowan County learned



NIXON

last week it had not been chosen to move forward. Among other counties in the Albemarle, Perquimans and Camden were selected to take the next step.

Chowan County's proposal to the Golden LEAF Foundation was to seek \$1.5 million to renovate and "repurpose" the D.F. Walker Building in order to address poverty and unemployment

through education targeted toward jobs that are available in the region.

The Golden LEAF Foundation Board is scheduled to make final funding decisions at its June 5 meeting.

The renovation of the D.F. Walker Building was proposed as a means to economic vitality and revitalizing a high-risk neighborhood.

Chowan Board of Commissioners Chairman Keith Nixon explained this week that missing out on the Golden LEAF grant does not mean the project is dead.

"We need to look for other grants," Nixon said.

Asked if the project might be completed entirely with

See GRANT, 3A

County opts out of bike path

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Chowan County officials last week balked at a proposed Albemarle regional bicycle path, questioning the path's long-term cost and its practical feasibility.

Meanwhile, the bicycle path plan was on the agenda for the Edenton Town Council's regular meeting Tuesday night. The Chowan Herald went to press before that meeting took place.

The plan has received a generally warm reception from town officials and has been adopted by numerous counties in the 10-county Albemarle region.

But at last week's meeting of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner John Mitchener's motion to endorse the plan and concept without committing any funds failed, with only with only Mitchener and Commissioner Greg Bonner voting for it.

During discussion of the bicycle path plan, Commissioner Emmett Winborne said he believes the bicycle path program is a waste of taxpayers' money.

Commissioner Jeff Smith said he was concerned that the plan doesn't take into consideration agricultural equipment.

Having a three-foot shoulder on the road won't help bicycles if there is wide farm equipment using the road, Smith said.

Mitchener said he believes the focus should be on municipalities rather than highways. The plan could be very important to the town of Edenton, he said.

Bonner noted there is no cost to the county at this time. He said he believes the bicycle path project would be great for the town and the county.

Commissioner Alex Kehayessaid he was concerned the commissioners could be committing future boards to spend money — something the board has been diligent not to do.

Mitchener said there would be no commitment of money. He added it doesn't

See PATH, 2A

VETERANS DAY



STAFF PHOTOS BY REBECCA BUNCH

A Post 40 Honor Guard carries service wreaths to be placed during the annual Veterans Day Ceremony Monday morning at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial in Edenton.

Observance recalls valor of veterans

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

A history lesson was the gift that former educator William "Bill" Moore gave those attending the annual Veterans Day ceremony Monday.

The ceremony, held at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial, drew several hundred people who came to pay tribute to the valor and sacrifice of veterans who have served their

country during war and in times of peace.

"They come from all levels of society and reflect America's melting pot status," Moore said. "They trace their roots from all over the world but have a deep love of country."

Moore added that those who have served shared other characteristics as well.

"They learned the value of teamwork and learned to put the well-being of

others ahead of their own," Moore said. "A veteran is a citizen soldier who answered the call when their nation needed them."

Moore also reminded those present of the history of the Veterans Day observance itself. Veterans Day, he said, traces its roots back to World War I that ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919.

See VETERANS DAY, 2A



Virginia Wood places a wreath at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial on behalf of the Edenton Tea Party Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution during the annual Veterans Day Ceremony in Edenton, Monday.

Planning Board to consider wind turbine amendment

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Chowan County Planning Board is scheduled to consider at its Nov. 19 meeting an amendment proposed by a Charlottesville, Va.-based renewable

energy company that would more than double the permissible height for wind turbines in the county.

The proposed amendment to the Chowan County Wind Energy Ordinance would pave the way for construction of a major

utility-scale wind energy facility.

The heart of the proposed amendment is an increase in the maximum height allowed for wind turbines in the county from 250 feet in the current ordinance to 600 feet.

The text amendment has been proposed by Apex Clean Energy Inc.

Apex Clean Energy is working on a large wind farm project along the Chowan-Perquimans county line.

According to unofficial

reports, about 10,000 acres of Weyerhaeuser land is involved — most of which is in Perquimans County.

The amendment is intended to align Chowan's ordinance with the one in

See AMENDMENT, 3A

Bond, Simpson, Quinn win Town Council seats

BY REGGIE PONDER
AND REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writers

Unofficial results from last week's Edenton Town Council election show races were won and lost at the polls on Election Day, rather than during the one-stop voting period.

Elton L. Bond Jr. defeated LoriAnn Curtin to win

the 4th Ward seat, while 3rd Ward incumbent Councilwoman Norma Simpson held off a stiff challenge from the Rev. Roscoe Poole Jr.

Voter turnout in Edenton was 13 percent, according to unofficial election results.



QUINN



SIMPSON



BOND

slated to conduct the election canvass at 11 a.m. Tuesday. As of presstime, the Chowan Herald had not received the official results from that meeting.

The unofficial results showed Bond received 105 votes, or 73

percent of all votes cast in the 4th Ward, to LoriAnn Curtin's 39 votes, or 27 percent.

Bond received 81 votes on Election Day at the East Edenton Precinct polling place. The remainder of his votes — 24 — came during the one-stop voting period.

Curtin's votes also came

See ELECTION, 4A



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