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Walker adds Zumba to after-school activities — 6A

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Solar farm text amendment to be further scrutinized

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Town of Edenton officials are considering stricter screening requirements and other regulations for solar farms before taking action that could clear a path for such facilities to be built.

A revised text amendment to the town's Unified Development Ordinance governing the presence of solar farms in the community will receive further scrutiny during an upcoming work session, the town council decided at its Jan. 12 monthly meeting.

The new draft of the text amendment prepared by Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton addresses concerns first raised at a November council meeting.

In notes to the council written prior to last week's meeting Knighton, who was out of town and did not at-

tend last week's meeting, explained the changes to the proposed text amendment.

The action was taken as a result of concerns raised by an application from developer Heath McLaughlin to construct a solar farm on Butternut Lane inside the

town's extra-territorial jurisdiction.

"I added a 500 foot setback from occupied residences and a 500 foot setback from the center line of a public right-of-way," Knighton said. "I also added provisions that require opaque screening from view

from public right of ways."

Knighton added that she and town attorney Hood Ellis along with Ben Gallop, an attorney from Ellis's firm, had worked hard to draft language that would require financial arrangements with

See SOLAR FARM, 4A

REMEMBERING KING'S LEGACY



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Alisa Robinson McLean, area superintendent for the Durham County Schools, gives the keynote address at E.A. Swain Auditorium during the annual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday. See more photos and story from Monday's event on page 6B.

Hearing set for building's future

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Citizens will have an opportunity next month to weigh in on what they would like to see done with the former Northeastern Commission building on the Edenton waterfront.

The town council agreed at its Jan. 12 meeting to schedule a public hearing to seek input from citizens on what they would like to see done with the building.

That hearing will take place Feb. 22 during the council's monthly work session. Details will be announced at a later date.

There was discussion at the meeting about holding the hearing at Swain Auditorium in anticipation of a larger than normal turnout.

The council's decision to

See BUILDING, 4A



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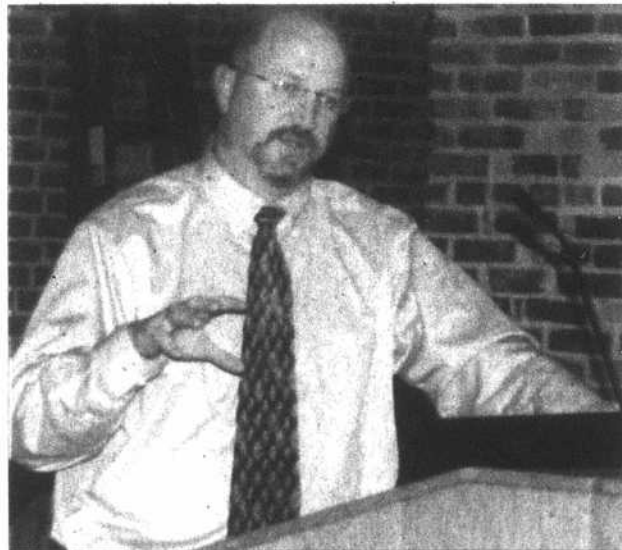
Immediate and long-term fixes for water system sought

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Chowan County likely will pursue a long-term upgrade to its water treatment process while taking immediate steps to meet state requirements under the current process, county officials told attendees at an informational meeting last week.

The county's water system is being closely monitored by state environmental regulators because of concerns about the effluent or wastewater from the treatment process and the extent to which it's believed to contaminate groundwater because of by products from the county's softening process.

County Manager Kevin Howard told those who attended an informational meeting at the Public Safety Center on Jan. 12 that the state's concerns about the discharge had led state officials late last year to order Chowan County to phase out softening of the water by March 1 and an order that since has been rescinded as county and state officials work toward a long-term solution



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Chowan County Manager Kevin Howard discusses the county's water system during an information session held Tuesday, Jan. 12.

to the effluent-discharge concerns at the treatment plant.

Howard explained that the recent water rate increase was based on the need to set aside money to address issues with the water system. Since the water system operates on a business-type model and is intended to be self-sustaining, the water fund needs to contain enough money to cover not only operating costs but also the cost of

upgrades that are required, Howard said.

"I know a lot of concern has come up about the rate increase," Howard said.

Over the past three years the water fund had not been self-sustaining but had lost \$270,000-\$300,000 a year when depreciation was taken into account, according to Howard.

"That was part of the reason for the increase in

See WATER FIXES, 2A

Super Bowl champ returns to Edenton

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Zack Valentine is coming home.

On Monday, the standout linebacker for the Edenton Aces and East Carolina University Pirates — who played in Super Bowl XIV in his rookie season as a Pittsburgh Steeler — will attend a pep rally at John A. Holmes High School to deliver the special gift of a golden football commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Super Bowl.

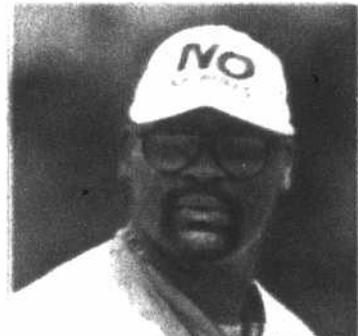
Valentine's visit is part of the National Football League's recognition, in honor of the big game's 50th anniversary, of the high schools of all of the players and head coaches to ever participate in a Super Bowl.

Valentine said he would never forget the first time he saw a Super Bowl ring. It belonged to Pittsburgh's 'Mean' Joe Greene, he said.

"What's that?" I asked him. "He told me, 'it's nice, isn't it.' Then he told me, 'don't you worry, we're going to get you one.'"

Valentine said he planned to wear his ring on the trip to Edenton to show students what nurtured talent combined with hard work could achieve.

See VALENTINE, 3A



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Zack Valentine during his coaching days at Woodbury High School in New Jersey.

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