CHOWAN HERALD

P8/C8******CAR-RT LOT**C 002 D0112
SHEPHERD PRUDEN LIBRARY
106 W WATER ST
EDENTON NC 27932-1854

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

UPCOMING HOME GAMES
GAME STARTS AT 7PM AT HISTORIC HICKS FIELD
June 22 vs Fayetteville SwampDogs
(Wayback Wednesday: Rock N Rollin in the 70's) Daily Advance Night
June 27 vs Lexington County Blowfish
(50¢ Hot Dogs), Bertie County Night
July 1 vs Peninsula Pilots
(Kids Run the Bases,Open Door Church Night)
Call 482-4080 For More Information | WWW.EDENTONSTEAMERS.COM

County adopts budget with 1.5-cent tax hike

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Monday to adopt a 2016-2017 county budget that raises the property tax rate by 1.5-cents and increases local funding for school operations by roughly $61,000.

The motion by Commissioner Keith Nixon passed unanimously at the board's regular meeting Monday night.

The increase in the tax rate means someone with a house valued at $100,000 will pay an additional $15 in property tax on that house.

The budget does not increase water rates or other fees associated with the county's other funds.

Total General Fund spending increases by nearly $767,000 over the current year’s budget, from $13.4 million in 2015-2016 to $14.2 million in 2016-2017.

The Edenton-Chowan Schools will receive $562,000 in capital outlay funding and $3.55 million in current expense funding.

Based on figures presented by school officials during discussion of the budget for the upcoming year, school officials will need to find $110,500 within their own budget in addition to the amount provided by the county in order to meet the school board's goal of restoring salaries and supplements to where they were prior to reductions made in 2009 because of the county's fiscal crisis.

Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Rob Jackson said during the public hearing on the budget that the restoration was the school board's top priority in terms of the 2016-2017 budget.

Commissioner Greg Bonner said he would have liked to have done more for the schools in this budget.

Nixon said he would have preferred to increase the tax rate by only half a cent rather than 1.5 cents. But he acknowledged that the board had debated budget issues and come

See BUDGET, 4A

GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW EDENTON POLICE STATION

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The groundbreaking for the new Edenton Police Station was held on June 15 at the site, 301 North Oakum Street.

Community leaders and residents, along with members of the architectural firm and the construction company that will produce the building, shared in the celebration.

Police Chief Jay Fortenbery officially greeted everyone on behalf of the town.

"I'm proud to be your police chief on this momentous occasion," he said. "This has been an exciting project so far."

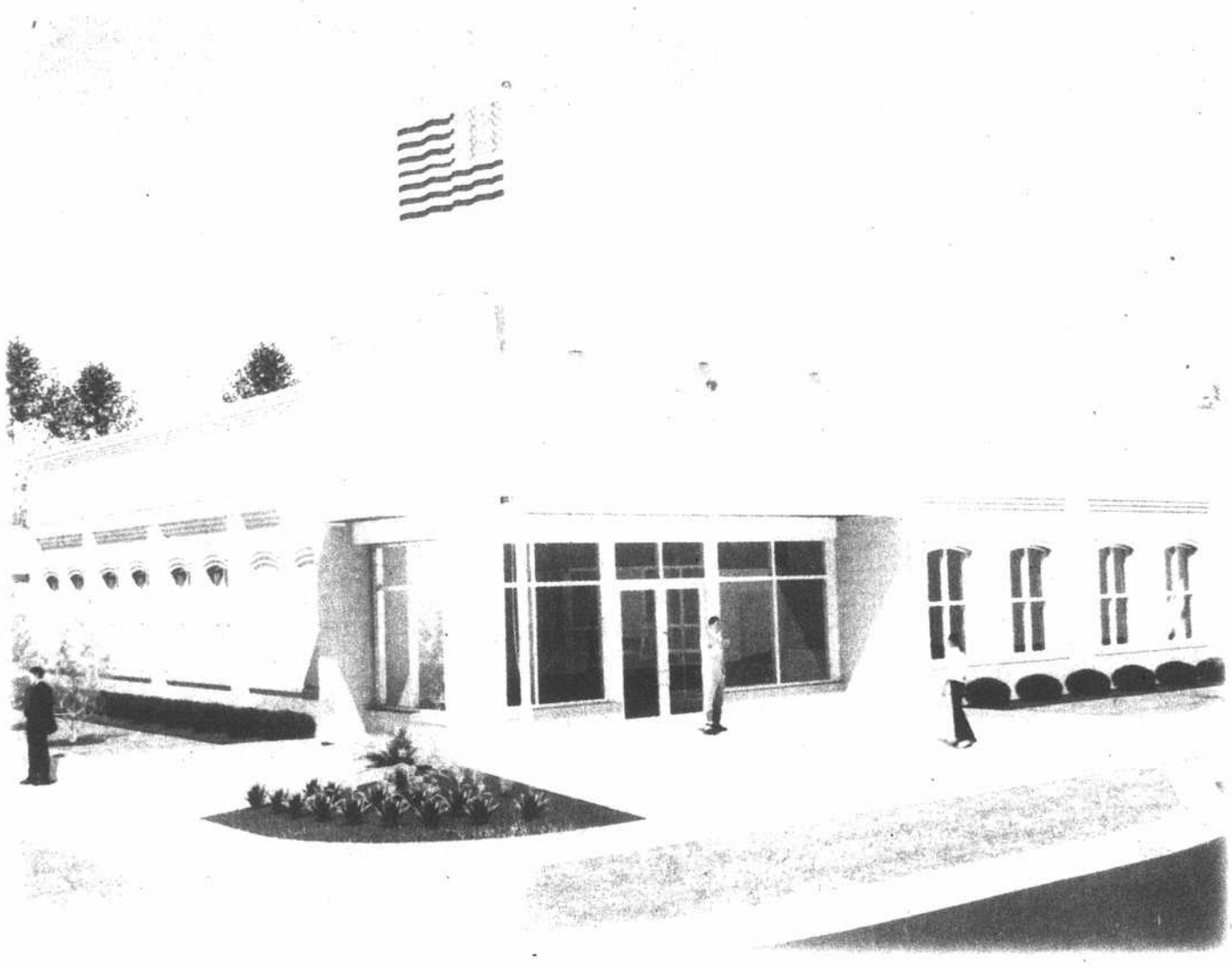
Mayor Roland Vaughan welcomed the crowd.

"This is a momentous and special day in our community," he said.

Vaughan noted that this was a project that had enjoyed a high degree of public participation and input as the process moved forward.

"This project is one that has included cooperation, collaboration and input from the community," he observed. "In return, it is our responsibility to be good stewards of the public's dollars."

See STATION, 4A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

This rendering created by Oakley Collier Architects of Rocky Mount shows how the new Edenton Police Station will look. The station will be located on North Oakum Street as part of a neighborhood revitalization effort by the Town of Edenton.

Developer still keen on Edenton waterfront site for brew-pub

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Raleigh businessman John Glover confirmed Monday that he remains committed to establishing a brew-pub on the Edenton waterfront should he win approval from the town council.

On May 10 the council voted to revisit the issue and invite Glover to come to Edenton for conversations after initially voting against selling the former Northeast Commission building to him for his proposed new business here.

Glover said that while he was heartened by the show of support from the community his primary concern remained what would be best for the town as a whole.

"Sincerely, my interest is what's best for the town of Edenton," he said.

In response to rumors that other communities were interested in having the brew-pub locate elsewhere in the area should Edenton decide to pass on the waterfront location for the project, Glover acknowledged he had been approached by the mayor of Windsor about possibly locating his brew-pub there.

"I told him that my interest was in Edenton at this point," he said.

Glover acknowledged having met with local residents who had specific concerns about his project as well as town officials since the vote last month occurred. After listening to their concerns, he said, he talked about them with his architect who is developing design plans for the proposed brew-pub that Glover will be able to show the town council when he returns later this summer.

"They're working on other options (based on community input) to see if they're viable," he said.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said after the last council vote she had invited Glover to return to Edenton for a

See BREWPUB, 4A

Lombardi new director of Partnership

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A Connecticut native with a background in networking and high-tech has been hired as the new executive director of the Edenton Chowan Partnership.

Larry Lombardi's first day in his new role was June 1. He follows Frank Miglorie, who was the partnership's first director.

In 2007 Lombardi and his wife, Jessica, bought a house in Edenton. But since early 2008 he had been working in Norfolk, Va., in economic development, and had been required to live in Norfolk because of that job.

The couple just recently moved into their home here.

LOMBARDI

"It's kind of like a homecoming," said Lombardi, who is a relative - though a distant one - of legendary football coach Vince Lombardi.

Lombardi said he is excited about the expansion at Jimbo's Jumbos and sees food processing as a great opportunity to grow jobs in Chowan County.

The peanut processor is implementing an expansion that will add about 70 jobs within the next year.

"We would like to expand that," Lombardi said of the community's food processing industry.

With the strength of agriculture in the county, food processing is a kind of low-hanging fruit for expanding the industrial base in Edenton and Chowan County, according to Lombardi.

"We really did look exhaustively for who we thought would be the ideal candidate for this position."

Jeff Sackrison
Edenton Chowan Partnership chair

"Agriculture is a great industry here in the community," Lombardi said.

Another strength for Chowan is its access to the deep water port in Virginia, Lombardi said. A lot of companies would like to be near the port but can't find open land in or around Norfolk, or prefer to be in a small town setting, he said. That makes the port in Norfolk a great opportunity for Edenton and Chowan, he said.

Edenton is fortunate to already have fiber in the ground, Lombardi noted. Broadband is a critical piece of infrastructure in economic development, he said.

Jeff Sackrison, who chairs the Edenton Chowan Partnership Board of Directors, said the board conducted an extensive search in order to find the new executive director.

"We really did look exhaustively for who we thought would be the ideal candidate for this position," Sackrison said.

Lombardi said his main emphases are bringing industry here to create jobs for people in the town and county, and retaining the businesses that are here now.

The expansion at Jimbo's Jumbos is a sign that the partnership already is doing a lot of the right things, according to Lombardi.

"That's huge," he said of the expansion and the public-private effort that went into making it happen.

6 89076 44813 0

©2009 The Chowan Herald
All Rights Reserved

Teen killed in ATV accident

The Perquimans Weekly

HERTFORD - A Perquimans County teenager died Thursday from injuries she suffered in an all-terrain vehicle accident.

Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley said Madelyn Marie Byrum, 14, of the 300 block of Goodwin Mill Road, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Byrum, who had just completed the ninth grade at Perquimans County High School, was the daughter of Paul Matthew Byrum Jr. and Carrie Bridgers Byrum. She is also survived by her brother, Branson Matthew Byrum.

Carrie Byrum is employed by Chowan County. At the meeting Monday night of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, the invocation by Chairman Jeff Smith included a prayer for peace and strength for the Byrum family and the entire Chowan County community.

Tilley said Byrum and another girl were aboard a Polaris ATV on property belonging to Byrum’s family off Goodwin Mill Road, when the ATV hit both a culvert and a small tree and flipped over, trapping Byrum underneath the vehicle.

The other girl was not seriously injured and ran to get help, Tilley said.

The Belvidere Fire Department responded but had to get a truck to lift the ATV off Byrum, he said.

"They couldn't lift it off by hand," Tilley said.

Neither of the girls were wearing seat belts or helmets, the sheriff said. Tilley said state law requires helmets for

See ACCIDENT, 4A

Chowan Edenton Optimist Club
37TH ANNUAL
Fabulous 4th of July
COME TO EDENTON'S WATERFRONT
EAT DINNER AND ENJOY
NORTH CAROLINA'S LARGEST
"Over the Water Fireworks Show"
Entertainment by
DJ COWBOY
(Adam Evans) of Edenton
MECHANICAL BULL RIDING
LOTS OF FOOD, FUN, CRAFTS, RAFFLES AND GAMES FOR CHILDREN!!!
Please Support Our Fabulous 4th of July
WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL HELP!
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
CHOWAN EDENTON OPTIMIST CLUB
108 Meadow Lark Dr., Edenton NC 27932
IRS Tax Exempt ID # available upon request