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# Meeting planned to explain wind permit process

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Chowan County staff will hold an informational meeting in a couple of weeks to explain to the public the process for considering the conditional

use permit application for the Timbermill Wind Project.

The project, proposed by Charlottesville, Va.-based Apex Clean Energy Inc., would be a utility-scale wind energy generation facility in Chowan and Perquimans counties.

The company also has filed a permit application with Perquimans County.

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners is expected to hold its hearing on the CUP application in late August. The exact date had not been set as of this week, main-

ly because the county has not yet hired the consulting firm that will review the application from Apex. The commissioners are expected to vote on hiring the consultant at their meeting Monday night.

The Chowan County Planning Board is slated to meeting on

the CUP application July 26-27. The planning board meeting will include a presentation by Apex, comment from the public, and discussion by the board.

The planning board discussed

See PERMIT, 4A



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB HOPKINS

This close-up photo shows missing portions of the covering over the Fresnel lens that traditionally rested atop the historic 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse. Repairs will need to be made before the lens can be installed which will soon be on display at the Historic Edenton Historic Site Visitor Center in Edenton.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB HOPKINS

Madison Phillips with the Fresnel lens belonging to the historic 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse. Custody of the lens was officially transferred to the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. The lens will remain on permanent display at the Historic Edenton Historic Site Visitor Center in Edenton until such time as it can be reinstalled atop the lighthouse.

## No tax increase on town budget

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The town council on a 5-1 vote Monday night adopted the proposed 2016-2017 town budget ordinance. It contains no tax increase, keeping the property tax rate at 38.5 cents per \$100 of property valuation.

Councilman Steve Biggs, who chairs the finance committee for the council, cast the sole "no" vote. He did not offer a reason and attempts to reach him after the meeting were unsuccessful.

See BUDGET, 4A

## Vandals strike bus garage

From staff reports

Vandals have struck at the county's school bus garage.

During the early morning hours of June 25, unknown persons slashed the tires of numerous school buses that were parked inside the fenced area of the bus garage located at 218 Dicks Street in Edenton, according to police.

### MORE INSIDE

■ Recent reports of vandalism - 2A

This is the second incident involving this type of senseless vandalism that has occurred in the last several weeks, according to Edenton Police Chief Jay

See VANDALISM, 4A

## Town transfers lighthouse lens to state

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff writer

The town council voted unanimously at its June 14 regular monthly meeting to transfer custody of the Fresnel lens that is part of the historic 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse to the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

As the department's agent, Bob Hopkins, who manages all the

state-owned historic properties in the community including the lighthouse, will oversee the creation of a display at the Historic Edenton Visitor Center so that the public can have the opportunity to view it up close. Madison Phillips of Edenton will create a base to support the lens while it remains on display, as Hopkins said in an April 29 memo to Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton. "We would like to place the

Fresnel (currently in storage on town property) on exhibit here at the Historic Edenton State Historic Site Visitor Center," Hopkins wrote.

"Madison will construct a base unit to support the Fresnel and we would be delighted to exhibit the artifact within the 'cross-over' area here at the Visitor Center for Edenton's visitors to see," he continued. "Of course, our goal would be to install the Fresnel

into the Lighthouse whenever appropriate."

Knighton responded with an April 29 note back to Hopkins saying that she would assist in the endeavor.

"It has always been the town council's intention to officially donate the lens to the State," Knighton said in her reply.

The lens in question is of French origin and dates back to 1888.

## Steinburg: Restrictive wind law not likely to pass

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
The Perquimans Weekly

A bill that would severely limit new wind power projects in the state will not become law this year, predicts Rep. Bob Steinburg.

The N.C. Senate passed the Military Operations Protection Act on Monday with the support of Sen. Bill



STEINBURG

Cook. It still has to be approved by the House.

Steinburg said the bill was pitched to the Senate

as a pro-military measure designed to protect the viability of military bases and training in the state. However he said a map used to convince Senators to support the bill was inappropriate and the Department of Defense already has a system in place to deal with

*"I can't support this bill, regardless of where I am on wind energy and solar energy. The fact of the matter is this bill (HB 763) was presented and sold under false pretenses and those that passed it didn't have all the facts. The fact is ethically knowing what I know, I can't support a bill going over to the house that was not properly vetted."*

Bob Steinburg

Rep., N.C. General Assembly

wind power projects. "I can't support this bill, regardless of where I am on wind energy and solar

energy," Steinburg said Friday. "The fact of the matter is this bill (HB 763) was presented and sold under

false pretenses and those that passed it didn't have all the facts. The fact is ethically knowing what I know, I can't support a bill going over to the house that was not properly vetted.

"I do not think HB 763 will be considered in its present form. It's not going to happen. Some of HB 763 may be turned into a study where all the stakeholders have a seat at the table."

Sen. Cook maintains that more rules are needed.

"In several cases, NC coastal wind energy development has come in direct conflict with preserving and

protecting North Carolina's military installations and their mission of maintaining the operation of NC military bases," Cook said last week in an e-mail.

Both Steinburg and Cook agree that there have been issues regarding airspace for Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro. However Steinburg rejects that idea that the U.S. Coast Guard in Elizabeth City would be impacted by proposed wind projects. One Perquimans resident made

See WIND, 4A



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**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!!!**

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