



New priest on board at St. Anne Catholic Church - 6B

482-4418

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

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Council rejects Yacht Club lease proposal

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The town council last week declined a request from the Edenton Yacht Club to lease a portion of the former Northeast Commission building.

The town council voted 4-3 at its Aug. 9 meeting to decline the yacht club request,

which would have allowed the club continued access to space it currently uses in the building for storage and instruction even after the building is sold.

Mayor Roland Vaughan broke a 3-3 tie to defeat the motion, which he called a thinly veiled effort to block the establishment of a brewpub at the location in ques-

tion. The item was introduced by Administrative Committee chair Steve Biggs. He and the committee's two other members, Norma Simpson and Elton Bond, both voted in favor of granting the lease. Council members Sambo Dixon, Jimmy Stallings and Bob Quinn voted "no" on the question,

leading to the 3-3 tie. Prior to the vote the mayor chastised the members of the Administrative Committee for what he termed bringing forward the lease proposal prematurely.

"In my opinion, the motion (to adopt the lease) is clearly out of sequence," he said.

Vaughan said he felt the

appropriate action would be for the council, in keeping with its most recent vote on the issue, to allow Raleigh businessman John Glover to return to Edenton and talk with the council concerning any questions council members have regarding his desire to establish a brewpub at the site.

Once a determination has

been made about whether to allow Glover to purchase the building, he said, the question of the requested lease could be revisited.

"He (Glover) will come back at your invitation and talk about what he's come up with (in terms of amended plans for the building),"

See BUILDING, 4A

Fire destroys century-old two-story house

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A century-old house in northern Chowan County was destroyed by fire early Friday morning.

Mary De Jesus's home was located on Virginia Road just north of the Northern Chowan Community Center.

Center Hill Crossroads Fire Chief Mike Hamilton said the fire department was dispatched to the scene at 3:19 a.m. Friday. Hamilton said he arrived within three or four minutes and found the two-story wooden structure already engulfed in flames.

The Edenton Fire Department also responded to the fire.

De Jesus said she was thankful that she and the other three people who were in the house when the fire started all made it out alive, even though all her possessions were lost in the fire.

"I've about cried myself out of tears, to be honest with you," De Jesus said Saturday morning.

Hamilton said the cause of the fire is still being investigated but it appears to started from an electrical cause.

De Jesus said the insurance company also would be sending someone out to investigate. She said she plans to rebuild but may not be able to "build a grand old house like this was."

Some of those at the

See FIRE, 4A



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Mary De Jesus's home on Virginia Road just north of the Northern Chowan Community Center was destroyed by fire early Friday morning. The fire was extinguished by firefighters from the Center Hill Crossroads and Edenton fire departments.

Hotel renovations waiting on financing package

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The developer planning an upscale renovation of the historic Hotel Hinton building is still ironing out details of the financing that will make the project viable.

SAGA Construction and Development Inc. closed its purchase of the historic structure from Chowan County in July of last year, following a due diligence period that stretched out over two years.

"We're continuing to work on putting the financing together and we're starting to get closer

on that,"

Bob Howsare of SAGA said this week.

Howsare said major construction on the project is estimated to take about nine months. The company is projecting a 12-month turnaround once the financing is in place.

Howsare said that based on how he feels about the progress on the project at this time he believes the major renovations should be under construction by the first of next year, which should enable the hotel to open in the first few months of 2018.

He cautioned that he was discussing an ideal timetable based

on a best-case scenario.

Once the hotel opens it is expected to create 50 or more new jobs on-site.

Although the historic structure next to the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse on East King Street most recently was used as an office building for the county, the building previously housed the Hotel Hinton. An earlier hotel in the same location was known as the Bayview Hotel.

The site was home to inns and taverns all the way back to the colonial period.

Chowan County sold the building to Preservation North Carolina, which in turn sold it to

SAGA.

SAGA's plans call for the development of a luxury hotel with guest rooms and suites as well as extensive meeting space, a fine dining restaurant and a rooftop lounge with views of Edenton Bay and the town's historic district.

Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said project developers are working on both new market tax credits and traditional bank financing in order to get the financing in place to fund the significant renovations planned for the building.

"They're still very optimistic," Knighton said.

One-stop voting schedule adopted

From staff reports

The Chowan County Board of Elections has announced one-stop voting hours for the upcoming General Election.

There will be one-stop voting at the Agricultural Extension Center, located at 730 N. Granville St., Edenton, and the Northern Chowan Community Center, located at 2869 Virginia Road, Tyner.

The hours at the Tyner site will be 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Nov. 3-4, and 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Nov. 5. At the Edenton site the hours will be 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Oct. 20-21 and Oct. 24-28.

On two Saturdays, Oct. 29 and Nov. 5, there will be one-stop voting at the Edenton site from 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Oct. 31-Nov. 4, the hours at the Edenton site will be 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

The number of days of early voting in the county reflects a recent court decision that overturned a state law that had reduced the total number of days of early voting.

The Chowan County Democratic Party requested that one-stop voting last until 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5. That recommendation was not adopted by the board as part of its one-stop voting schedule.

Apex spokesman clarifies company ownership

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A spokesman for Apex Clean Energy Inc. has clarified the company's relationship to global energy giant BP in the face of persistent claims by an activist in Perquimans County that BP owns

Apex.

Apex is the Charlottesville, Va.-based company that has applied for conditional use permits in Chowan and Perquimans to construct the 300-megawatt Timbermill Wind Project in the two counties.

A quasi-judicial hearing before the Chowan County Board of Commissioners on the Chowan CUP application is slated to begin Monday at 6 p.m. at the Northern Chowan Community Center.

"BP is not a parent owner of Apex," company spokesman Kevin Chandler said this week when asked about Alan Lennon's request that the Chowan Herald "correct the erroneous statement made by Mr. Chandler," which was a reference to Chandler's statement - cited in the article "Public speaks out on Timbermill Wind Project" in the Aug. 3 Chowan Herald - that BP does not own Apex.

Chandler made the statement to the Chow-

an Herald for the Aug. 3 article after Lennon stated during comments at the July 26 meeting of the Chowan County Planning Board that Apex was owned by BP.

Since the publication of the Aug. 3 article, Lennon has continued to assert that BP owns Apex, citing information on the Apex website that describes Apex as a subsidiary of Greenlight Energy Resources.

Lennon also cited on-

line references to BP's acquisition of Greenlight Energy Inc.

But Chandler said that after BP acquired Greenlight Energy Inc., Greenlight executives regrouped and formed a new company.

Chandler quoted from the Apex website's history page: "Following that sale, the leadership team got together again to reinvest in the clean energy industry through a new venture, Greenlight Energy Resources."

