

SOLAR

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farm in the county – the second solar project to set its sites on Chowan County in 2019. Gliden Solar, a division of SunEnergy1, seeks a conditional-use permit to develop a 5-megawatt solar farm on 414 Sign Pine Road. Gliden is proposing to build the facility on 56 acres of an 82-acre tract.

The county commission must decide whether to approve the permit – a discussion that is expected to occur in the near future. Then, pending state and federal approvals, the company can pursue its plans to build the solar farm.

That brings our readers to the present where setbacks for solar farms are among other suggested changes to the ordinance as drafted by Kirby and sent by the county commission on April 15 for review by the Planning Board within the weeks

ahead. The commission seeks to review the Planning Board's work in June.

"I have drafted what I think is at least a starting point for an ordinance," Kirby said. "I don't profess to be an authority on this, I'm just trying to serve the citizens. Of course, any and all discussion is more than welcome."

Kirby's draft suggests a 1,500 foot setback so that Chowan County's major roadways would not suffer the same fate as neighboring counties where solar farms are quite visible to motorists traveling north along U.S. 17 en route to Elizabeth City.

Commissioner Larry McLaughlin called the draft changes "a good start" and suggested wider buffer zones with a more precise formula as to the fauna needed to screen the solar farms from view.

"The people I talk with about solar energy; there's people who think it is great, but you don't have to look at it," he said. "Then there's those people who

don't care for it all. My point is the compromise position I see that is best for Chowan County is that we make sure that these things are out of sight."

Commissioner Greg Bonner said while he agrees some changes may be needed, the ordinance shouldn't deter economic development.

"We don't want creates guidelines that are so strict that it actually discourages business – solar being interested in being here," he said.

While Bonner said he supports Kirby's efforts, he questioned a 1,500 foot setback with a 50 foot buffer, "That just doesn't sound reasonable to me."

Kirby said the length of the setback was needed to better protect North Carolina's scenic byways and those roads designated as historical Albemarle highways in addition to keeping any solar farms away from places listed with the National Register of Historic Places, such as the Rosenwald School.

However, Kirby conceded that the 1,500 foot setback was a starting point that could be raised or lowered.

McLaughlin added, "Having setbacks along those historic highways is a good thing, but not everyone lives on an historical Albemarle right-of-way. A lot of people on Ryland Road and little country roads don't want to look at that glass and metal, pure and simple. So that's why I advocate for stern measures to make sure that these places are out of site."

Commissioner Lawrence Ellis wants the Planning Board to review changes that would put decommissioning at the start of project rather than at the back end.

"I've said it before and I'll say it again. I think decommissioning should be considered up front as opposed to when the project is on the path to decommission. We need to know exactly what's going to happen with decommissioning up front and have it in writing such

that there can be no modifications or changes – you will adhere to what's agreed to at the beginning of the project."

Commission President Patti Kersey added, "What I've heard from commissioners who have spoken about it is that the decommissioning needs to get some teeth in it. I think most of the folks who commented on that were in agreement with that. Mr. Kirby has provided a quite 'beefing up' so we'll see what the Planning Board thinks about that."

Commissioner Don Faircloth offered a few thoughts about the proposal being sent to the Planning Board. Faircloth said as to the fauna within a buffer zone, he favors evergreens trees. Another note, Faircloth expressed concern about requiring a monitoring wells be placed on site at solar farms that would alert anyone as to hazardous materials that may arise. He noted that monitoring is not a requirement for businesses in

the county that may use hazardous materials. Faircloth said county dump sites do not have such monitoring systems in place. Faircloth said while he doesn't want pollution, it's not fair to legislate a standard aimed at just one business, but not others.

"I don't want to back ourselves into a corner where we have to start requiring other businesses to have to put these wells in," Faircloth said. Kirby noted the long hearings in the past have detailed the pitfalls of solar farms, so he inserted within the proposal language about monitoring wells. Kirby said based on his experiences as a business owner, he understands Faircloth's position. Kirby said the board needs to consider all of these matters, perhaps go in a different direction if these folks so decide, but at least everyone agrees that this is a good starting point to begin the process of changing the ordinance.

CHURCH

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Thursday, he shared a story about talking to a prospective donor about a project when the man reached into his back pocket, pulled out a checkbook and penned \$500,000 on that powerful piece of paper. Cooper's intent when sharing the story was to illustrate that you never know what you're going to get until you ask.

Cooper laid out a time-honored approach as to how this project can be successful. He said there is a need to share a narrative about why the church is important to the congregation and what restoring it will mean to the community.

"We'll use the history of the building, the specialness of the place – the stories that it tells – that will be compelling," he said. "We'll use your stories about what you want to do in that building, but it's got to be future looking too – it's got to be forward

looking. We want to paint of picture of a church with an extraordinary past, but a really exciting future too, both as a home for your congregation and as a piece of the community and even as a piece of the larger town and all of that. We'll try to pull together all that information, tell that story and go talk with people who can make that happen."

Cooper said if donors, no matter where they live, understand why their money is important, they will contribute to the cause that needs many hundreds of thousands of dollars to accomplish, maybe more around \$1 million.

"As a professional fundraiser, that doesn't mean I know any rich people. That doesn't mean I can open up my notebook and come up with a list of people that are going to give to this project and make it happen," he said. "That's not really the way it works, and that's not what I can bring to the table. What I have done for over

30 years is help groups of people like yourselves raise money. So you have it within yourselves and this community. The potential relationships, the names and all the ingredients that you need to raise the money for this are already out there. What I'll try to do is help by talking to people and trying to guide the conversation and using my experience to ask the right questions and to create a structure and discipline that will help us make good progress."

Cooper's expert approach illustrates that proper fundraising is not just about asking for money to restore one of the town's oldest churches, but about getting the community and donors behind building something bigger than themselves. He hopes to get proposal down as soon as possible and hit the ground running within three months.

"If we're going to move on this, we have to start now," he said.

Cooper advised that

while fundraising goals would not be met overnight, he is optimistic that progress will be made sooner rather than later.

"Everything I've heard has been very positive," he said. "The congregation is excited about doing this, and it has a really interesting vision for how the building can be used in the future. All the folks we've met with at Town Hall, tourism, the chamber of commerce – all of those folks were excited about this. And there's been good prospect of names for donors mentioned. I'll work with you to try to put together an infrastructure for fundraising."

As with life and faith, fundraising is about ups and downs, as well embracing fellowship and faith that a group will succeed.

"You'll get told 'no' a lot. You'll get less than what you asked for a lot, but you'll also have surprises. You'll have gifts come in that you didn't expect," Cooper said. "There'll be a

day in this fundraising when you may think, 'Wow, why did we shoot so low – we could've gotten a lot more than that.' There'll be other days when we think there's no way we can meet our goal on this. All of that is going to happen – I promise. But we'll stay supportive of each other. We'll keep encouraging each other. We'll push through and get where we need to be."

Besides Audrey Bond as chairwoman and Kadesh pastor, the Rev. Michael Gaddy, members of the committee include: Sally Francis Kehayes; Ben Speller; Grace Bean; Kaye Barker; Julius Leary; Darlene Leary; Larry Felton; Ida Felton; Willie Drew; Barbara Drew; Rosa White; Sadie Riddick; Essie Jackson; Teresa Leary; attorneys Sambo Dixon and John Morehead. Worth noting, Mike Ervin has been helping in his capacity as executive director of the Edenton Historical Commission. The EHC is taking a lead

role in the restoration of Kadesh. They are providing support including being the non-profit partner and helping with fiscal matters.

Dixon and Morehead have been working to secure grants, including one from the Partners for Sacred Places and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Kadesh is one of the first in a group of churches across the county that will benefit from "an unprecedented \$14 million National Endowment Fund for Sacred Places created to assist churches in need of repair and restoration."

The fund will provide up to \$250,000 in capital grants, the release said, "in addition to planning grants and an array of services, for at least 50 individual congregations from a diversity of faiths over four years."

Two grants totaling almost \$14 million from the Lilly Endowment Inc., based in Indiana, are making the fund possible.

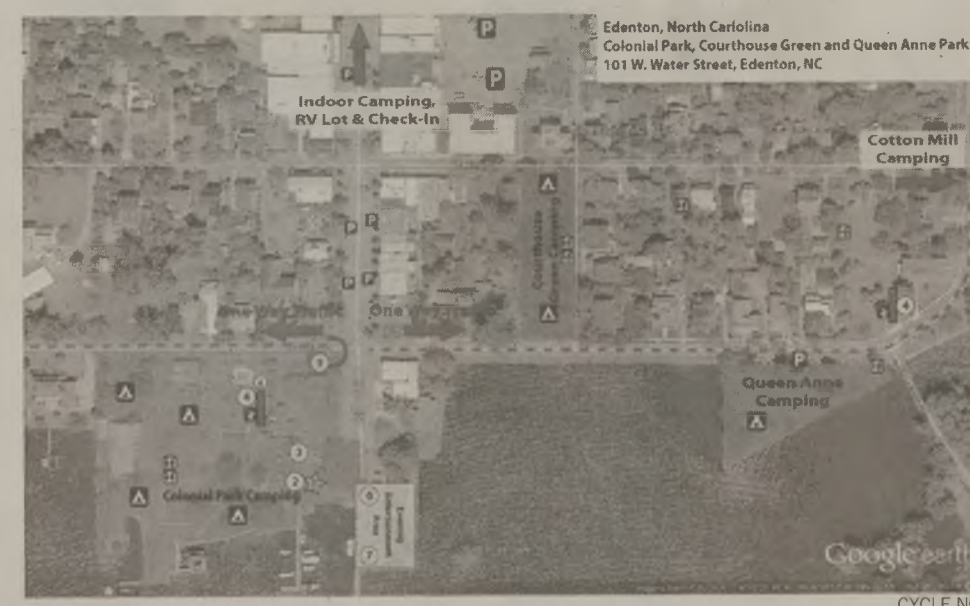
CYCLE

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High School.

The Cycle North Carolina Coastal Ride is a fully supported bicycle event with support vehicles available to aid cyclists who experience physical or mechanical breakdowns. Rest stops will be set up every 10-20 miles along each route for riders to get off their bikes and explore, while quenching their hunger and thirst. Indoor and outdoor camping areas with amenities will be provided in Edenton at John A. Holmes High School and along the waterfront at Colonial Park on Edenton Bay. Participants also will fill the hotels, bed and breakfast inns and vacation homes in Edenton and the neighboring towns.

Cycling routes will pass by and include attractions such as the Sycamore Arabian Horse Farm, downtown Hertford, Woodard's Pharmacy, Rocky Hock



Playhouse, Nicholson House Restaurant, Historic Capehart Baptist Church, Scotch Hall Plantation, Cashie River Tree House Village, Livermon Park and Zoo, Leggett's Diner, Waterside Resort, Volunteer Fire Department in

Creswell, Historic Somerset Plantation, Bull's Bay, the Eastern 4-H Center, Downtown Columbia, Poconin Art School and the Scuppernon River to name a few.

Riders will be crossing the US-17 Bridge over the

Chowan River on Saturday and the Soundside (Highway 32) bridge over the Albemarle Sound on Sunday.

Cyclists will also have the option to utilize the historic San Souci Cable Ferry, one of the last

remaining cable ferries in North Carolina.

Evening entertainment will be provided both nights for participants in Edenton.

Friday night is the Coastal Ride Kick-Off Social for all participants, featuring free beer courtesy of Tarboro Brewing Company and live music from the Justin Holland Band.

In addition to patronizing the local area restaurants, a food truck alley will provide cyclists dining options throughout the weekend. Saturday night is the official CNC Coastal Ride Dinner where all participants can enjoy free beer from Tarboro Brewing Company and a catered meal from Leon Nixon's. During the meal, cyclists can enjoy the music of Ocean Breeze Band from Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The Cycle North Carolina Coastal Ride is presented by Retire North Carolina. Partner organizations of Cycle North Carolina include: Powerade, Capitol Broadcasting Company, Blue Cross Blue

Shield of NC, Harris Teeter, BB&T, the N.C. Department of Transportation, NC by Train, and Trek of Greensboro.

North Carolina Amateur Sports is a nonprofit that annually organizes the Powerade State Games of North Carolina and Cycle North Carolina.

For information on NCAS and its events, visit its website www.ncsports.org.

Taylor
THEATER

208 S. Broad St. Edenton
Taylortheater.com • (252) 368-1595

Starting Thursday 4/25
National Premiere of
AVENGERS
END GAME (PG-13)

BREAKTHROUGH
Starting Friday 4/26
Also showing
Unplanned Thru 4/25

7pm shows EVERY NIGHT
Matinees Every Fri. Sat. & Sun.
We can't wait to watch with you!

CRIMEWATCH

EDENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrests

Reginald Dwayne Harrell, 40, of Badham Road, Edenton, was arrested April 16, on a misdemeanor charge of failure to appear. A secured bond of \$388 was set. He was held in the Chowan County Jail. Arresting officer, Officer A.M. Wynn.

Adrianna Tamese Holley, 26, Coston Lane, Edenton, was arrested April 11 on a Pasquotank County warrant on a misdemeanor charge of failure to return rental property. Arresting officer, Capt. D.C. Brown.

Michael Jeffery McCleese, 26, of Jones White Road, Roper, was arrested April 10 on a misdemeanor charge of trespassing. Arresting officer,

Sgt. J.F. Simpson Sr. Milton Lee Barcliff Jr., 34, of West Carteret Street, Edenton, was arrested April 10 on a charge of habitual felon. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. He was confined to Chowan County Jail. Arresting officer, Cpl. W.S. White.

Derrick Tyquan Kight, 20, of West Carteret Street, Edenton, was arrested April 5 on a misdemeanor charge of failure to appear. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set. He was confined to the Chowan County Jail. Arresting officer, Cpl. W.S. White.

Incidents
Police are investigating an April 15 report of breaking and entering at a residence on East Church Street. According to the report, the suspect gained entry into the home by breaking a

glass door. Investigating officer, Officer A.M. Wynn.

Police are investigating an April 15 report of vandalism by S&S Trailer and Container Rental, Inc., in Winterville. According to the report, a storage container owned by S&S was damaged at a construction site on North Oakum

Street. Investigating officer, Cpl. D.A. Smith.

Police are investigating an April 8 report of larceny at Speedway, 301 Virginia Road, Edenton. According to the report, the suspect in a blue Ford Focus left without paying for \$22.75 in gas. Investigating officer, Office D.J. Romano.

EDENTON ROTARY CLUB

BREAKFAST

Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019

6:30 am - 11:00 am

HOLMES HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

\$7.00 Donation Eat-In or Take-Out

In Loving Memory of

Mildred L. Carter

5/9/1935 - 4/26/2004

We think about you always,
We talk about you still,
You have never been forgotten,
And you never will.

We hold you close within our hearts
And there you will remain,
To walk and guide us through our lives,
Until we meet again.

Lovingly Missed by,
Your Children and Grandchildren