

# Town: Violations to continue until plant work finished

Customers also notified of further THM violations

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON  
Editor

Town of Edenton sent out a letter to its utility customers warning them to be careful when drinking Edenton's water. It also noted that the town expects the problem to continue until the upgrades to one of the town's water treatment plants are completed on or before Oct. 15.

Dated June 28, the letter said the town's water system is in violation of state law because the water contains elevated levels of trihalomethanes, which are

considered as carcinogenic. Written by Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton, the town's 2,107 water customers received the letter with their utility bills in the mail.

Trihalomethanes (THM) are formed as a by-product predominantly when chlorine is used to disinfect drinking water.

The letter noted that customers have a right to know what happened, what they should do and what the town is doing to correct the situation, Knighton wrote.

The letter said there is no need to boil water or take other corrective actions. However, anyone with specific health

concerns should consult a doctor. The letter said anyone with a severely compromised immune system, or who has an infant or is pregnant or elderly should seek advice from health care providers about drinking the water.

If this had been an emergency, people would have been notified within 24 hours by the town.

"However, some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of maximum contaminant levels over many years — the state defines as 70 years — may experience problems with their liver, kidneys or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting

cancer," Knighton wrote.

Town is required by the state to routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants such as THM.

In a previous interview Knighton said the town has been exceeding the total THMs maximum contaminant level allowed by the state since 2015, when the rules changed. The town has been notifying its water customers of the violations and of the plan of action to bring the water system back into compliance.

Water samples collected in June from one or more sampling locations show that the contamination concentration exceeds the standard or the maximum

allowed for THM, the letter said.

The sample location with the highest average level of total THM had a concentration of 0.163 mg/L — twice the average standard of .080 mg/L.

To solve the situation, the town's water treatment plants are being renovated and upgraded.

"This new treatment process will totally remove the precursors that cause total THMs and the Town will be back in compliance with drinking water standards," Knighton wrote in the letter.

Edenton expects the upgrades at the Beaver Hill Water Treatment Plant to be completed by Oct. 15.

The letter notes that additional work was added to the contract, extending the completion date.

Besides upgrading the water treatment plants, the town will "continue to make all reasonable efforts to reduce the total THM levels in the water system." Those efforts include increased line flushing, and reducing the level of chlorine injected at the water treatment plants.

Chowan County's Water Department Director David Tawes said the county's water system that serves 4,100 customers is in compliance and does not exceed federal or state standards for total THM.

## COUNCIL

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step forward. Though developers reached out to between three to five banks, one bank remains interested. Vaughan said he hopes to have an update about the property at the next council meeting on July 22.

To segway away from Leotta for a bit, so as to remain on local revitalization efforts, Councilor Sambo Dixon gave a brief report about ongoing efforts to raise funds to restore Kadesh AME Zion Church on Gale Street.

Dixon reported that David Cooper, senior partner with the Compass Group, is assisting the local committee seeking to raise the funds needed to repair the interior and exterior damage this historic house of worship sustained during Hurricane Isabel in 2003. There has been a complete structural report completed which uncovered that the stained-glass windows are Tiffany.

Louis Comfort Tiffany (Feb. 18, 1848–Jan. 17, 1933) was an American artist and designer who worked in the decorative arts and is best known for his work in stained glass. He later took over as design director of his father's famous Tiffany and Co. in 1902.

"I think there's something more exciting each time we find out anything about that building," Dixon said.

The committee meets weekly to push the project forward.

"I'm really really encouraged," Dixon said. "If we can save that building, it will be a huge benefit for this community."

Back to Leotta, who wanted to know more about the progress to improve the quality of the town's water, Town's Public Works Director Corey Gooden spoke about work underway at Beaver Hill and Freemason water treatment plants. Progress moving forward includes how most of the electrical conduits have been installed and concrete has been poured for the floors.

Beaver Hill will be online in mid October with Freemason early next year. Both plants will be compliance with state Department of Environmental Quality standards. Though water quality will improve, the town's 2,107 water customers will continue to get mailers in their utility bills that say trihalomethanes are present in the water supply because the formula the state uses to calculate maximum levels of THMs is based on a 4-quarter running average. However, the Town expects to



FILE PHOTO  
SAGA Construction is seeking financing to renovate the Hotel Hinton on East King Street.

be producing water that meets state requirements on or about Oct. 15.

In other business, the NC Local Government Commission Coach Team suggested so as to assist Town Hall with budgeting, is to consider adopting small projects capital ordinances for capital projects that are expected to take more than a year to complete, funded through grants or loans and have project cost of more than \$25,000. This ordinance helps the General Fund's fund balance position by moving large one-time capital expenditures funded through grants out of the General Fund.

The Fund Balance calculation is based in part on total expenditures in the General Fund — by adopting the small project capital ordinance, council shifted almost \$1 million in expenses in Fiscal Year 2018-19 from the General Fund to the Capital Project Ordinance. While the Enterprise Funds (Water and Sewer, Electric Funds)

don't follow the same guidelines for calculating fund balance as the General Fund, a Water and Sewer small capital project ordinance will be helpful to the staff for budgeting purposes.

If the projects are in the traditional Water and Sewer Fund, we have to forecast year end revenues and expenditures and then forecast revenue & expenses for the next fiscal year's budget. So, given the large number of recent grants received for the Water and Sewer Fund, Town Hall thinks it will be helpful to set up a small projects capital ordinance.

Town Finance Officer Virginia Smith prepared the Small Projects Capital Ordinance for council's consideration. It includes the NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) grant for the East Eden Street Storm Water Improvements; Grant for DEQ Storm Water Feasibility Study; Grant for the DEQ Water System Asset Inventory and Assessment

Grant and the Coastal Area Management grant for the East Water Street/Queen Anne Creek Bulkhead Improvement Project. This ordinance also includes the Transfer of Funds for the Town's matching requirements for the grants from the Water and Sewer Fund to the Capital Project Ordinance.

Also, council approved an order for Engineering Services for Storm Water Feasibility Study. The Wooten Company identified this grant opportunity for the town and took the lead in writing the grant application. The engineering services for the project are expected to cost approximately \$50,000, half of which is funded from the grant. Wooten Company engineers, especially Wil Larsen, has been working with the town extensively on drainage improvements to the East Water Street area. Knighton said the town staff was excited to have this grant to be able to look at opportunities further upstream on the east side of town to help minimize flooding downstream.

And council approved a task order for Engineering Services for East Eden Street Storm Water Improvements. This grant will pay for the engineering and installation of innovative underground storage system that will add storm water capacity to the Town's system and will

also improve storm water quality by filtering out bad nutrients.

"We are super excited about this project. We think it might help us with future application funding requests from Golden Leaf Foundation," Knighton said.

And, council approved an order for engineering services for East Water Street /Queen Anne Bulkhead Replacement. This grant with NC DEQ will fund \$111,000 for replacement bulkhead at Queen Anne Creek. This project will take some extra engineering to make sure the new bulkhead does not conflict with the planned repairs and renovations to the storm water gravity line near the kayak launch. The city must also take care not to interfere with Hayes Bridge and make sure the new bulkhead ties in with existing bulkhead at Elizabeth Vann Moore Park.

The Small Project Capital Ordinance includes funds for the \$29,000 in engineering fees however \$12,000 of this amount is for construction administration and observation. Knighton said the town does not anticipate having to spend nearly that amount of money.

Gooden will monitor the construction, however, if the town runs into potential problems, it will need the Wooten Company's assistance.

## MARCUS

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awareness event from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, July 20, at Colonial Park.

Jackson hopes the event will honor Marcus and remember other people who have been lost to any type of violence. She asks that those who lost a loved one to violence to submit photos of the victims, along with their names and dates to her via the Marcus Jackson Tribute page on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/marcusjackson.tributepage>.

She also asks that those attending the event wear orange, which signified

gun violence awareness.

"I hope it can become the start of a movement our town needs," Jackson said of why she organized the event. "Violence has become a part of this community. It's time to say something about it."

Jackson said along the activities planned are educational tables, live entertainment and food.

"I want it to be a time where people come together and learn," she said. "When I share what happened with others I get a reaction. Sometimes people are thankful for it."

Violence effects each person who knew the victim differently, Jackson said. The event will give

people a chance to talk with others and interact.

"Hopefully, this positive energy will be contagious," she said.

Marcus loved food and always wanted to make sure others had food, Jackson remarked.

"He liked to make sure everyone had something to eat," she said. "As the event moves forward, I don't want to make people pay to eat. I want to keep it a positive vibe, a spirit-driven event with a lot of food and a lot of laughing."

"In light of it all, I want it to be a place where people can be OK to make a change," she said. "If we don't do anything or do something negative, I don't

think we'll get very far. Now that we know we're impacted, the question is, how do we move forward? It's worse to stay in that place and not talking about it. It becomes a perpetual cycle of violence. Our overall goal is to break that."

Jackson said she copes with losing Marcus by taking life one day at a time for her two other children and six grandchildren.

"Marcus wouldn't want me to stop," she said. "I can still feel him pushing me."

The thing Jackson misses the most about her son? His smile.

"His smile was contagious," she said. "It brought out a light in me."

While Marcus may have

been remembered by his John A. Holmes classmate as a class clown, his teachers respected him, Jackson said.

"He made people laugh. His energy was so refreshing," she said.

This event will also be a way to share Marcus with future generations, Jackson said.

"Marcus' son needs something to remind him of his father," she continued. "He'll never know his dad, how he held him. We just have photos and recordings. But this

will help tell the story of his father."

She hopes people come to the event with "positive vibes" and come out learning something new.

"I hope, if anything, they get something to put in their toolbox to use. If not specifically for themselves, then to help someone else down the road," she said. "It's all about helping each other."

For those who would like to contribute to the event, contact Jackson through the Marcus Jackson Memorial Tribute page.

## RACES

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Monday for re-election.

On July 5, Roger Coleman filed for at-large seat on council, while Jimmy Stallings filed for mayor.

Councilman/mayor pro tem Steve Biggs is expected to make an announcement later this week.

Any others who wish to run for office in this election that they must file by noon Friday, July 19, with the election being Nov. 5.

Though these were the latest filings that could be reported before Tuesday's press time, more filings will be reported as they occur on the Chowan Herald's Facebook page and in subsequent print editions.

## TAYLOR

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this a safe community. Last thing — being a great leader comes with being a great follower," said Taylor, John A. Holmes Class of 2001.

Sambo Dixon announced last week that he is running for re-election to the 2nd Ward seat that he has represented since 1997.

This is Taylor's second bid for Town Council.

In 2017, Taylor ran against Craig Miller, who was elected to an at-large seat on Town Council.

Taylor announced then that he was intent not only to run for Town Council again, but that he would remain active within the community — promises that he has kept.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tray Taylor signs the line to run for election to the 2nd Ward seat on Edenton Town Council at the Chowan County Board of Elections office.

## CORRECTION

Due to a typist's error, the incorrect charges were listed in the July 10 CrimeWatch listings for two people arrested by the Chowan County Sheriff's Office. Kiana Holley, of Dillard's Mill Road, was arrested June 11 of driving while license revoked. Melissa Nixon, of Rocky Hock Road, was arrested June 11 for cyberstalking. We apologize for the error.

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