



FRANK ADAMS of Shallotte is one of two building inspectors who began work for the county on July 1. The other is Julius "Buddy" Lewis of Leland.

Shallotte Fees To Finance Treatment Plant Expansion

BY SUSAN USHER

It costs more to build a house or business in Shallotte these days.

Retroactive to July 1, the town has begun levying a capital reserve fee on new construction to generate some of the \$408,000 needed to expand the Forest Drive sewer treatment plant.

The plant's capacity must be expanded before sewer lines can be extended any further. However, land along existing sewer lines can continue to be developed. The sewer plant is currently operating at 100,000 gallons per day of its 120,000 gpd capacity.

Out-of-town fees will be double those charged in town. The term "out of town" applies to structures built on property outside the town limits as of July 1, 1985, Mayor Beamon Hewett said.

In-town residential fees are \$200 per bedroom, with a \$500 minimum per living unit. For commercial property, the minimum rate is \$600 through the first 5,000 square feet, then \$120 per each additional 1,000 square feet.

By the estimate of J. Finley Boney, engineer for the system, the fees will generate only about half the funds needed to build a new lagoon, purchase additional land and build an irrigation field.

The capital reserve fee isn't the only new charge intended to help finance the system. Of each new water and sewer installation, \$250 will also be set aside.

Annexations
Action on two proposed annexations had been delayed until the board could adopt a capital reserve fee schedule.

In the meantime, the owner of one tract changed her mind. No action was taken Wednesday night on a letter from Earline (Pet) Bellamy withdrawing her earlier request for annexation of 4½ acres of property and rezoning of that area and another 3½ acres already within town.

Aldermen said they needed to wait until legal difficulties between the landowner and two prospective buyers are resolved.

Two developers who had had an option to buy the property—contingent upon its annexation and rezoning—asked the town to annex and zone the property subject to the sale taking place.



A NEW CHIEF OF POLICE, Don Stovall (right), was sworn in by Shallotte Mayor Beamon Hewett Wednesday evening at the town hall before the board of aldermen meeting. On hand for the brief ceremony was Stovall's wife, Pam, and son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Tammy Stovall. Monday was his first official day on the job.

Service establishments that are visited frequently—200 sq. ft., rather than 100 sq. ft.

VFD To Expand
A proposed expansion of the Shallotte Volunteer Fire Department station will add two drive-through bays and provide space for a small office.

Aldermen approved the expansion and agreed to handle the advertising of bids for the work, which will be paid for by the fire department.

"That's one thing we've been saving our money for," said Susan Arnold, an officer in the department. "We knew once we had a truck we would need a place to store it."

Volunteer firemen are rebuilding a truck into a 20,000 gallon tanker.

"It's been painted and it looks more like a fire truck every day," said Ms. Arnold.

The expansion of the fire station includes a 26-foot by 20-foot addition to the rear, with two bay doors, and creation of a small office inside.

Also, fire department members will soon begin repainting and numbering fire hydrants, using paint furnished by the town.

Other Business
In other business, aldermen:

• Affirmed their earlier acceptance by telephone poll of a bid of \$11,286 from Nationwide Insurance for town insurance coverage, the only bid received after advertising twice. The bid came in at about \$2,000 more than budgeted. Aldermen were polled, the mayor said, so that insurance for the town could be secured by the first of July, the start of the new fiscal year.

• Annexed a tract of property owned by Al Willis and located at the point between U.S. 17 south and Sellers Drive. It will be zoned commercial, at Willis' request.

• Voted to give former police officer Carey Gaskins vacation pay in the absence of policy to the contrary, but scheduled a discussion of vacation policy at the board's next meeting to clarify several questions before another "incident" occurs. Gaskins left the department without giving notice.

"We should be fair to employees," said Harrelson, "but it's a two-way street. They should also be fair to their employers."

In the mayor's chambers before the meeting, Mayor Hewett administered the oath of office to the town's new police chief, Don Stovall.

Permits Are Required

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to be built. •Septic tank permit from the health department.

Those planning construction valued at less than \$20,000 must present a septic tank permit, tax map and parcel number and/or proof of ownership, directions to the building site, a sketch of their building plans, with a list of other, more specific information such as the type of foundation, roof and exterior wall coverings and heating fuel and water sources.

Following a grace period that ends September 15, the county will double the fees it charges if work or activity begins on a project before the necessary permits are obtained.

Farm buildings other than residences are exempted from the fees, but the permits are still required.

Julius "Buddy" Lewis is a native of

the Shallotte area and has completed college coursework in health and physical education. He has taught carpentry for Brunswick Technical College, worked as a construction superintendent and iron foreman, and most recently was employed by Ferris and Associates on the county revaluation project.

Adams, an Indiana native, recently moved to the Shallotte area from Leesburg, Fla., where he had been a contractor for more than 30 years and an inspector for the state for about six years, performing environmental, pollution control and mobile home manufacturing inspections. He is married to the former Louise Stanley, a native of Ash.

Mrs. Holden, a native of the Shallotte area, worked previously for the county about 2½ years as clerk to the board of commissioners.

Commissioners Hear Problems From Residents

Some residents say Stella Road in Leland is "rougher than a washboard," while others who live just a few houses away claim it is "quite adequate" for the neighborhood.

Both sides took their complaints to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Tuesday night, where the board agreed to find out what the state thinks about Stella Road.

Several residents attended the commissioners' meeting with questions and comments about the county's 1985-86 proposed Secondary Road Program, which the board unanimously approved. The board also approved a listing of the N.C. Department of Transportation's plans to provide stabilization for county roads based on their priorities for paving.

Stella Road was not on the DOT's listing of 131 county roads and streets the commissioners reviewed at a meeting last week. Residents of the street, both for and against stabilizing the dirt road, wonder why.

"I don't live up there myself," said Van Clark of Leland, who is selling lots along the street, "but people I'm putting in up there, they deserve a road."

One resident of Stella Road countered Clark's claim that the road is not suitable for school buses or emergency vehicles. "We've never been unable to get out of that road. I came out of there at 30 mph this morning. The road is quite adequate."

James Klutz, who operates a backhoe business on Stella Road, spoke in favor of improving the road

since there are two businesses already located along the street and more families are moving in every day. But improving the street will be "turning a low density housing area into a high density housing area," one resident responded.

According to a letter from Division Transportation Commissioner Tommy Pollard of Jacksonville, both sides were contacted in March regarding the heated arguments over Stella Road. At that time, it was recommended that "DOT not become involved in this neighborhood controversy," so the street has not become part of the state road system.

An update on DOT's stance on Stella Road was requested by the commissioners Tuesday night. Commissioners also agreed to draft a resolution favoring Pollard's request that the county lobby the legislature to increase state road funds for coastal counties, especially for Brunswick and New Hanover, since they are in the midst of a population explosion.

The Secondary Road Program approved by the board Tuesday involves the replacing of a substandard bridge on S.R. 1417; the allotment of \$125,000 in state funds to supplement \$77,554 in payments from landowners to pave 3.21 miles in five residential areas; the widening of 4.4 miles of Stone Chimney Road in Supply; draining, basing and paving of King Road in Leland; stabilization of six state roads and other additions such as paving of fire and rescue squad entrances.

Gas Leak Monitored

An apparent gas leak at Shallotte Point remained under the watchful eye of state environmental management officials Tuesday evening.

According to Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan, the gas leak was discovered Monday afternoon after resident Dorothy Suggs noticed the water she was spraying on her flowers smelled like gasoline.

Tests revealed Ms. Suggs' two

wells were contaminated with gasoline, Logan said, possibly coming from the gas tanks at the Shallotte Point Grocery across the street from her home.

Those tanks were quickly drained late Monday evening, Logan said. No other wells in the area have been reported contaminated, he added.

State Division of Environmental Management officials from Wilmington were called in late Monday to

conduct tests on the contaminated water and gas supplies.

"Right now, we're waiting on those test results to see whatever is necessary to clean it up," Logan said. Trucks will be needed to pump and carry away the contaminated soil and/or water.

Ms. Suggs has two wells on her property, and both were contaminated by the gas leak, Logan said. Test results should show what type of gas is involved in the leak, he added.

July 4th Visitors Used Lots Of Water

BY SUSAN USHER

Fourth of July holiday crowds "really burned up the water" Friday and Saturday, Kenneth Hewett, county water system director, reported Monday night.

Water use was lower Thursday than Friday, when the pace picked up, he said.

The county was pumping 4½ million to 5 million gallons of water from its wells near the treatment plant on N.C. 211. Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach also were pumping from four wells each over most of the holiday. Hewett estimated that three pumping stations in the coastal area

Nos. 2, 3 and 4, shut down no more than hour between July 4 and July 7.

If Pfizer Chemicals Inc. had been operating at full capacity, the county would not have been able to meet all its demand, Hewett said, but still would probably not have been forced to ration its wholesale customers.

"We're fine-tuning the rest of our system. When Pfizer goes back up in two weeks we want to be able to run at full capacity," he said. "We don't want to ration anybody."

"We may have to ask Pfizer to conserve. It can do it for a short while." Pfizer's mid-summer slowdown

ends in about two weeks, and several members of the county's water policy committee postulated water demand will reach its highest level of the summer about that time because of the peak summer beach season. Pfizer uses between 2½ million to 3 million gallons of county water each day.

At peak performance, the county water plant can produce as much as 7 million gpd over a limited period of operation. At normal maximum operating capacity, it pumps up to 6 million gpd.

The water system encountered essentially only one problem over the

July 4th holiday, Hewett said, when Oak Island lost electrical service for about three hours. Elevated tanks at Holden Beach and Long Beach dropped to near empty about two times each, while Shallotte dropped down once.

But, Hewett added, "we didn't get any complaints."

In all, he estimated the county lost production of about 180,000 to 190,000 gallons of water during the outage.

Across the county, he predicted several of the beach towns might have pumped record volumes of water through their systems.

County's Jobless Rate Stands At 6.9 Percent

Brunswick County's unemployment rate has taken another dip, from 7.7 percent in April to 6.9 percent in May, reported the N.C. Employment Security Commission.

However, the statewide seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate for the state increased slightly, from 5.2 percent to 5.4 percent in May.

"We had a significant increase in unemployment in several areas due to layoffs in the textile industry,"

said ESC spokesman Bob Campbell. "The hardest hit county was Cabarrus which jumped from 4.9 percent in April to 18.7 percent in May."

In Brunswick County, 1,360 persons remained unemployed in May compared to 1,500 in April. Unemployment rates for several surrounding counties also fell in May, including New Hanover's from 6 percent to 5.6

percent and Columbus County from 9.5 to 9.3 percent.

Blaen County experienced a slight increase from 9.9 to 10.1 percent, the statistics show, joining only four counties in the state that recorded double-digit unemployment rates in May.

The Research Triangle Area continues to lead the state's counties in

unemployment rates with Wake County at 2.4 percent, Orange County at 2.3 percent and Durham County at 2.5 percent.

Cabarrus County recorded the highest unemployment rate (18.7 percent) with approximately 10,960 persons unemployed.

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