

## FCC Approves Cable Project

**BY SUSAN USHER**  
A cable-TV expansion project by Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. has cleared its last hurdle, according to General Manager Russell Price, with the Jan. 7 approval of the construction permits by the Federal Communications Commission.

The expanded 17 basic channel and three premium channel service could be activated on May 1. Nearly a week after the usual 90-day waiting period had elapsed, Price said Tuesday, "We had to call them (the FCC) to hear it. We have a letter coming."

According to Price, completion of the project is a matter now of getting the necessary equipment on site and installing it.

A fiberglass hut to house the additional signal-sending equipment for the project has been constructed at ATMC's Shallotte headquarters and the equipment itself is to arrive in February.

But the expanded 17-channel system can't be activated, he added, until converters are installed in customers' homes.

The converters are to be delivered

around March 1, and the project schedule calls for installation to be completed by April 15.

With the project ATMC's single-tier service will expand to 17 channels and the basic rate to about \$11.75 per month. In addition to Home Box Office, customers may also choose to pay extra for two other premium channels, The Disney Channel and The Movie Channel, the latter of which has drawn the most interest thus far, according to Price.

Customers who have remote controls, or want to record with a VCR while watching another channel must rent additional converters in addition to the one supplied as part of the basic service package.

With the "addressable" converter system, most connections and disconnections can be made electronically from a central location, reducing the number of site visits required of ATMC cable personnel.

In fall 1987 ATMC plans to expand the cable TV system itself. Phase II as proposed would serve an additional 2,000 to 2,500 customers. About 4,000 of ATMC's 16,000 customers now have access to cable service.



MICHAEL ARNOLD

## Arnold Re-Appointed Fire Chief

**BY ETTA SMITH**  
Interim Chief Michael Arnold will now serve as Shallotte's Volunteer Fire Department chief—but he'll work with a liaison committee and delegate more responsibility to other members of the department.

The town board voted Jan. 21 to re-appoint Arnold on a recommendation from a committee that has been studying problems within the department. The board also approved several other committee recommendations, including the chief's delegation of responsibility.

Board member Wilton Harrelson said members of the existing committee offered constructive comments and accomplished a lot.

"I'm pleased with the way they worked together," he said. "There was a good feeling among the members."

The board denied Arnold's re-appointment on Nov. 20, but later voted to allow him to act as interim chief until the committee could study some complaints about problems within the department.

Mayor Jerry Jones said then that complaints had been made about repairs around the station which hadn't been done, but he wouldn't say who complained, or how many complaints he'd had.

Arnold was recommended by the department for a second term in the one-year post. His first term was in 1986.

The new liaison committee will consist of the mayor and two members from the board of aldermen, appointed by the mayor; Arnold and two department members appointed by him, and one member of the department appointed by the mayor and chief jointly.

The committee will meet quarterly, and its members serve one-year terms. The first meeting is to be within 45 days of the board's adoption of the recommendations, and will deal with a review and possible revision of the bylaws and town ordinance that govern the department.

Other recommendations approved include disbursement of \$500 to be placed in a checking account and used for emergencies by the department. The remaining departmental funds will be handled by the town's finance officer.

The department will present

receipts and invoices to the finance officer on the 10th day of each month to determine the basis for the expenditures.

### Ordinance Clarified

The board also voted to clarify the town's beer and wine ordinance so it will specify that sales of the beverages end at 1 a.m. on Mondays.

The ordinance allows the sale of those beverages from 7 a.m. until 1 a.m. on weekdays, and from 1 p.m. Sundays until 1 a.m. Mondays.

An ordinance passed by the board in 1981 allowed the sale of the beverage to begin at 1 p.m. on Sundays and stop according to state regulations, according to Mayor Jerry Jones. Those regulations, in turn, allow municipalities to decide how late sales may continue on Sundays.

### Purchase Approved

The board voted to use emergency Alcoholic Beverage Control Board funds set aside for law enforcement to purchase a 1983 Ford Crown Victoria for the police department from

the N.C. Highway Patrol for \$4,000. The car, which has 69,000 miles on the speedometer, will replace a 1982 Plymouth Fury driven 140,000 miles. The board also agreed that Maintenance Supervisor Albert Hughes can use the Plymouth in his department.

### Connection Approved

Aldermen approved the connection of the town's water system to the county's system along N.C. 179 at the Village Pines and Brierwood developments to increase water pressure. The area presently has low water pressure, said Jones, including fire hydrants.

They agreed to hire Jerry Lewis and Associates as consulting engineers on the project. Lewis has been working with the county on the expansion of its system.

The price of the firm's service has not been determined, said Jones, and will depend on the design used for the hook-up.

### Other Business

In other business the board: •Voted to have Town Attorney Mark Lewis check into a law enforcement retirement law passed by the state legislature during its last session. The law requires municipalities to pay a five percent extra supplement to law enforcement employees. The board is unsure if the law pertains to all municipalities.

•Scheduled a work session Feb. 2 to discuss revisions in the police manual.

## Carolina Shores Wants Manager

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directors and various committees. A full-time manager would take over some duties and coordinate others.

A need for full-time management, as well as the opportunity to apply for state and federal grants to meet community needs, were among the concerns raised during discussions on incorporation.

Property owners voted on the question of incorporation last November in a mail canvass. When ballots were counted on Dec. 6, a majority of all property owners favored incorporation. However, a majority of the permanent residents did not and they would be the only persons eligible to vote on the matter in a referendum that would be required by the incorporation legislation.

The community, near the South Carolina state line and bordering Calabash, has 425 homes, 800 buildable lots and about 700 permanent and part-time residents.

## COG Members Tour Counties

**BY SUSAN USHER**  
A three-county get-acquainted tour will bring Cape Fear Council of Governments members to Brunswick County today for a look at the water system and other economic development factors.

Planned by Chairman LaDane Bullington, the tour began at 7 a.m. in Wilmington and was to conclude with an executive committee meeting at the Bullington residence on Ocean Isle Beach. The purpose of the tour was to acquaint members of the multi-county planning group with development features of the entire area.

Brunswick County stops were to include briefings at the county complex on the county's master plan for expansion of that facility, the county's water system and its impact on development, and the county's concerns with its landfill space needs.

If there's enough daylight, said COG Executive Director Jerry Ramsey, members plan to take a

look at strand development and golf courses such as Oyster Bay, The Pearl I and II and Carolina Shores and Marsh Harbour.

From its start in Wilmington, the bus tour was to visit the Riverfront Park, Cotton Exchange, N.C. State Port and other waterfront development in Wilmington, a golf course and the New Hanover County Airport. At the airport a briefing on future development plans and the impact of a European connector was on the agenda.

In Pender County, COG members were to look at the Lane's Ferry Industrial Park and a smaller facility in Burgaw, and a senior center, then follow the industrial corridor along U.S. 421 back toward Wilmington and Leland, talking with representatives of Takeda and The Cape Industries and looking at the New Hanover County steam plant.

From there the tour was to go to Columbus County by way of Brunswick County's surface water treatment plant near Malmo. In Columbus County, plans were to visit small industrial developments near Chadbourne and Whiteville. The tour was to look at Tabor City from the perspective of a small town with its basis in a farm economy.

## Oysters To Be Meeting Subject

Oyster management will be discussed in public meetings conducted at 7 p.m. Jan. 28, 29, and Feb. 3 and 4, by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

The Jan. 28 meeting will be held in the Hyde County courthouse in Swanquarter; the Jan. 29 meeting at Carteret Technical College, Morehead City; the Feb. 3 meeting at the Marine Resources Center in Manteo; and the Feb. 4 meeting in the Pamlico County Courthouse in Bayboro.

## Federal Employees Set Safety Record

The 1,436 employees at Federal Paper Board Co. Inc. Riegelwood operation worked two million consecutive hours without an injury resulting in days away from work, the best safety achievement record in the site's history, according to Kirk Semke, vice president.

The mark represents employees' safe work since May 18, 1986.

Riegelwood Safety Director Lou Mattes said safety statistics at the Riegelwood operations have improved dramatically over the past five years, with total accidents down 67 percent.

## Calabash Acts

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Builders with the stipulation that it could be completed within 90 days.

In other business the council authorized Thomas to follow up with Brunswick County Landfill Director Major White concerning complaints about dumping on a residential lot in Riverview Acres.

She was also told to request the state Department of Transportation dispose of a large tree just beyond Beck's Restaurant. Limbs of the nearly-dead tree are blown down by winds and John High, Beck's manager, is concerned about the safety of customers entering and leaving. Thomas said the tree is on the state property line.

The council instructed her to arrange for holes to be filled in a road on Lake Drive. Owners of property on the road complained that drivers circled around into their yard to avoid "bad places in the road."

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