

# Fire Station To Get New Heat System

BY DOUG RUTTER

Warmer days and nights are in the forecast for members of the Shallotte Volunteer Fire Department.

An old kerosene heating unit that heats the fire station office but leaves the bay areas cold soon will be replaced with a new gas heating system. The new system will allow firefighters to remain comfortable throughout the winter as they do maintenance work on equipment stored in the bays.

"We can't control the cold weather," Shallotte Fire Chief Tim Carter told the town board of aldermen at their meeting last Wednesday. The board voted unanimously to go ahead with installation of the system.

Based on two estimates, the project should cost between \$2,000 and \$2,300. The town's fire department budget for this fiscal year includes \$8,000 in a reserve fund and \$1,000 for building repairs.

The existing kerosene heating unit is located next to the fire station in the police department. Carter said the new system will feature wall units in the fire department office and hanging units in the bays.

Before approving the new heating system last week, board members joked with the fire chief about the expense.

"I thought when we bought you that (aerial) truck that was the last thing you were going to get for two years," said Sarah Tripp.

Alderman Wilton Harrelson added later, "You're not getting enough hot air from the police department?"

### Hydrant Needed

A fire hydrant removed last fall from the corner of Holden Beach Road and Main Street will be put back in the near future, but in a slightly different location.

Carter said the hydrant was removed last October because large trucks turning from Holden Beach Road onto U.S. 17 North frequently scraped up against it and knocked it over.

As a result, there are some buildings in that area of town, including a hotel, that are more than 500 feet from a hydrant. The 500-foot distance is the norm in Shallotte. "From UCB to Jones Ford there is not a hydrant," Carter said last week.

The fire chief requested that the hydrant be installed somewhere between Woodrow Russ' gas station and Heilig-Meyers Furniture Store. Carter and the town maintenance supervisor will determine the exact location.

Proximity of a fire hydrant is a factor considered in the setting of insurance premiums for structures.

### Other Business

In other business last week relating to the fire department, aldermen took no action after Carter suggested that a department committee be called to sit in on planning board meetings when new developments are discussed.

In terms of fire safety, the fire chief said it would be helpful for the department to be included in planning board meetings. As an example, he said there should be more fire exits at Autumn Care, a relatively new nursing home on Mulberry Street.

Chief Carter also informed the board last week that firefighters are in the process of purchasing dress uniforms, complete with shoulder patches and badges.

# Shallotte Officials Wrestle With Zoning

BY DOUG RUTTER

If nothing else, the recent adoption of new zoning ordinances and the rezoning of land in Shallotte has taught town officials that you can't please all of the people all of the time.

"Somewhere down the line, somebody's not going to be happy with the way it comes out," Mayor Jerry Jones concluded last week as the board of aldermen reviewed a half dozen requests for changes in the new zoning map.

The regular meeting last Wednesday was similar to other board meetings over the past three months at which aldermen have discussed a new set of zoning ordinances and a new zoning map which some land-owners oppose.

In response to recent complaints, town officials have invited lot owners to send written requests for changes in the new code and map, which replaced outdated versions in November.

Last week, Mayor Jones said three separate property owners on Bridgers Road have already requested reclassification of their land. One of the owners wants his property zoned Highway Business, another is seeking a residential classification and a third is requesting Agriculture/Transition.

Also, two property owners on Forest Drive have asked that their commercially-zoned lots be changed back to residential. Forest Drive, which was a mixed bag of commercial and residential lots on the old

*"Somewhere down the line, somebody's not going to be happy with the way it comes out."*

—Jerry Jones  
Mayor of Shallotte



zoning map, was zoned entirely commercial on the new map to reflect recent land use trends on the street.

Although he said fair treatment of property owners is important, Mayor Jones indicated last week that granting all of the requests would defeat the purpose of the new zoning map—to ensure uniform and controlled growth in town. "I want everybody to be happy, but everybody's not going to be happy," he said.

Alderman Wilton Harrelson said one way to make to ensure some degree of happiness is to amend the new code to allow residences in commercial zones as conditional or special uses. Such requests would have to come before the board of aldermen and would be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The provision was an oversight in the new code and something that several property owners in town have formally requested.

Albert Hughes, who serves as zoning enforcement officer for the town, said last week that the new

map warrants some change. But he suggested the town will never please everyone. "You will never have the perfect map," he said. "You can never have the perfect map."

Before adopting the new zoning code and map last fall, the board held a required public hearing, but nobody attended. A second hearing was held earlier this month in response to complaints from land-owners who said they were unaware of zoning changes at the time of the first hearing.

A third hearing on the issue is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. Property owners have until then to get their specific zoning requests to town hall.

### Other Business

In other business last week, aldermen:

—Accepted the resignation of maintenance department employee James Burris following a 45-minute executive session called to discuss personnel matters. Burris started working for the town last April.

Hughes said Burris resigned to take another job with more pay.

—Set a public hearing for Monday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m. in the Public Assembly Building in Bolivia on a proposed monthly charge of 50 cents for each telephone access line in town. The money would be used to help finance a 911 emergency telephone system in the county. Shallotte will hold its hearing in conjunction with the county and several other towns.

—Extended the six-month probationary period for police officer George Samek another three months. Police Chief Rodney Gause recommended the action because Samek has not yet moved from Southport to the Shallotte area. Gause said the officer is in the process of relocating closer to town. Aldermen voted to advance secretary/receptionist Phemie McLean from probationary to permanent status on the recommendation of the town clerk.

—Agreed that Mayor Pro Tem Paul Wayne Reeves should continue to serve as the town's representative on the Cape Fear Council of Governments' board. At their last meeting, aldermen appointed board member Jody Simmons to serve on the board along with Reeves. However, Reeves informed the town board last week that Shallotte is only allowed to have one representative, even though Reeves is an executive officer. Simmons was the only board member absent last week.

# Seashores Club Cited At County 4-H Program

The Seashores 4-H Club, directed by Judy Holden of Holden Beach, was recognized as Brunswick County's outstanding club for 1989 at the annual 4-H Achievement Program held Jan. 11 in Bolivia.

Other honorees at the program included Tania Butler, who was recognized for induction into the State 4-H Honor Club and was named Outstanding Senior Girl in the county.

Joe Hunt was named Outstanding Senior Boy; Robbin Holden was recognized as Outstanding Junior Girl; and Jeremy Clemmons was selected as Outstanding Junior Boy.

Persons recognized for participation in both the 4-H clothing program and fashion review were Nekesha Randolph, Jeremy Holden,

Rashida Barbour, Rosa Douglas, Jessica Winfree, Jamilia Johnson, Robbin Holden, Tracie Reeves, Rebecca Powell, Daniel Floyd, Margo Karriker, Heather Branch, Tiandra Hardy, Rachel Turner and Alicia Conn.

Also, Jeremy Clemmons, Tammy Freeman, Tabitha Daniels, Joe Hunt, Tania Butler, Amy Smith, ShRhonda Marlowe, Becky Smith, Kristen Conn, Amy Caison, LaShonda Stanley, Jennie Orrock, James Orrock, Miriam Coles, Keishonna Hewett, Courtney McKenzie, Tangela McKenzie, Josh Holden and Lucas Wagenseil.

Other students who took part in the clothing program were Rusty McKenzie, Robbin Clemmons, Lesley Holden, Paige Orrock, Minnetta

Randolph and Loretta Wortham.

Additional fashion review participants were Dawn Wilson, William McKenzie and Elizabeth Orrock.

Persons recognized for taking part in 4-H presentations during the year included Becky Smith, Jeremy Clemmons, Misty Hewett, Becky Powell, Ray Hewett, Dawn Wilson, Robbin Holden, Heather Branch, Jessica Winfree, Rachel Turner, Joseph Hunt, Rosa Douglas, Nekesha Randolph, Tabitha Daniels, Jamilia Johnson and Carmen Hewett.

Team participants included Tania Butler, Michelle Sellers, Joseph Hunt, Kristi Lewis and Amy Caison from the senior team and Jessica Winfree, Robbin Holden and Rachel Turner from the junior team. Students from the horticulture and

wildlife judging teams included Jason Bellamy, Mark Logan and John Hunt.

Persons recognized for taking part in the cumulative record program were Amy Caison, district and state winner in marine awareness, and Tania Butler, district runner-up in clothing.

Students recognized for county record books included Amy Caison, Tania Butler, Karen Kelly, Heidi Layman and Jessica Jones. Electric Congress participants were Dawn Wilson and Amy Caison.

Tania Butler and Tammy Freeman were recognized for taking part in clothing camp, and Audrey Wallace and Walter Branch were recognized for participation in horse events.

# School Board Hears Staff On Facts, Figures, Goals

BY SUSAN USHER

Recycling stations at all schools, increased focus on math education and interdisciplinary studies, more efforts to involve parents and more appropriate placement of personnel are among the changes the public can expect to see in local schools during the coming year.

School system administrators engulfed Brunswick County Board of Education members with facts, figures and goals Saturday during the board's first retreat. Superintendent John Kaufhold said the agenda was an effort to provide the "key thing" professional literature indicates boards want from administrators: to be informed.

Member Donna Baxter, who had pushed for the board to hold a retreat and then helped schedule the event, expressed mixed feelings about the gathering that resulted.

"In a way I was pleased with it," she said. "We got a lot of information that we needed. But I was disappointed in the areas we didn't get to cover and in which we didn't get to voice our concerns. What we discussed was good, but it was not everything I was looking for."

In urging a retreat be held, Ms. Baxter had said board members needed to get to know each other and share ideas, a concern she echoed again after Saturday's meeting.

"There's still so much we need to

know that we don't know. We need to each sit back and say where we're coming from and what our ideas and goals are for the future of the county."

Ms. Baxter said the board would try again, perhaps after elections are held and the board reorganizes in December.

After first waiting for staff to make arrangements for the retreat, Ms. Baxter eventually scheduled a day-long session at Bald Head Island for the board. When questions were raised about accessibility to the public, she asked staff to reschedule the meeting to the board conference room and said she had not been given any guidelines to follow in setting up the retreat.

Saturday's program was to have ended at 12 noon, but continued until 1:30 p.m. Board members heard presentations from Associate Superintendent P. R. Hankins on the food services program; Assistant Superintendent William Harrison on curriculum and instruction; Assistant Superintendent Bill Turner on maintenance and transportation; and Personnel Director Ralph Ward on state personnel allotments and staffing goals and patterns.

Presenters cited improvements in school facilities and programs during the past years and listed goals and objectives for the next fiscal year.

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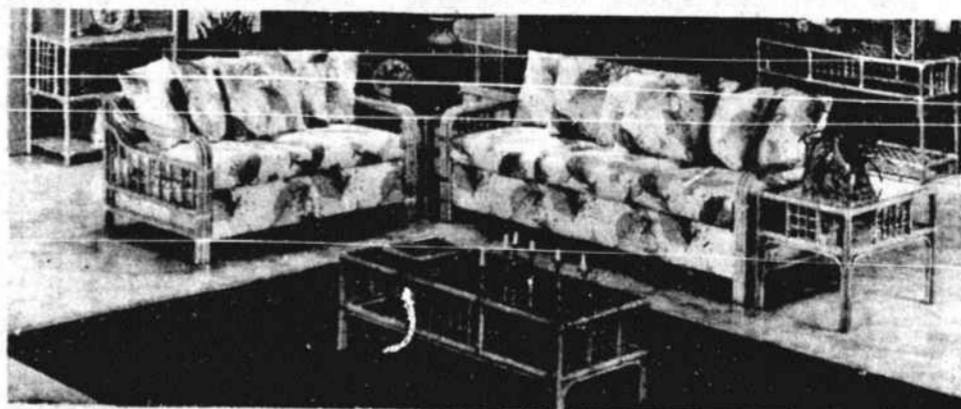
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