



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER
THIS SIGN IS THE FIRST announcement to visitors of the new no-smoking policy that went into effect at The Brunswick Hospital Jan. 1.

Hospital Adopts Smoking Ban

The Brunswick Hospital began the new year with a resolution it has every intention of keeping: no smoking inside the hospital by staff, patients or visitors.

John Marshall, administrator, said the hospital is apparently the last in the Wilmington-Myrtle Beach area to adopt a policy that restricts smoking. As a healthcare leader for the community, he said, the facility has the responsibility of ensuring a healthy environment for patients, visitors and employees.

So far, he said, the program seems to be going "pretty well."

Of the hospital's approximately 196 employees, about one-fourth smoke, with a smaller number considered heavy smokers. Frances

Fowler, public information officer, said smoking cessation classes are being offered to assist employees who wish to stop smoking. As of Tuesday, eight employees had enrolled.

In the hospital cafeteria, near the cash register, a bowl offers "smoker survival" snack packets.

Signs throughout the hospital and parking areas are reminders of the hospital's smoke-free policy. While a sign outside the hospital entrance asks that visitors leave "tobacco products" in their vehicles, Marshall said the policy addresses only smoking. However, he said he doesn't anticipate employees choosing to chew tobacco while on the job as an alternative to smoking.

Planners Call Meeting To Look At Ordinance

The Brunswick County Planning Board called a special meeting for Wednesday night where board members were expected to take action on the fifth draft of a new county subdivision ordinance.

The media was notified Monday that the special meeting had been called for members of the planning board to "begin collective review and decision making over a draft of the proposed new Subdivision Ordinance." A time was established so that all six members could be present, it stated.

A draft of the ordinance was sent to board members Dec. 13 and was released to the public at the board's Dec. 19 monthly meeting. The planning board must send the ordinance to county commissioners, who must decide if the ordinance is to become county policy. Commissioners will meet again Jan. 21.

If commissioners decide to review the ordinance, it will end a 10-

year wait. In May 1981, the county planning board held a special meeting with commissioners to discuss why a new subdivision ordinance was needed.

A first draft was released in November 1981, but in December of that year commissioners told the planning board to drop the subject. The county has operated with its present ordinance since June 1980.

The new ordinance would regulate developments in unincorporated areas of the county not affected by town zoning laws. Among the new regulations that aren't part of the 1980 ordinance are minimum lot sizes and requirements that subdivisions connect to the county's water system if within a certain distance to trunk lines.

The ordinance has been through five drafts since it was revived by the planning board and Brunswick County Board of Health, which worked together to draft sections relating to septic tank requirements.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Soldiers Arrive For Duty

Two soldiers with family connections in Brunswick County recently arrived for duty overseas.

Army Pvt. 1st Class Thomas E. Rhodes, an armor crew member, arrived for duty at Ready Kaserne, Germany.

Rhodes is the son of Pauline L. Stanley of Southport. He is a 1990 graduate of South Brunswick High School.

Air Force Airman 1st Class John M. Brooks, an aerospace propulsion specialist, has arrived for duty at RAF Bentwaters, England.

He is the son of John W. Brooks of Route 4, Leland, and Mary E. Brooks of Greenville.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Jeffery L. Williams, a munitions systems tech-

nician, has arrived for duty at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

He is the son of Cephas and Genevieve Williams of Route 1, Longwood.

His wife, Stephanie, is the daughter of Cleve Dozier and Benice Wallingford of Conway, S.C.

The sergeant is a 1980 graduate of West Brunswick High School, Shallotte.

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Car's Back; Town Delays Decision On VFD Request

BY SUSAN USHER

Like a certain penny, the car keeps coming back.

At its November 21 meeting, Shallotte aldermen voted to sell a retired police car that had been used by town office employees and firefighters for a six-month trial period.

A town aldermen, Jody Simmons, submitted a bid in the name of a family member and for \$300, bought the car—a used, high-mileage patrol vehicle which had been donated by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department to the police department. Then he donated it to the Shallotte Volunteer Fire Department. Though staffed by volunteers, the unit is considered a department of town government.

Last Wednesday night, Chief Tim Carter and Secretary Sandy Roberts appeared before the town board asking that the town pick up the cost of insurance for the vehicle. The firefighters met with more than routine discussion, with Alderman Wilton Harrelson concerned that the board's intent had been circumvented and Alderman David Gause saying he didn't think the department needed a car.

Aldermen took no action on the request, tabling a decision until the next board meeting on a motion by Harrelson. Mayor Pro tem Paul Wayne Reeves was absent.

Harrelson had first seconded Simmons' motion to pay the insur-

ance for the balance of the year and give the proposal a test run, then withdrew the second. He was concerned that the department had not adequately shown the need for a vehicle and that the town might eventually be asked to replace the vehicle or to cover maintenance and repair costs.

The six-month trial had been suggested by Mayor Sarah Tripp as a compromise. "We know the fire department is doing a good job and spends its money wisely, but the taxpayers of this town ultimately pay the cost," she said. "We have to be able to justify it to them and you have to be able to justify it to us."

During the previous six-month trial run, 947 miles were logged on the car, mostly by office employees on trips to the bank and post office. Firefighters used it basically for carpooling to training events, accounting for only 157 miles.

Aldermen said that during the trial period, the car had cost too much to operate, approximately 70 cents per mile. They voted to sell the car and try paying 25 cents per mile for use of personal vehicles.

Monday night, Alderman Simmons defended his action, saying the fire department needs the vehicle and that other towns provide such a car.

The \$300 paid to the town for the vehicle would more than cover in-

urance expenses for the balance of the fiscal year.

Insurance had been a major factor in figuring the cost effectiveness of operating the car before, Simmons said. Under the town policy insurance for the vehicle was \$545 a year, while the fire department can get insurance for \$360 a year if the vehicle is kept in its name and used for departmental purposes.

The department would use the vehicle to transport members and equipment to fire scenes quickly, to transport members to training events, and to conduct fire inspections in town, Carter and Ms. Roberts indicated.

Ms. Roberts said use of the car would cut down on wear and tear on personal vehicles for volunteers who are already donating their time.

The department has no statistics on the average number of miles traveled by volunteers each month, and firefighters said they had kept use of the car at a minimum during the six-month trial period.

Other Business

In other business, aldermen:

- Heard from Police Chief Rodney Gause that his department during 1990 investigated 151 criminal violations, including 62 larcenies and 21 incidents of shoplifting; handled 969 traffic violations, including 302 citations, 118 charges for driving while impaired and 97 for speeding,

- and 185 accidents. Officers were heavily involved in professional training and in crime prevention activities in the community. They recovered \$107,078 in property, plus an additional \$150,000 in drugs.
- Delayed appointment of an alderman to fill the seat vacated when Sarah Tripp was named mayor. She succeeded Jerry Jones, who resigned to assume a county commissioner's seat.
- Delayed action on repairs to the roof of the police department until staff can obtain cost estimates.
- Discussed observing Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as an additional town holiday, but tabled action until members could obtain more information.
- Adopted routine amendments to the town's flood damage prevention ordinance to bring it into compliance with Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines.
- Advanced maintenance department employee James C. Stanley from probationary to permanent employee on the recommendation of his supervisor, Albert Hughes.
- Learned that the U.S. Census Bureau is reviewing housing unit data compiled by the town in appealing the federal agency's housing count.
- Approved a tax release of \$60.61 for Fred Parker for 8.83 acres of land that is not in the town limits at this time.

Road Closings To Allow Repairs

Two road closings are scheduled in northern Brunswick County by the N.C. Department to accommodate repair of a railroad crossing and a bridge, said Lee Currie, DOT county maintenance engineer.

Both lanes of Old Village Road (S.R. 1472) will be closed in the vicinity of the Leland Post Office for one day only Tuesday, Jan. 15.

A portion of Navassa Road (S.R. 1435) will be closed for approximately one week, starting Jan. 22, to allow repair of a bridge. The closing affects a section eight-tenths of a mile north of Fletcher Drive (S.R. 1472).

In both cases, local traffic is asked to use alternate local routes, said Currie.

Highway Deaths Remain At 15 Patrol Reports

A spokesperson for the Highway Patrol office said the New Year's holiday period was a calm one for State Troopers investigating accidents on Brunswick County's highways.

"It's been really, really quiet since Christmas," said Ruby Oakley.

Brunswick County finished 1990 with 15 fatalities on its highways.

"We were only one over from last year," Ms. Oakley said.

A fatality was reported Dec. 24 when Crystal Michelle Crabtree, 14, of Holiday Ranches near Holden Beach, died from injuries received in a moped accident. However, that death will not be included in the final 1990 statistics as once thought, Ms. Oakley said.

"It has been taken off the list since it was determined that it happened on private property," Ms. Oakley said.

There were two accidents on Brunswick County highways last week that resulted in property damage.

In one, a Long Beach man was charged with driving while impaired after the car he was driving skidded out of control and struck a bridge last Tuesday morning.

Walter Ray Simpson, 43, was charged by State Trooper C.E. Ward following the 5:30 a.m. accident.

According to Trooper Ward's re-

port, Simpson was driving a 1979 Cadillac on Old Ferry Road about nine miles south of Bolivia when the accident occurred.

Simpson's car was traveling an estimated 70 mph when it ran off the right shoulder, skidded out of control and struck a bridge rail, the report stated. The car slid along the left lane of the bridge before coming to a stop.

The driver received minor injuries and refused medical treatment. Damage was estimated at \$1,800 to the car.

In another one-car accident last week, a Rocky Point man was also charged with driving while impaired after the car he was driving ran off the road, struck a mailbox and stop sign.

James Thomas Batten Jr., 41, was traveling .7 miles west of Leland when his 1985 GMC station wagon ran out of control on Holly Hills Drive, State Trooper D.B. Harvell reported.

The car struck a mailbox owned by Sanford Graham of Leland, knocked down a stop sign and came to rest in a ditch at the intersection. Batten was also charged with a stop sign violation.

Damage was estimated at \$500 to the car and \$50 to the mailbox. The driver was not injured in the 10 p.m. accident.

West Brunswick To Dismiss Early

West Brunswick High School in Shallotte will dismiss classes early Thursday, Jan. 31, to accommodate a regional student competition.

Classes will let out at 1 p.m., said Vickie Osborne, reporter for the school's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter. The club is hosting District II FBLA Competitive events that day, with activities scheduled throughout the school for FBLA members from schools across southeastern North Carolina.

Other county schools will follow their regular schedule Jan. 31.

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Boat Accident Injures Woman

A Mooresville woman was seriously injured on New Year's Day after a boat ran aground in the Shallotte Inlet.

The 34-foot Albemarle Lady Jay was returning to Wrightsville Beach from a Christmas trip to Florida when it made too wide a turn while heading north in the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

The accident occurred near marker 81, where the waterway intersects with the Shallotte Inlet between Ocean Isle and Holden beaches. The U.S. Coast Guard was notified around 2:26 p.m., said Boatman's Mate First Class Dale Putman, with the Oak Island Coast Guard station.

Putman said the pilot apparently misjudged a turn in the waterway on an extremely low tide.

Joyce Bedingford suffered lacerations and a broken finger, Putman said.

"The lady went through a double set of doors and had lacerations to the face and hands," said Cecil Logan, Brunswick County Emergency Management coordinator.

The pilot also injured a knee, Putman said.

The Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad responded to the call, as did patrolmen with the Shallotte Police Department and the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department. Shallotte Rescue was on the scene by 3:03 p.m., Putman said.

Ms. Bedingford was transported to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply by Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Educational Foundation Schedules Annual Meeting

The Brunswick County Educational Foundation will hold its annual reorganization meeting Saturday, Jan. 19, at 10 a.m. at Bolivia Elementary School.

Sanford "Sandy" Howard of Calabash, outgoing president, said a new slate of officers will be presented for election.

Also, accomplishments of the past year will be reviewed and President Howard will make departing remarks relating to the status of education in Brunswick County and the roles of the school system, county government and community

in meeting local educational needs.

Howard said the meeting is open to the public and that parents, school system employees and others interested in education are encouraged to attend.

Several organizations have been specifically invited to attend. These include members of the boards of county commissioners and education, school system employees; and representatives of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce Education Division and the South Brunswick Islands Rotary Club.

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