# Calabash May Move On Sewer Program Without Referendum

Carolina Shores residents who wanted no part of the South Brunswick Water and Sewer Authority are likely to get their wish as the Calabash Board of Commissioners plans to eliminate them from service by a new central sewer system and a referendum to authorize

Planning engineers for the proposed joint sewer system for Calabash and Sunset Beach were authorized Tuesday to prepare a financial feasibility report (FFR) and a Federal 201 Facilities plan that will allow the town to seek grant and loan funding for the \$27 million project.

Engineers Joe Tombro and Jim its own treatment plant. Billups of Powell Associates were told to "proceed under the assumption" that the town would no longer include the District 2 area of Carolina Shores in its sewerage planning and would call off a planned referendum on the project.

The residential golf and retirement community already has sewer service provided by the Carolina Blythe Co. Many of its residents have been vocal opponents of the town's effort to build a sewer system initially intended to serve the downtown restaurant and retail businesses in District 1.

The joint water and sewer authority was narrowly approved by the commissioners last December on the condition that it not be allowed to operate until the proposed sewerage system was approved in a referen-

Early plans called for the purchase of Carolina Blythe's half-million gallon per day treatment plant as the cornerstone of the system. But negotiations between the town and the company broke down, forcing Calabash to pursue construction of

The engineers developed a new plan that would allow downtown Calabash and portions of Sunset Beach to temporarily send its sewage to Little River, S.C., while the towns build their own 2.5 million gallon per day plant and collec-

Consequently, the town no longer needs the approval or the customers in Carolina Shores to build its system. Since District 2 voters won't be served by the system and won't have to pay for it, the referendum no longer seems necessary.

Tuesday night the commissioners asked town attorney Michael Ramos to draft a formal resolution to that effect for consideration at the board's next meeting. A referendum still is planned for the voters of Sunset Beach.

Tombro and Billups said the two towns had been advanced to near the top of the list for funding under a N.C. Division of Environmental Management revolving loan pro-

The towns hope to qualify for a nearly \$4 million DEM loan and \$11

million in Farmers Home Administration grants and loans to build the system. The remainder of the money would come from revenue bonds with all debt service paid for

through user fees. The engineers said they hope to have the FFR approved by the FHA, the DEM, the state treasurer and the N.C. Local Government Commission within 30 days, paving the way for the town to research bond funding for the project.

"Assuming all goes well, we would anticipate starting flow to Little River from the downtown area

and portions of Sunset by 1994 with construction on the treatment plant starting in mid 1995," Tombro said after the meeting.

Billups said that under the new arrangement Carolina Shores will have the option of continuing service with Carolina Blythe or tapping on to the South Brunswick Water and Sewer Authority system at a later date. He noted that system would cost District 2 voters nothing because no Calabash tax money will be used to build the system or to secure the bonds.

#### CRC To Review Leland Plan July 22-23 In New Bern

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The Town of Leland's first CA-MA land use plan goes to the Coastal Resources Commission next week for consideration.

The commission will meet July 22 and 23 at the Sheraton in New

The Coastal Area Management Act requires 20 coastal counties and municipalities within those counties to prepare land use plans to guide growth and development within their boundaries. The plans must be updated every five years. After a plan is certified by the commission, it is used in deciding whether to issue permits allowing construction and development in the community. Once a plan is in-corporated into the N.C. Coastal Management Program, it is also used in the federal consistency process.

Also on the CRC's agenda are presentations on the process of developing a beach nourishment project, local funding sources beach nourishment and the methodology used in assessing shoreline change.

The Implementation and Standards Committee Thursday will consider comments on a proposed general permit for modifying existing piers and mooring facilities, proposed rule clarifications for estuarine and ocean hazard areas of environmental concern, the proposed elimination of the emergency permit fee, proposed general permits for breakwater/riprap in estuarine and public trust waters and for development authorized in a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers nationwide permit.

Members will also visit the Trent River Marina Development in regard to a permit application.

Meeting concurrently, the Planning and Special Issues Committee will discuss land use plans, public access program amendments and will hear a report on Maryland land use plan implementation.

Thursday's session will open with a comment period to hear from the public on coastal management issues.

Sessions Thursday and Friday begin at 8:30 a.m. and are open to the public. Eugene Tomlinson of Southport is the acting chairman of the CRC.

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River In Ash

#### Workshop Planned On Calabash Sign Ordinance Calabash's controversial sign ordinance will be the subject of a pub-

lic workshop meeting of the Calabash Planning and Zoning Board Monday night, July 26, at 7 o'clock in the firehouse.

The board plans to review the sign ordinance and to consider whether revisions need to be made, said Chairman Al Smith. He encouraged business owners and residents alike to voice their opinions at the

"We want to get input to use in our deliberations in reviewing the sign ordinance," Smith said.

Strict enforcement of the sign ordinance has caused friction between the town and some local business owners. Several lawsuits have been filed by the town in an effort to force compliance with the law.

## Jury Selection Begins In Evans Murder Trial

Jury selection began Monday and opening arguments are expected to start early next week in the trial of one of two Shallotte men accused in the alleged kidnapping, armed robbery and murder of an Ash man last October.

Bradley Tyrone King, 18, could face the death penalty if convicted in the abduction and shooting of Ronald Everett Evans, 20, whose body was found beside a dirt road on the edge of the Green Swamp several days after he failed to return from a trip to a Shallotte fast-food restaurant.

Investigators say King and William Earl Hill, 18, got into Evans' car after he went to bring dinner to his girlfriend at the Revco drug store in Shallotte. After leaving the parking lot, the two defendants allegedly pulled a gun on Evans and forced him into the trunk of the car.

Evans was shot twice from behind after King and Hill realized that Evans recognized one of the two men, according to sheriff's department detectives. They say both defendants have given statements implicating themselves in the abduction of Evans, but each one claims the other one did the shooting.

King and Hill were picked up shortly after the body was found and have been held without bond in the Brunswick County Jail since their arrest. Both are charged with firstdegree murder, armed robbery and kidnapping.

Attorneys Michael Ramos and Steve Yount were appointed to defend King in what is expected to be a three-week trial that will be presided over by Superior Court Judge Orlando Hudson. Hill will be tried at a later date, represented by attorneys William Fairley and James Payne.

Assistant District Attorney Lee Bollinger, who has overseen the lo-

cal investigation into the Evans killing, will be joined by District Attorney Rex Gore in prosecuting the case.

Either one or both of the defendants could face the death penalty even if it is never proven who actually shot Evans. Anyone convicted of committing a felony-such as armed robbery or kidnapping-that results in another person's death can also be found guilty of murder.

At the adjournment of court Tuesday, the state had passed 12 potential jurors. The defense was expected to continue questioning jurors

## Ocean Isle Board Raises Water Tap-On Charges

BY LYNN CARLSON

Advised that it has been losing money on water taps, the Ocean Isle Beach Board of Commissioners Tuesday raised its tap fees to \$300 in the town limits and \$350 outside

The new costs, effective immediately on all new water applications, represent a \$50 increase for taps in the town limits. There are few taps outside the town limits, said Building Inspector Druied Roberson, and their charges have been assessed "on a case-by-case basis."

The commissioners were also asked to raise water rates "in the near future" to compensate for the recent 10 percent increase in the rate the town pays the county for water.

we are by far the cheapest of any municipality selling water in Brunswick County," longtime utilities commissioner Odell Williamson told the town board. "As long as Ocean Isle Beach owned its own pumps, we were able to make mon-

Shallotte Police have recovered

Det. Carey Gaskins said authori-

one of five vehicles reported stolen

from a used car dealership Monday

ties have a suspect in the breaking

and entering case at County Auto

Retailers at Resort Plaza. Police

planned a trip to South Carolina

Wednesday to continue the investi-

are a 1984 Ford Mustang valued at

\$3,450; a 1984 Chevrolet Camaro

priced at \$3,490; a 1987 Camaro

listed at \$5,295; and a 1984 Chev-

pickup taken from the dealership

was found beside U.S. 17 just south

of town. "It was about a half mile down the road. It apparently had

Gaskins said a 1977 Chevrolet

rolet pickup truck valued at \$4,995.

Reported stolen and still missing

morning.

gation.

quit on them."

ey on water, but we don't anymore. We also have the lowest tap-on fee. I ask you to raise the tap-on fee now and see how we get along, how much money we lose."

He said the water service has been operated "as economically as it can be run," but that the higher rates are needed to cover the increasing costs of wages and benefits as well as the new county rates.

Williamson also encouraged the town board to build its water and sewer contingency funds and capital reserves to "a minimum of \$2 million." In its annual budgets, the town contributes to water and sewer capital reserve and contingency accounts to cover expansions and such costs as storm damage.

Sewer Assessment

The commissioners set sewer tan fees of \$900 and line assessments of \$7 per front foot for properties served by the recent sewer system expansion. Water line assessments were set at \$2.50 per foot. New cus-

Gaskins said police were notified

of the auto thefts Monday around 9

a.m. "They entered through the roof

of the building and took the keys

gating the theft of expensive stereo

equipment from a stolen vehicle that

was found Saturday morning on

pickup truck was reported stolen

from a motel parking lot in North

The partially-burned truck was

discovered in Shallotte around 8:30

a.m. Saturday, stripped of approxi-

mately \$17,000 in stereo equipment.

coordinating an investigation with North Myrtle Beach authorities. "At

this point we have suspects in the

case," Gaskins said Tuesday.

Gaskins said Shallotte police are

Gaskins said the 1991 Toyota

Shallotte police also are investi-

from inside," he said.

Mulberry Street.

Myrtle Beach, S.C.

tomers will probably receive their assessment bills in August, Mayor Betty Williamson said.

Engineer Finley Boney told the commissioners he is waiting for lift stations to be powered in order to complete the sewer system expansion on the island's east end. "Ninety-nine percent of the lines are in, and all the taps are in," Boney said. "We still have to clean up some driveways and some road shoulders.

Water lines to the area "are complete and in service," he added.

Explicit Material? Town Attorney Elva Jess said more study is needed before the commissioners embark on ordinances to restrict the sale or display of "explicit materials" at Ocean Isle Beach.

The mayor and some commissioners said they have heard complaints about obscene T-shirts being sold or worn in the town. Jess warned that the police department might not be able to enforce an ordinance attempting to deal with the problem, and that care must be taken not to infringe upon constitutional rights of free speech.

Police Chief Curt Pritchard said he talked to officers in both Wrightsville and Carolina beaches, where such ordinances exist. "They

When you leave

advise that they are extremely difficult to enforce; they're not enforcing them right now.

Commissioner Kendall Suh argued that "Ocean Isle Beach is a family beach. It's different from Myrtle Beach or Wrightsville Beach, and I don't think we need that im-

Jess said displaying a message on a T-shirt, "even though it might be offensive," might be construed as a form of protected speech.

"I don't know that we could stop people from wearing them, but I think we could stop them from being sold here," Suh said.

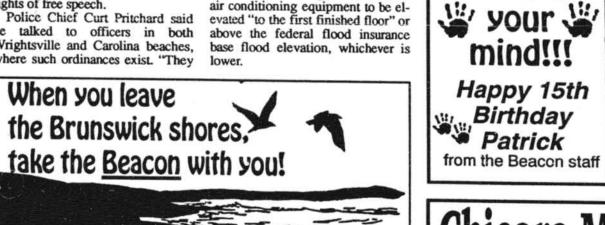
Pritchard said if sales are regulated, all explicit materials-not just Tshirts—should be prohibited.

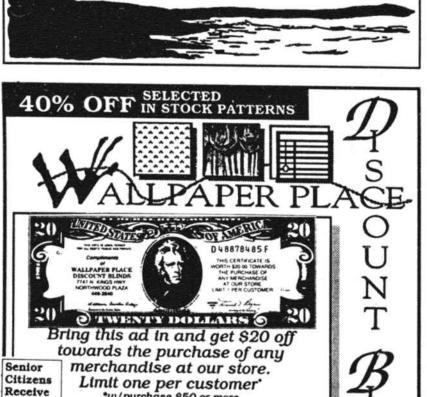
Other Business

The commissioners also: ■unanimously reappointed DeCarol Williamson to a three-year term on the town planning board. He currently serves as chairman.

■set a public hearing for 8:45 a.m. Aug. 10 on a proposed zoning ordinance amendment requiring new or replacement heating, ventilation or air conditioning equipment to be el-

### It seems the more things change, the more they stay the same. From finger paints to Nintendo back to finger paints. Make up





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