

# Holden Beach Water Still High In Chemical Tri-Halomethanes

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach's drinking water still contains too much of a chemical that has been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals, according to the latest test results. Town Manager Gus Ulrich said the level of tri-halomethanes (TTHMs) in the water remains "just a shade" over what state and federal health agencies consider acceptable.

The latest annual average of TTHMs in the water system is .103 parts per million (ppm), which is .003 ppm over the acceptable level. The average covers testing during the last quarter of 1992 and first three quarters of 1993.

Tri-halomethanes are the byproduct of the chlorination process that is used to disinfect drinking water. High levels of the chemical in water are caused by long periods of exposure to chlorine and high temperatures.

*"I don't think there's any reason to have any short-term fear of the water."*

—Dr. Ken Rudo, state toxicologist

peratures.

Laboratory tests of the most recent water sample taken Sept. 22 revealed a TTHM level of .124 ppm. Ulrich said the .103 ppm annual average represents an 8-percent reduction in the last three months.

Earlier this year, the town started a program of flushing water lines at the fire hydrants on a regular basis. "We did a very thorough flushing job before we took this test," Ulrich said.

Holden Beach purchases its water from the county, which handles all chlorination at its water plant.

"We don't put any chlorine in it," Ulrich said. "The county does that to keep it safe to drink."

Ulrich said a state test in July revealed that the level of TTHMs in a county water line on the mainland side of Holden Beach was .076 and the level of TTHMs on the island was .090.

Ulrich said the fact that the water line comes to a "dead end" at the west end of Holden Beach is contributing to the high level of TTHMs.

"That's a big part of the problem. It sure would be nice if we could get a connection across the waterway," he said.

Ulrich said the town will take another water sample sometime in the next quarter, probably in December. The town sends the water samples to an independent lab for analysis.

Dr. Ken Rudo, toxicologist with the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, said he expects the level of TTHMs to drop as the weather turns cooler.

He said it's not unusual for level of tri-halomethanes to increase during the summer because of the heat.

Rudo said the presence of TTHMs is part of the "trade-off" for drinking water that is purified with chlorine.

"You almost have to accept some level of tri-halomethanes," he said. "I don't think there's any reason to have any short-term fear of the water."

If the level remains over .10 ppm, Rudo

said one option for concerned residents is to purchase a carbon filtration system to remove TTHMs and chlorine from their drinking water.

Ulrich said TTHMs have been shown to cause cancer in laboratory rats and mice when these animals are exposed to high doses for a lifetime.

The town manager said the risk to humans is believed to be small. A man who drank a half-gallon of water containing high levels of TTHMs every day for 70 years would increase his risk of cancer by 1 in 60,000.

Rudo said there have been a lot of studies done concerning the effect of tri-halomethanes on humans.

"The results of these studies are mixed," he said. "Some of these studies show an association (with cancer) and some do not. The jury's still out on that."

## Civietown VFD Gets \$19,000

The Civietown Volunteer Fire Department has received a check for \$19,000 from the N.C. Department of Insurance.

The money is from a fund set up by Insurance Commissioner Jim Long using money from vehicle inspection stickers to assist fire departments all over the state.

To qualify, fire departments must be volunteer organizations, able to match the grant for up to \$15,000, and must show need. The program was begun in 1988 and has granted \$3.7 million to departments.

## Jazz Trumpeter Thornton Back As Brunswick Comm. College's Visiting Artist

Jazz trumpeter Jon Thornton returns this fall as Brunswick Community College's Visiting Artist, bringing a broad range of experiences as a professional musician.

As visiting artist, Thornton is available for performances and presentations at schools, churches, civic clubs and community organizations at no charge. He can be reached at BCC at 754-6900, 343-0203 or 457-6329, or at his studio, 579-6548, to schedule appearances. The statewide Visiting Artists program is a community service aimed at cultivating appreciation for the arts, bringing exposure to the arts into communities across the state, and supporting professional development of artists. In addition to public appearances, participating artists are also allowed time for developing their art.

"My mission at Brunswick Community College and its surrounding communities is to raise jazz music awareness—to help people realize that the music we all call jazz is an American indigenous art form," said Thornton.

"I wish to work with children, students and adults, and help them to enjoy and understand their musical birthright. I particularly want to work with children as they explore their own creative impulses and energies and help them focus their talents in a meaningful way."

Thornton's musical credits include recording work with Lonnis McGlohon and Eileen Farrell, work on the television series "The Young Indiana Jones," staff musician for Sound Source Studios in Charlotte, and touring with Max Roach, Thelonious Monk Jr. (for the Thelonious Monk Jazz Institute) and Natalie Cole's "Unforgettable" tour.

This fall he plans to work in an upcoming feature film on location in Wilmington, and his professional quintet, "Faction," organized in 1986, has appeared in recent months at Gentleman Jim's Jazz Club and The Ice House in Wilmington. The group has one recording out on cassette. Another pending release will feature Frank Kimbrough of New York City on piano. "Faction" took first place honors at the 1988 Musicfest USA competition in Orlando, Fla.

Since his first professional jazz engagement at age 15, Thornton has studied at the University of Miami, Florida, Berklee College of Music, Boston, and privately with Jerry Coker of the University of Tennessee faculty and Don Eisman, formerly of the NBC staff orchestra in New York City.

Thornton also helped create the Montuno Jazz Orchestra tour group, with a major record label project, "Tropic Affair," released in 1990. It featured Thornton on trumpet, horn, vocals, hand percussion and conch shell. A second recording, "What is What was," is available on CD.

Thornton has also served as featured soloist with the Unifour Jazz Ensemble and with the Charlotte-based "Coalition Jazz Orchestra."

## School Board Approves Lengthy Personnel List

Brunswick County Board of Education members approved these routine personnel actions following a closed-door session Monday during their meeting at Waccamaw Elementary School in Ash.

The board approved:

Hiring of Sarah Lee, Supply, interim computer support specialist, Supply Elementary; Jeanie Phillips, Shallotte, interim middle grades teacher, South Brunswick Middle; Claudia McEvoy, Little River, S.C., computer support specialist, Union Elementary; Minnie Mullins, Bolivia, 4-hour cafeteria assistant, Union Elementary; Ronnie Smith, Leland, interim head custodian, and Vonda Bullard, eight-hour custodian, Lincoln Primary; Mae Simmons, Supply, 4-hour, Sadie Bellamy, Calabash, 5-hour, and Carolyn Ford,

Shallotte, 6-hour cafeteria assistant, Shallotte Middle; Addie Maggard, Leland, 4-hour cafeteria assistant, South Brunswick Middle; Alfreda Radford, Riegelwood, 6-hour cafeteria assistant, North Brunswick High; Also, Linda Norton, Long Beach, 4-hour cafeteria assistant, Bolivia Elementary; Doris Tharp, Boiling Spring Lakes, 6-hour, and Marina Melton, Leland, 4-hour cafeteria assistant, Lincoln Primary; Jane Simmons, Southport, interim 4-hour cafeteria assistant, South Brunswick High; Janell Laceywell, Riegelwood, 6-hour cafeteria assistant, Leland Middle; Helen Marlowe, Longwood, 4-hour, and Sue Inman, Ash, 4-hour cafeteria assistant, Waccamaw Elementary; Clark Chapman, Holden Beach, Chapter I computer specialist/records clerk, central office; Patrick Coffey, Southport, heating/

air conditioning, maintenance department; Jance Brown, Leland, secretary/telephone receptionist, central office.

Resignations of Sophie Long, media coordinator, South Brunswick Middle; Nathalie Dearman, teacher, Bolivia Elementary; Billy Mims, health/PE teacher, West Brunswick High; Deana DiSarno, special education teacher, West Brunswick; Susan Bowling, cafeteria assistant, South Brunswick Middle.

Transfer of Karen Watts, Shallotte, home/school facilitator to media assistant, Supply Elementary;

Amy Rogers, 50 percent to 100 percent special education teacher, West Brunswick High; Amy Matthews, Yaupon Beach, elementary teacher, Supply to Bolivia Elementary; Don Frink, Southport, central office custodian to South Brunswick High School.

Leaves of absence for Sybil Mitchell Simmons, Supply, computer support specialist, Supply Elementary; and Nancy Milligan, Long Beach, guidance counselor, South Brunswick Middle.

Twenty-eight substitute teachers were also approved.

## MUST MEET OSHA STANDARDS

### Varnamtown Board Plans Town Hall Improvements

Varnamtown officials are planning more improvements at the town hall—not for aesthetic reasons but out of necessity.

Alderman Will Mumford said the town must construct a sidewalk from the parking lot to the access ramp in front of the building and fix the front door in order to comply with federal regulations.

Mumford said the front door is wide enough, but it must open outward instead of inward to meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

"They will fine us if they come here and that's not done," Mumford told the town board at its regular meeting Monday night.

Mumford and John David Dawson will make a recommendation at the board's Nov. 8 meeting regarding the improvements.

Mumford said the possible fines

levied by OSHA would be "a whole lot more" than the cost of the improvements. He said fines could range from \$7,000 to \$70,000.

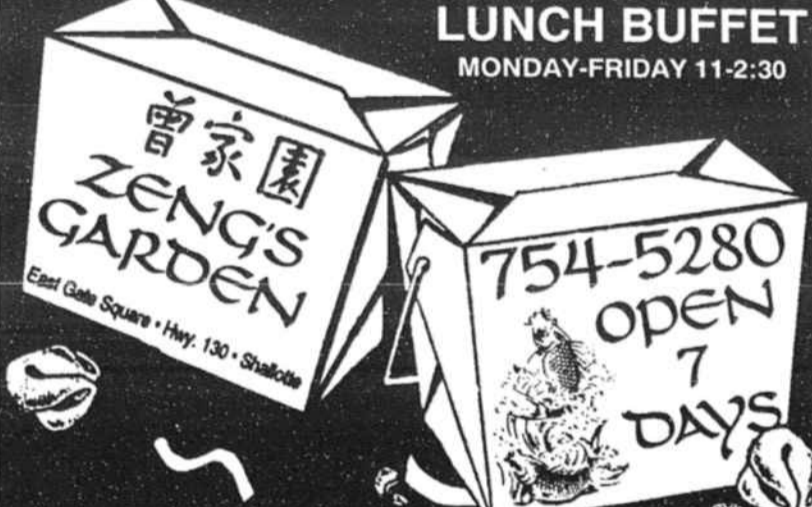
Aldermen made a minor adjustment to the town budget Monday night, taking \$50 from the contingency fund to help pay a bill for \$400 for insurance on the town hall.

Town board members also authorized taking \$200 from the building and grounds improvement fund to pay for materials used for the new "No Wake" signs that are going up in Lockwood Folly River.

Mumford said Monday he had finished painting three signs and expected to have the other four done this week. O'Neal "Knot" Varnam has agreed to erect the signs.

Town Clerk Luellen Norris reported that the town has \$70,751 in the bank, including \$67,392 in a savings fund.

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