

Shallotte Picks Wilmington Firm To Design Sewer Plant Expansion

BY DOUG RUTTER
Shallotte officials have hired McKim & Creed Engineers of Wilmington to design a major expansion of the town sewer system, rejecting the firm that designed the original facility.

After holding three workshop meetings in the past two weeks to discuss preliminary proposals submitted by three engineering firms, aldermen selected the largest company, McKim & Creed, at their meeting Tuesday night.

The board used ballots to choose the firm. Each board member wrote on a slip of paper the engineering company he wanted to hire, and the papers were handed to Mayor Sarah Tripp.

Three aldermen—Carson Durham, Bill Allen and Morris Hall—recommended McKim & Creed. The other two—Roney Cheers and David Gause—opted for Boney &

Associates of Raleigh, which designed the 12-year-old sewer system.

Aldermen later voted unanimously to hire McKim & Creed. Board members said earlier that the Wilmington firm was the best of the three in terms of the number and the experience of its engineers.

Shallotte officials also considered a local firm, Houston & Associates, to design expansion of their 206,000 gallon per day treatment facility, which now handles about 70 percent of its maximum capacity.

Mayor Tripp said Tuesday night's decision will not affect the status of Finley Boney of Boney & Associates, who will remain as the town's consulting engineer.

Pay Up Or Else
Shallotte residents who have not made arrangements with the town to pay off overdue tax bills or overdue water bills may be in for a rude

awakening.

Aldermen voted Tuesday to send out final notices this week to 20 property owners who have not made an effort to pay off their tax bills. Two water customers also will be hearing from the town.

Durham said 20 property owners owe the town a total of \$4,868 in overdue taxes. All of the landowners have been contacted but have not made an effort to work out a payment plan with the town.

"If we hear nothing what we're going to do now is either attach their checking account or garnish wages. We may have to do both," Durham said.

Allen said two water customers owe the town a total of \$632. One of the customers has not paid since Jan. 17, and the other hasn't made a payment since Dec. 6, 1993.

Letters will be sent to both customers notifying them their water

will be cut off if they haven't paid the money or arranged a monthly payment plan with the town by March 31.

"It's the only way we're going to be able to enforce this. It's sad we have to do it this way," Allen said. "Everyone else has made arrangements to pay off completely or pay it off monthly."

New Equipment Approved
Aldermen agreed to purchase of \$2,840 worth of equipment for Shallotte Volunteer Fire Department Tuesday, but stopped short of releasing another \$1,516 for portable radios.

The board agreed to buy four air-pack masks costing \$1,144, six "Super Pass" safety alarms costing \$856 and a 100-foot section and 50-foot section of large diameter hose at a total cost of \$840.

Aldermen did not authorize the purchase of four hand-held radios

for \$1,516. They will ask fire department officials to explain the request at the April 5 meeting.

Other Business
In other business Tuesday, aldermen:

- Approved the 1992 Land Use Plan Update after making several minor changes suggested by Allen. The plan is expected to go to the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission next week for final certification.
- Amended the town's annexation ordinance so property owners who request annexation will be required to pay the town a \$50 administrative fee to help offset the cost of advertising public hearings. The vote was 4-1, with Cheers dissenting. There were no comments on the proposal during a public hearing held at the start of the meeting.
- Accepted the resignation of

planning board member Jack Scarborough. Aldermen will ask planning board members to recommend a replacement for Scarborough, one of two representatives of the extraterritorial area.

- Approved the R-15 (residential) zoning class for 10 lots in Brierwood Estates that were annexed into the town earlier this month.
- Approved the re-zoning request of Billy Street for a small piece of property he owns along U.S. 17 about one mile south of town. The zoning has been changed from RA-15 (residential) to B-2 (business).

—Authorized the purchase of a camcorder for the police department if money is available in the department budget. Hall said officers could use the equipment to record drug deals, drunk drivers and school lectures. It also could be used for surveillance operations.

'Straight Talk' Hotline Coming To County

BY SUSAN USHER
Straight Talk for Brunswick County teenagers, and for the people expected to answer tough questions from teenagers, is available through a toll-free call that can be made from the privacy of one's own room or home.

The free, 24-hour information service went into operation last May 27 in New Hanover and Pender counties, and will officially become available in Brunswick County in May, though the toll-free number can be accessed now.

Straight Talk received more than 17,000 calls during its first nine months of operation in Pender and New Hanover counties. Calls for frank, two- to three-minute messages on 70-plus topics relating to peer and family relationships; drug and alcohol use; other issues such as weight control, rape and abuse; sexuality; birth control and pregnancy; dealing with feelings; school, career and life.

"It would be great if all youngsters felt comfortable talking to their parents, but most don't," said Kay Blackburn, assistant staff manager in Southern Bell's Wilmington office, adding that for many parents that may be a relief because they are insecure and don't know how to answer the tough questions teens ask.

She asked for the cooperation of the Brunswick County Board of Education Monday night in getting information about Straight Talk to county middle and high school students. Blackburn got neither a "yes" or a "no" to her request to distribute promotional cards through the schools before the end of the term, preferably in early May.

Instead the board directed Superintendent Ralph Johnston to talk over the proposition with local principals and then make a decision based on the responses he gets.

Straight Talk is a service not only of interest to students, Blackburn said, but to teachers, teachers assistants, parents, counselors and others who work with students. The messages are written by professionals at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. They offer unbiased information on issues and refer callers to

a live counselor for more help. In this area that telephone service is provided at all hours by the Crisis Line/Open House in Wilmington.

Some Straight Talk hotline messages have been controversial in at least two of the North Carolina communities where the service is offered, Greensboro and Asheville. While the project was initially endorsed by evangelist Billy Graham, the Billy Graham Foundation later withdrew support because the sometimes explicit messages are not offered in a context of values.

Topic No. 411, for instance, deals with birth control. It tells callers that saying abstinence, saying "no" to sex, is the best way to prevent a pregnancy. But it also offers information on other types of birth control and stresses that becoming sexually active is a matter of personal choice.

"Our intent is to provide factual information," said Blackburn. "We are not trying to pass on our values. It is our belief that values should be taught in the home."

In each community Straight Talk is supported by local business and community sponsors, with Southern Bell a major supporter in North Carolina. The Telephone Pioneers of America, N.C. Chapter 35, co-sponsors Straight Talk. Telephone Pioneers is a community service organization of active and retired telephone company employees. So far it

has helped make Straight Talk available in at least 30 counties. The program is expected to be available in all 100 counties by the end of 1995.

Blackburn said the service is needed because teen problems are getting worse, not better. The information provided by Straight Talk is intended to help teen-agers to use in applying the values they learn from their parents.

The information is needed, Blackburn stressed, citing state and national statistics that show increasing problems involving teen-agers.

Last year, a North Carolina teenager committed suicide on the average of once a week. For every one who died, experts say up to 300 tried.

Nationwide, a teenage girl has a baby every six to seven seconds.

"They need accurate information, they need help," she said. "They can get that information with a tele-

phone call made in the privacy of their own home, from their bedroom."

Straight Talk's toll-free number is 1-800-427-5979, accessible from any touchtone telephone. Crisis Line/Open House offers live counseling 24 hours a day at 1-800-672-2903.

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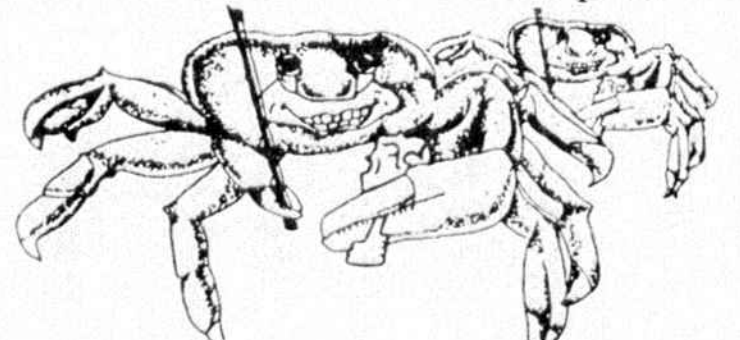
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Benefit Yard Sale Set For April 9

The Shallotte River Power Squadron's semi-annual benefit yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 9 from 8 a.m. until noon.

Location of the yard sale will be in front of Brunswick Building Supplies on Highway 179 between Ocean Isle and Sunset Beach.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to help further boating safety and education in Brunswick County, said Danny Hooven, chairman of the yard sale committee.

Other members of the committee are Joe Huber and Squadron Commander Dewey Adams

Vote Bud Thorsen Board of Education, District #1



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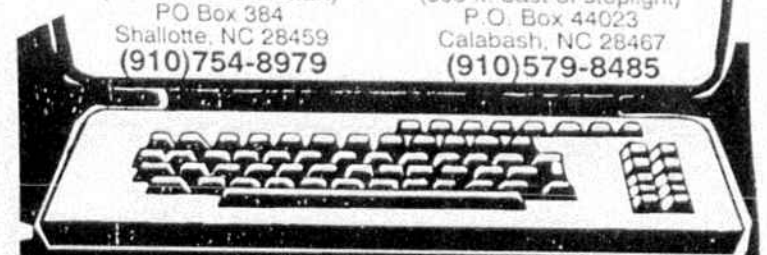
- 1976 Graduate West Brunswick High
- 1980 B.A./Pembroke State/Sociology
- 3 years—Child Abuse/Neglect Investigator Brunswick County Dept. of Social Services
- 10 years to present—state of N.C. Juvenile Court Counselor
- 1984-87—Brunswick Buddies Board of Directors
- 1991 to present—Brunswick County Interagency Council for Children
- 1992-93—Chair; 1993-94—Vice Chair Brunswick County Youth Task Force Board
- 3 years—Babe Ruth T-ball Coach
- 2 years—Brunswick Youth Soccer Coach
- Married—Debbie Thorsen, 10 years
- 2 Children—Tyler, 7; Jessica, 4

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50	\$226.85	\$176.87
51	240.50	189.68
52	265.54	193.14
53	277.83	197.04
54	289.08	201.68
55	298.66	217.07
56	318.65	223.81
57	326.37	231.44
58	347.77	249.71
59	359.94	258.34
60	389.06	277.25
61	411.43	285.70
62	450.70	304.36
63	481.30	323.24
64	526.19	332.14
65	560.20	352.25
66	606.25	362.85
67	652.49	386.35
68	699.11	412.95
69	734.16	432.21
70	781.46	479.03
71	829.37	519.63
72	878.68	565.45
73	930.33	616.21
74	985.53	672.28
75	1,045.28	733.70
76	1,110.79	800.41
77	1,181.40	883.58
78	1,256.10	958.73
79	1,334.17	1,036.45
80	1,414.23	1,127.91

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21-25	53.00	72.00
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31-35	81.00	117.00
36-40	95.00	129.00
41-45	120.00	140.00
46-50	140.00	156.00
51-55	166.00	177.00
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