

Shallotte Officials To Meet With Manufacturing Prospect

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shallotte officials will meet next week with a representative of a Michigan firm that is interested in buying the former Pelican Manufacturing Co. building that was vacated last December.

Aldermen hope they can persuade the Mirrorlite company of Rockwood, Mich., which manufactures bus and truck mirrors, to bring its operation to Shallotte. A meeting is scheduled Tuesday at 2:30 p.m.

The town board set up the special meeting Tuesday night after Tom Monks, director of the Brunswick County Economic Development Commission, said that the board may be able to entice the firm to locate in Shallotte.

Monks said the company's owner, Bill Schmidt, likes the Smith Avenue location but has held off on buying the plant and expanding his operation in Brunswick County because of costly town fees.

Monks said it would cost Mirrorlite about \$41,000 up front for annexation, acreage, capital reserve and sewer tap-on fees. That doesn't include \$7,500 for a sewer line extension that could be funded with a grant.

"Manufacturing industries like to go where they think there is a pro-business attitude of the government there," Monks told town officials. "That is not pro-business."

Alderman Roney Cheer said, "I thoroughly agree with you and since I've been on the board I've been preaching about that."

Most board members indicated Tuesday night that they are willing to consider reducing the fees if it will lure the manufacturer to town.

They like the idea of creating 150 jobs and expanding the town tax base.

Jere Comeford of Shell Point, a friend of Mirrorlite's owner, told *The Brunswick Beacon* last month that Schmidt planned to open a new branch of his operation in Brunswick County.

Comeford said at the time that Schmidt was negotiating for the purchase of the Pelican plant and that he planned to open an entirely new company called Mirrorlite of North Carolina.

Within 12 to 18 months after opening, Comeford said the company would employ between 100 and 150 people and that nearly all of them would be hired locally. The hires could include former Pelican

employees.

Monks said Tuesday night that Shallotte's board needs to reconsider its fee structure if it is interested in attracting new business and industry to the community. "You're going to turn clients off in the future if they have to come to you every time for leniency," he said.

Monks said companies that locate at the Leland Industrial Park can hook up to water and sewer service for only \$2,500.

Alderman Carson Durham pointed out that the town board did make changes in its acreage fees and annexation policy in January in an effort to encourage more development in town.

"In just a few months there's been a lot of improvement. We're trying

to open the door," Durham said.

Mayor Pro Tem David Gause said that without the existing fees, the town would not have been able to hire an engineering firm to design expansion of the sewer plant.

According to Monks, Mirrorlite has proposed expanding the manufacturing plant to more than double its existing size.

He also said that every job at the plant would probably create three "spin-off jobs" in the community.

"We're interested in jobs in this area and that's going to bring money," Durham said. "We need 12-month coverage in this area and not just seasonal jobs related to tourism."

Other Business

Aldermen also:

■ Voted to recommend the appointment of Bobby Williamson to the town planning board as a representative of the extraterritorial area. The appointment needs final approval from the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

■ Set a public hearing Tuesday, May 17, at 7:25 p.m. on the proposed renewal of Johnnie Moody's taxi cab franchise.

■ Referred to the planning board an annexation request involving several pieces of property north of town. The tracts, which border Main Street and the U.S. 17 Bypass, are not contiguous to the town limits.

The landowners include Jo Ann Simmons and James Mulholland. Other property is co-owned by Bobby Long, William Powell and Wallace Smith.

■ Asked Town Attorney Mark Lewis to find out how the town can legally get rid of abandoned structures and junk vehicles in the town and extraterritorial area. Lewis said the town must follow a specific procedure spelled out in state law. "Unfortunately you can't just condemn people's property because it doesn't look good," he said.

Judge Withdraws Dismissal Of Chamber Lawsuit Motion

A superior court judge on Monday set aside his earlier dismissal of a motion demanding that Hollis B. Richards pay the costs incurred by her former employers at the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce in defending what their lawyer calls her "frivolous" lawsuit against them.

Judge Knox Jenkins last week dismissed a "motion for sanctions" filed on behalf of former chamber officials Annette Odom and Terry Barbee after their attorney, Michael Greeson Jr. of Winston-Salem failed to show up for a hearing on the action.

After speaking with Greeson and Richards' attorney William Shell

about the scheduling mix-up, Jenkins agreed to withdraw his dismissal of the claim and allowed it to be scheduled at a later date, Deputy Court Clerk Yvette Murray said Tuesday.

Richards' 20-page lawsuit claims that Odom and Barbee fired her from her position "on account of her sex."

The chamber and its officers have filed responses denying the charges and claiming that Richards was dismissed for failing to fulfill her duties as executive director.

No date has been set for hearing the lawsuit or the chamber's motion for sanctions, Murray said.

Bones Found In Winnabow Woods Determined Human

Forensics experts have determined that several large bones found in the Winnabow area Wednesday afternoon (April 13) are those of a human, a Brunswick County sheriff's detective said Monday.

Four leg bones and several arm bones were found scattered over a 100-yard area of woods south of the Lanvale area of Winnabow, Detective Ken Messer said. The bones appear to have been there about for about 18 to 24 months.

An employee of the Corbett Package Co. of Wilmington was checking company tree lots at about 1:30 p.m. Wednesday when he came across the bones less than a mile off U.S. 17., Messer said. They were not lying in the shape of a human body and may have been dragged to the area by animals, he said.

The bones were sent to the state's Chief Medical Examiner's office in Chapel Hill for analysis. Tests indicated that the bones were from a human. Further analysis should reveal whether the victim was a male or female, Messer said.

A group of volunteer firefighters and dogs combed the area Friday, but were unable to find any additional remains or clothing.

An investigation is continuing as detectives review outstanding missing person reports in an attempt to identify the victim.

ASBESTOS CLAIMS
Helping NC lung cancer, asbestosis, mesothelioma victims since 1980

Michaels & Jones
Injury Attorneys
1-800-662-1234

Tympanette Micro Canal Hearing Instrument Now Available

Our office is happy to announce that we are currently fitting a completely in-the-Canal hearing instrument. This remarkable new hearing instrument is not only more discreet and comfortable to wear, but may also provide important hearing benefits because of its deep placement in the ear canal.

The Tympanette is the smallest hearing instrument ever manufactured by Starkey Laboratories, the world's leading manufacturer of custom hearing instruments. Its extremely small size will be very popular, so call now for your hearing assessment and consultation. Call today to schedule your appointment.

HEARING ASSOCIATES
579-1055
Shops at Calabash #3 Post Office Complex Calabash

The Summer Air Fare Sale You've All Been Waiting For!!!

For travel thru September 12. Tickets must be purchased by April 27.

Vacation Right Here At Home!

TRAVEL ROUND-TRIP* FROM MYRTLE BEACH TO:

Dallas	\$296
Phoenix	\$357
San Diego	\$378
Denver	\$385
Los Angeles or San Francisco	\$391
Seattle or Las Vegas	\$391

Fares also on sale from Wilmington at slightly higher rates. Call for details

*Round-trip for travel Monday noon-Thursday noon and noon-midnight Saturday. Slightly higher other days.

BRUNSWICK TRAVEL INC.
CRUISE HEADQUARTERS
1-800-852-2736
OPEN: MON.-FRI 9-5, SAT. 10-1
754-7484 • 150 Holden Beach Rd., Shallotte, NC 28459

Narc Squad Nabs 7 In Drug Sweep

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Department narcotics squad continued its crackdown on local drug dealers last week by arresting seven people on charges of possessing crack cocaine.

Once again, the Phoenix and Navassa areas were targeted Thursday and Friday for an interdiction operation aimed at street-level drug dealers, Detective Gary Shay said Tuesday.

The enforcement action was planned in response to numerous complaints from residents about drug activities in the area, said narcotics squad leader Lt. David Crocker.

Those arrested last week include:

■ Jessie Darden Jr., 21, of Phoenix on charges of selling and delivering cocaine. He was also charged with hindering and delaying an arrest after running from detectives. The squad's drug-sniffing and tracking dog "Colonel" located Darden in the woods nearby.

■ Demeian Laverne Jennings, 18, of Navassa on charges of selling and delivering cocaine and cocaine possession with intent to sell and deliver.

■ Cranston Lamont Andrews Jr., 21, of Navassa on a charge of cocaine possession with intent to sell and deliver.

■ Phillip Eugene Boomer, 31, of

Oak View Drive, Southport, on charges of cocaine possession and possession of drug paraphernalia.

■ Leroy Lee Williams, 20, of Lord Street, Southport, on charges of possessing cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

■ Alfonzo Holden, 33, of Oak View Drive, Southport, on charges

of possessing cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

Lt. Crocker urged anyone with information about illegal drug activities to notify the narcotics squad at 253-4797. Callers may remain anonymous and will not be required to testify in court. Rewards are offered in some cases.

Served fifteen years as an Assistant District Attorney.

Aldridge FOR JUDGE

PAID FOR BY THE CANDIDATE

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY - MAY 3

APRIL, 1994

TRUST WORTHY SUPER SAVER

OUR APRIL SUPER SAVER ONLY...
\$8.97

32-Gal. Refuse Container
Tight fitting lid, molded handles. (2894)
Colors may vary.

TRUST WORTHY HARDWARE STORES

SOMERSETT'S HARDWARE
Open: Mon.-Sat. 7 AM-6 PM, Sun. 10-5 PM.
Hwy. 904 East, Grissetown, 579-6006

Having Trouble With One Hour Glasses?

SEEING DOUBLE?

...Ask your reliable doctor about the quality of one hour eye glasses!!!

When accuracy and quality matter to you, see the professionals at...

OPTICAL GALLERY

Clip & Save

50% OFF

YOUR CHOICE OF ANY FRAME IN STOCK

With Lens Purchase. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Not good with any other special offer. EXPIRES 5-31-94

OPTICAL GALLERY

Valuable Coupon Across from Sandiflader Restaurant, Hwy. 130, Shallotte
CALL TODAY 754-4680

Spring Home Improvements Landscape Timbers

\$2.99 ea.

Quikrete Concrete

\$3.25 80 lb. Bag

Introducing Our Newest Addition...

Heritage Fence

Maintenance-Free Vinyl Fencing Specially Ordered For Your Home.

- No Rusting •Easy Installation •Warranty
- No Peeling or Cracking •Weather Resistant

Available In Many Heights and Styles From Privacy To Picket Fences (White, Tan or Grey).

J.M. Parker & Sons
Jct. Hwys. 17 & 211, Supply • 754-4331