

Shallotte Aldermen Consider Regulations On Junked Cars

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shallotte officials have talked for years about the need to beautify the downtown area and turn Main Street into the attractive business district many think it can be.

Aldermen are doing more than talking now. Next week they are expected to approve an ordinance that will allow the town to dispose of junked vehicles. Separate regulations on street vendors are in the works.

"If we're going to try to dress up downtown we need to address all of it, not just planting flowers," Alderman Carson Durham said Tuesday.

The town board could pass an ordinance regulating "junked, nuisance and abandoned" vehicles at its Aug. 2 meeting. It would basically outlaw cars that are considered a nuisance, create a health hazard or lower property values.

The proposal is a combination of new state statutes and codes already being used in Sunset Beach and Yaupon Beach, Durham said.

"We talk about beautifying downtown and we have these things. I don't think it's the most grave area we've got, but it's something we need to face," Durham said.

The rules would apply within the town limits as well as the extraterritorial area, which includes most property within a mile of Shallotte. "It's somewhat of a problem here. You don't see many of these cars unless you get off Main Street," Durham said. "I don't think we've got a real big problem. It's just things that accumulate over the years."

Durham said area residents should not fear a sudden crackdown

"We talk about beautifying downtown and we have these things. I don't think it's the most grave area we've got, but it's something we need to face."

—Alderman Carson Durham

on old cars parked in back yards in and around Shallotte.

"We're not going to go out there and ramrod this thing right away," he said. "We're going to work with people. We're not trying to hurt anyone at all in any way."

The town already has junked car regulations on the books, but Durham said they are "very limited in scope" and only apply to vehicles parked on public property.

The new ordinance would apply to public and private property. "It's protection for the taxpayer," Durham said.

The proposal defines a "junked" vehicle as one without current license plate that is partially dismantled or wrecked, cannot be driven or is more than five years old and appears to be worth less than \$100.

"Nuisance" vehicles are defined as cars or trucks on public or private property that are determined to be a health or safety hazard or a public nuisance.

They could include vehicles that are a source of potential harm to children or cars that destroy the aesthetic qualities of the town, tend to lower the value of property, serve as a collection point for water and garbage and serve as a haven for insects, rodents and "similar harmful

creatures."

The proposed ordinance says vehicles will be considered abandoned if they are parked illegally, left on a public street for more than seven days, left on property owned or operated by the town for more than 24 hours or left on private property for more than two hours without the owner's consent.

The police department and code enforcement officer would be responsible for enforcing the rules. They could contract with private towing companies to remove, store and dispose of vehicles found to be in violation.

Exceptions from the rules would be given for vehicles located in junk yards, in enclosed buildings or on the premises of a business if the vehicle is necessary to the operation of that business.

The code would allow each property owner to keep one junked vehicle as long as it is located in the rear yard and "is entirely concealed from public view."

The junked vehicle would have to be kept in a garage or building that provides a complete enclosure so that it cannot be seen from a public street or neighboring property.

For nuisance or junked vehicles that need to be removed, the town

would notify the owner if the owner can be determined.

If the owner cannot be determined, or in the case of abandoned vehicles, a notice would be placed on the windshield giving the owner 10 working days to move the vehicle.

The proposal would allow the enforcement officer to bypass the 10-day notice requirement "in those circumstances where there is a special need for prompt action to eliminate traffic obstructions or to otherwise maintain and protect the public safety and welfare."

Vehicles abandoned on the street could be removed immediately if they are obstructing traffic or parked illegally.

Abandoned or nuisance vehicles left on town or private property also could be removed without prior notice if they are blocking or obstructing a driveway, parked in such a manner as to pose a traffic hazard or causing damage to public or private property.

After a vehicle has been removed, the town would notify the last known registered owner of the violation, where the vehicle is stored and the procedure that must be followed to get it back.

Owners would be allowed to reclaim their vehicles if they pay the towing and storage fees. Vehicles

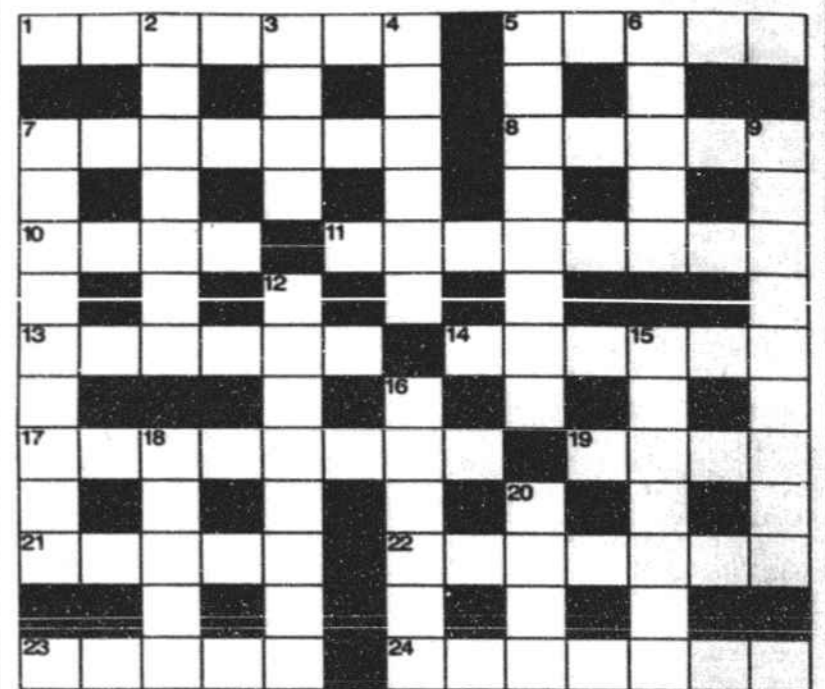
that are not claimed would be disposed of by the towing company.

Following the removal of a junked, nuisance or abandoned vehicle, the owner would have the right to a hearing for the purpose of determining if probable cause existed for

removing the vehicle.

Also, the ordinance would allow the owners of vehicles targeted for removal to appeal to the town board of aldermen. In those cases, vehicles would not be removed until the appeal is heard and decided.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Endanger
5. Fire-raising
7. Receive gladly
8. Inexpensive
10. Wreck
11. Nomad
13. Odium
14. Goad
17. Earthquake
19. Seaweed
21. Sinned
22. Model of perfection
23. Assisted
24. Shoulder piece

CLUES DOWN

2. Fortuneteller
3. House cover
4. Lost time
5. Mishap
6. Blaspheme
7. Storage building
9. Fine china
12. Sent back to custody
15. Unlawful
16. Specimen
18. Leased
20. Region

(Answers are on Page 8-C)

Two Die In Fiery, Head-On Collision And Condition Of Third Said Critical

BY SUSAN USHER

Two persons were killed and a third remained in critical condition Tuesday at a Chapel Hill hospital following a fiery head-on collision Friday evening on U.S. 74-76 inside the Sandy Creek town limits.

Dead are Antoinette Marie Cromartie, 28, of Council, and Laduan Vindell Fields, 22, of Leland, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol Office in Wilmington.

Lamont Ballard, also of Leland, a passenger in Fields' vehicle, remained in critical condition Tuesday afternoon at the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, according to a hospital spokesperson. He was transferred there Friday from

New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington.

No charges were filed in the 7 p.m. accident investigation by Trooper D.A. Lewis.

Fields was eastbound on U.S. 74-76 in a 1990 Chevrolet, traveling at a "very high rate of speed" in the outside lane, when the car went out his control and crossed the center median. It struck Cromartie's eastbound 1989 Chevrolet head on, spun around, came to rest partially in the westbound lane and burst into flames with Fields inside the vehicle.

Ballard was seriously burned, but managed to escape the vehicle.

The vehicle loss was estimated at \$20,000 to Fields' car and \$3,500 to Cromartie's car.

SUNSHINE BUILDERS

CUSTOM BUILT HOMES
Decks, Gazebos,
Utility Buildings,
Remodeling & More

ALL WORK GUARANTEED
FREE ESTIMATES
REFERENCES

LICENSED BUILDER/BILLY STREET
(910)754-8746

RIP THE STICKER!

AT RICK EDWARDS WE'VE RIPPED THE STICKER ON ALL REMAINING 94'S ON OUR LOT.
Federal Paper Board employees, don't miss this sale!

<p>CHEVY S-10 PICK-UP</p> <p>Still Selling At This Price!</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$9999</p>	
<p>DODGE CARAVAN</p> <p>SAVE!</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$7999</p> <p>OFF ORIGINAL MSRP</p>	
<p>ALL NEW NEON</p> <p>Selling price \$11462. 20% rebate cash or trade. \$9170 to lease. \$110 per month fee.</p> <p>RIP THE STICKER AND SAVE!</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1579</p> <p>PER MO.</p>	
<p>BUICK CENTURY BUICK PARK AVENUE</p> <p>Selling for thousand's less than our competition!</p>	
<p>BUICK LESABRE</p> <p>SAVE!</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$7599</p> <p>OFF ORIGINAL MSRP</p>	
<p>PONTIAC GRAND AM</p> <p>SAVE!</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1123</p> <p>OFF ORIGINAL MSRP</p>	

Mon-Fri 8am-6pm
 Sat 9am-1pm
 SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

•Chevrolet•Geo•Pontiac•Buick•Chrysler•Plymouth•Dodge•
 HWY 130 E. across from Lowe's •Whiteville, NC
642-3153 or 1-800-280-RICK

DISCOVER
Outlet
Savings

Coming August 1

From sofas to baskets, we import all our items so you save \$\$\$!

Most Items 1/2 Retail Prices

•OPENING SPECIALS•

White Wicker Chairs \$39

Rattan Dining Groups \$299

And That's Just A Sample Of The Great Prices You'll Find Everyday At Wicker Imports

WICKER
IMPORTS

The largest selection of iron & wicker on NC coast

Off Hwy. 17 N., Shallotte

Entrance off Bus. 17 N. just before the bypass or directly off Hwy. 17 N. (Next To Coastal Tire)

©1994 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON