

Holden Hires Local Company For Harbor Acres Dredging

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach officials have hired Bald Head Island Transportation Inc. to dredge the canals serving the Harbor Acres subdivision.

Commissioners voted unanimously Monday night to accept the company's bid of \$82,200 for dredging five finger canals, the connector canal that runs parallel to the waterway and the entrance canal to the waterway.

Town Manager Gus Ulrich said work is expected to begin within the next couple weeks, and the project should take approximately six weeks to finish.

Bald Head Island Transportation Inc. was the only company to submit a bid, even though the project was advertised twice and bid specifications were mailed to six contractors.

The town is coordinating the project on behalf of property owners in the neighborhood who requested the dredging.

Holden Beach will assess Harbor Acres lot owners for the full cost of the dredging plus the town's administration costs. Each person's assessment will be based on how much property they own along the canals.

Ulrich said Monday that the town had already collected about \$68,733 in "voluntary assessments" from property owners.

Many of those should receive refunds since the bid came in much lower than expected. Ulrich said it appears the cost-per-lot will be closer to \$300 than the original estimate of \$500.

Although town officials expect the dredge boat to work carefully, the contractor will not be responsible for damage to boats, floating

docks or piers in the canals.

Town officials are advising homeowners to remove boats and swing floating docks out of the way while the dredging is done.

Homeowners have complained about damage to docks following previous canal dredging projects at Holden Beach.

Cul-De-Sac Killed

Holden Beach officials have scrapped a proposal to ask the state to build a cul-de-sac at the end of Ocean Boulevard West to give vehicles a place to turn around when they reach the end of the public road.

The four lot owners at the end of the road, just east of the entrance to Holden Beach West, objected to the idea. They said a cul-de-sac would devalue their land, take away their property and add to existing flooding problems.

Commissioners had asked the N.C. Department of Transportation to "stake out" a cul-de-sac so they could see what it would look like. But town board members said Monday they wouldn't ask the state to

build one because it would result in the taking of private property.

Town officials agreed to allow the property owners to continue using ropes and chains to keep vehicles from turning around on their land.

The town will erect signs directing motorists to turn around once they pass the Holden Beach West guard house or on one of the side streets before they reach the end of the public road.

Other Business

In other business Monday, commissioners:

■ Voted to revise the town's trash collection contract with Waste Management. Ulrich said additional trash containers on the island will result in an annual cost increase of \$2,590.

■ Voted unanimously to change the residential zoning of the Davis Heniford subdivision, formerly

Campground By The Sea, from R-2 to the more restrictive R-1.

■ Voted 4-1, with Dwight Carroll dissenting, to amend the zoning of the property formerly known as Mace's Trailer Park from C-1 (commercial) to R-1 (residential). Owners of five of the 12 oceanfront lots affected by the action sent letters to the town opposing the change. The affected lots are between 633 and 655 Ocean Blvd. West, and all but one already has a house on it.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Cookin' Breakfast

Pauline White of Indian Trail stirs up another mess of sausage patties to feed the hungry multitudes during the Festival by the Sea parade last week. As usual, you could follow your nose from the Holden Beach Bridge to the Veterans of Foreign Wars tent, where tasty breakfast biscuits and coffee were being served up by the dozens.

RCD Council Meets Monday

The Cape Fear Resource Conservation and Development Council will hold its annual meeting Monday, Nov. 14, at 6 p.m. at the Federal Paper Board Lodge at Lake Waccamaw.

Guest speaker will be state conservationist Dick Gallo.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the year-old nonprofit organization serves Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender counties, helping each coun-

ty committee prioritize needs and marshal funding and other resources to meet them.

Earlier this year Gregory A. Walker was hired as coordinator and the council opened an office in the First Union Building in Wilmington

Volunteers Needed

West Brunswick High School is looking for volunteers willing to tutor students in basic skills.

"In an age where so much emphasis is placed on standardized test scores, teachers are finding themselves stretched thin. In order to be effective, we need help in teaching basic skills to students in trouble," said Harriett Hemphill of the WBHS Parent/Community Involvement Committee.

Hemphill asked that retired teachers or other concerned local residents with skills to share contact her at the high school at 754-4338.

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