



Shriners Aid Hospital Fund

Officers of the Brunswick County Shrine Club present a check for \$13,310.14 to the Officers of Sudan Temple for the Shrine Children's Hospitals. The funds were raised throughout the year in projects such as the annual fish fry, golf tournament and paper and plaque sale. Pictured (from left) are Marvin McKeithan, first vice president; James Broadway, president; John Phillips, Divan Sudan Temple; Albert Parker, past potentate, Sudan Temple; Lloyd Tyndall, Divan Sudan Temple; and Wayne Whitaker, second vice president.



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Holden Officials Hope Fourth Time Is Charm

BY DOUG RUTTER
"If at first you don't succeed, try again."

Holden Beach officials have taken Ben Franklin's age-old advice to heart. They've tried again and again to find a contractor willing and able to dredge the canals in the Harbor Acres subdivision.

The town hasn't had much luck so far, but officials hope the fourth time will be the charm.

The fourth bidding cycle on the dredging project will close Monday. Town Manager Sean Anderson is hopeful it will produce results. "We feel pretty confident we'll get something this time," Anderson said Tuesday.

The first two times the town advertised for bids, Bald Head Island Transportation Inc. was the only bidder.

Town commissioners voted to award an \$82,200 contract to the local firm in early November, but had to reverse the decision when they discovered the company did not have a North Carolina general contractor's license.

Holden Beach advertised for bids a third time, but there was no response. Anderson said he thinks the town will receive at least one bid this time around.

Representatives from one company visited Holden Beach recently to pick up a copy of the bid specifications and look over the site of the dredging project, toward the west end of the island.

"I feel pretty confident by the end of next week we'll have something," Anderson said. "I think we'll be able to come up with something."

The proposed project includes the dredging of five finger canals, the connector canal that runs parallel to

the waterway and the entrance canal to the waterway.

The town is coordinating the project on behalf of property owners in the subdivision who requested the dredging, which is needed to keep the canals open to boat traffic.

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 he or she owns along the canals. The town has already received more than \$68,000 in "voluntary assessments" from landowners eager for the work to be done.

"It's a shame that we have the money and can't get anybody to do it," Anderson said at the town board's Dec. 5 meeting.

Town officials have estimated that the project should take about six weeks to complete.

State regulations require that all dredging along the coast stop after March 31 to protect marine life. "It's cutting it pretty close, but if we get something done by the end of next week we should be OK," Anderson said of the deadline.

Holden Board Meets Monday

Holden Beach Commissioners will hold a special meeting Monday, Dec. 19, at 9 a.m. in town hall.

Agenda items include a discussion with board of adjustment members concerning the board's rules of procedure.

Commissioners also will consider accepting a deed for a beach access-way between 106 and 108 Ocean Boulevard East. Rose and Leo Cole have offered to donate the property.

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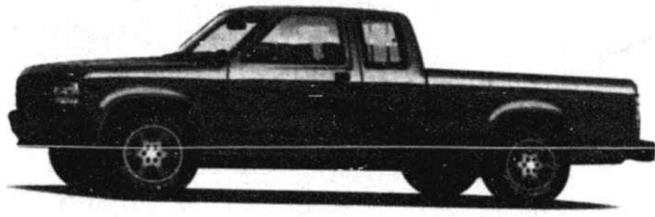
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