



12 Days Of Christmas

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Supply Elementary School third graders and Frosty the Snowman rehearse their parts in the schoolwide musical production of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," presented last Thursday night to parents.

Holden Devises Plan For Canal Dredging

BY DOUG RUTTER

They say necessity is the mother of invention.

Unable to find a qualified bidder to dredge canals in the Harbor Acres subdivision, Holden Beach officials have come up with a creative plan to get the work done anyway.

Town Manager Sean Anderson said the original project will be split into three separate projects—a move that will allow the town to hire a local contractor and get the work done before spring.

Dividing the work into three projects became necessary after the town advertised for bids four times and did not receive a single bid from a licensed contractor.

Bald Head Island Transportation Inc. was the only firm to submit a bid the first two times, but the town couldn't hire the company because it

doesn't have a North Carolina general contractor's license as required by state law.

Nobody submitted a bid the next two times the project was advertised. The fourth bidding period ended Monday.

By dividing the work into three separate projects, Anderson said the town can hire Bald Head Island Transportation. A general contractor's license is not required for projects that cost less than \$30,000.

Anderson said he expects the total cost of the three projects to be close to Bald Head Island Transportation's original bid of \$82,200.

The cost could be as much as \$2,000 greater, however, if letters of credit are required for each project. The dredge company will be paid after each project is completed.

"I feel 100 percent confident

they'll do a great job," Anderson said, noting that the canals between Swordfish and Dolphin streets, Dolphin and Tuna, and Tuna and Marlin will be the first to be dredged.

The second project will include the canal between Marlin and Tarpon and the canal between Tarpon and Sailfish.

The final project includes dredging of the entrance canal to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and the feeder canal that runs parallel to the waterway and connects the five finger canals.

"It's three totally separate projects now," Anderson said. "We had to show a little bit of ingenuity because

we were running out of time."

Holden Beach officials need for the work to begin soon in order for it to be completed before April 1, which is the spring cutoff date for dredging in North Carolina.

Anderson said he expects work to begin in early January, but he's not sure how long it will take.

"I know if they start now they'll definitely beat that deadline," he said. "I'm ready to get the project going. It's about the only alternative we have."

The town is coordinating the dredging on behalf of Harbor Acres property owners who requested it. The town will pay the contractor and then collect assessments from lot owners in the subdivision.

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