

# The News-Journal

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## Raeford to 'get out of the landfill business' next year

By Ken MacDonald  
News-Journal associate editor

Sometime in 1990 the Hoke County landfill will close, and there won't be another to take its place—at least not in Hoke County. That's the current plan outlined Monday night at Raeford City Council's regular meeting.

City Manager Tom Phillips told council that an administrative decision has been made to "get out of the landfill business" in order to avoid stringent new regulations that will make landfills much more costly.

Director of Public Works Mike McNeill says instead of a local landfill, the city (and the county too) would join a regional compact much like one being attempted at the state level to handle hazardous wastes. Several counties would agree to route their domestic solid wastes to a centrally located landfill that will be operated in accordance with the new regulations, expected to go into effect in mid-1991.

The regulations include two very expensive mandates. First, landfills will have to be lined with a thick plastic—on bottom and maybe on top. And operators of landfills will have to be financially liable for 30 years after the landfills close. Those requirements, according to best guesses, would increase the cost of operating landfills from the \$10 or \$11 per cubic yard to \$30.

For a regional landfill to work, Raeford and Hoke governmental leaders and residents would

have to devise radical coping measures.

Leaders might have to build a transfer station so that garbage trucks wouldn't have to make long journeys to the landfill. They would instead drive to a transfer station and unload. The garbage would be compacted and trucked by tractor-trailer to the central landfill, which may be nearby, or as far as 50 miles away.

Citizens will probably have to begin sorting their garbage so that only acceptable refuse goes to the landfill (see sidebar). Other garbage would be recycled or sent to other disposal sites.

How will this regional landfill come about? The effort is being pushed along by the Lumber River Council of Governments (COG). The agency is asking local governments to contribute to fund a regional solid waste planner. COG wants to have the planner on the job as soon as possible and is planning to pay his salary for at least six months. Funding is formulated on a per-capita basis.

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Santa and Kizzie Cobb, 7, get together for a pre-Christmas gift discussion at Tuesday's downtown light dedication ceremony. A small crowd turned out to sing carols and officially dedicate the new ornaments.

### Garbage will be Reed's greatest new challenge

"I'm going to be county manager when everyone has to change the way they live..."—Reed

County Manager Barry Reed hasn't been here long. Already he faces what he believes will be his biggest challenge—coping with changes in handling garbage.

"Solid waste is definitely and undoubtedly the biggest challenge," Reed said. "I'm going to be county manager when everyone has to change the way they live. Plus, the expense is going to be tremendous." Reed believes the key in bringing about the change is education, and he plans to continue teaching youngsters about the importance of the environment. He and Acting Health Director Mike Wood recently spoke to the Science Club at the high school about the importance of recycling, waste separation and reducing the amount of waste generated.

"Hitting the young people in school is where we need to go. While they're young, you can change them and get them to do it differently," he said. And Reed considers any influence this

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Barry Reed

### Rules of garbage collection could change drastically

You pay a certain amount for your water, and a certain amount for your electricity. Soon, you may do the same for your garbage.

With the cost of operating landfills about to triple, local government officials will probably have to devise a method to penalize heavy garbage producers, and reward those who waste not and recycle.

At any rate, no longer will Hoke County residents dump garbage in dumpsters, nor will city residents simply fill their waste cans indiscriminately. All that will change, though it's not clear yet exactly how.

But officials who speculate say it might go like this:

You can't put a meter on garbage like you can on water or electricity. So city residents might pay a certain amount per bag of trash collected. Or they might purchase the bags from the city. They might be penalized if they put glass, paper, aluminum and other recyclables in the same bags as, say, kitchen scraps.

County residents would take their sorted garbage to compactor sites where a staff person would check to see if allowable refuse is being pre-

sorted. If the garbage is not sorted, the citizen would be penalized.

The whole idea is to reduce the amount of garbage going in landfills by recycling. And ensure that what goes into landfills is safe. No toxic chemicals, no dangerous materials, no nuclear bombs.

Once the garbage is collected or taken to compactor sites (five are planned), the garbage would either be taken directly to a regional landfill, or trucked to a transfer station. At a transfer station it would be further compacted and trucked by tractor-trailer to the regional landfill.

(The city and county might decide to operate a "demolition landfill." It would be a place for branches, brush, leaves and construction debris.)

Ah, but you ask. "Won't that encourage people to take the easy way out and dump garbage any convenient place?" To cope with that, officials might seek increased fines and maybe even a garbage enforcement officer.

Whatever happens will happen soon. The regulations causing all this are being phased in even now. So get ready. For the next two years, your leaders will be "talking trash."

## Senate Bill 2 to bring sweeping changes to Hoke County schools

Sweeping changes will become evident in Hoke County schools when requirements in Senate Bill 2 and the North Carolina Schools Improvement Program become effective next year.

The schools improvement program, which is closely related to Senate Bill 2 (also referred to

as the Performance Based Accountability Plan), is an outgrowth of the effective schools research and is premised on the belief that all children can learn.

In a presentation to Hoke County School Board members last week, Donna Cheek, a consultant with the state department of public

instruction said, "All children can learn. It is the responsibility of the teachers and administrators to teach all children...regardless of factors in their background. This is what an effective school is—no matter where they come from, their social background or the amount of money in their life."

Both programs are centered on improving student performance, although the school improvement program goes farther—it calls for a complete overhaul and restructuring of the school system.

Accordingly, teachers and administrators can no longer say "they are doing the best they know how under the conditions from which they find themselves in," Cheek said. The current system

is "not working" as evidenced by low SAT scores and other test results, and it is the teachers and administrators responsibility to make improvements, she said.

Cheek said it is the responsibility of teachers and administrators to teach all children. "They're paid money to do a job—to teach all children."

Cheek acknowledged that the new program will take time saying it may take three to five years to see a five percent improvement in performance. She referred to the new program as a process and not an event. "It never ends," she said.

The new program is innovative in that local school systems, and more importantly, individual

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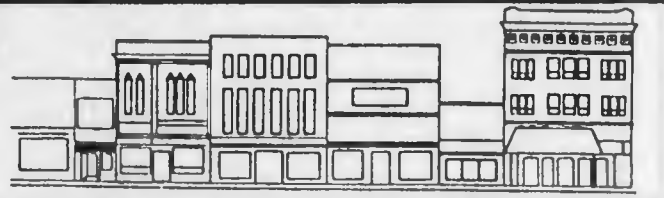


Improvement Program  
Donna Cheek (2nd from right) and Steve Hauge (right) present the soon-to-be implemented North Carolina

School's Improvement Program and Senate Bill 2 to Hoke County School Board members.

### Around Town

by Sam C. Morris



The weather over the weekend was cold. The high temperatures were in the 30s and with the wind blowing at about 25 miles per hour it felt colder. The low on Sunday night was about 20 degrees. It has been in the 40s most of the day Monday, but it got back into the 20s Monday night.

The cold front will pass through and warmer weather will be on tap for the remainder of the week. The forecast calls for 60-degree weather on Wednesday. Then the highs will go back down into the 50s. Lows for the remainder of the week will be in the 40s to 20s, and maybe snow or rain Friday.

The heavy frost over the weekend has killed all the grass on the lawns in the

city.

Don't forget that the Hoke County Committee of 100s will hold their annual membership meeting next Monday, December 11 at the Hoke County Library conference room. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. If you are not a member and would like to join, come to this meeting.

Harold Gillis, chairman, said that the dues are coming in about as one would expect. If you haven't paid your dues, he said to bring it to the meeting Monday night.

The Christmas edition of *The News-Journal* will come out on Wednesday,

December 20. If you haven't been contacted about a Christmas greeting for this edition then call *The News-Journal* office, 875-2121 and Tammy Ellis will be glad to help you with a greeting.

As most of you know, this edition is printed early so the deadline for an advertisement in the greeting section will be noon on Tuesday, December 12. All other ads will be on the regular schedule.

The Raeford Kiwanis Club is holding its annual Pancake Supper on Thursday, December 7. The serving will start at 5 p.m. The place is the Gibson Cafeteria at Hoke High School. Tickets can be purchased at the door or from any member of

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### Fire professionals to test theory here

Raeford has been selected to host a fire test that will bring firefighting professionals from all over N.C., and from as far away as California, to observe.

A new technique, called positive pressure ventilation, will be tested on two abandoned Raeford homes to gauge the effectiveness of equipment used to blow smoke out of a burning house.

In the test, a person will dress in fire-proof clothing and will be situated on a second floor of one of the test houses. Coordinators will light a fire in a sofa or mattress. The tester will measure temperature increases and the amount of smoke that permeates the house. At an agreed upon time, a powerful fan will be aimed at the door of the house from outside, "pressurizing the house with air." The technique is supposed to change the air pressure in the house forcing smoke, gas and heat out. Before, exhaust fans were used, but only after a fire to help clear smoke.

The tester will measure the accuracy and speed in which the temperature drops and smoke clears from the house. All aspects of the experiment will be documented.

Coordinators have contacted the Discovery Channel, several fire fight-

ing magazines, and others to film and report the experiment.

Raeford Fire Chief Terry Tapp sees several benefits with the new fire fighting techniques. The greatest, he believes, is that the new technique may prove to be safer for fire departments. With the fan blowing into the house and clearing the air, firemen will not be hindered by

smoke when trying to locate victims or while trying to maneuver through a home.

"We normally have to crawl in. With the fan fired up simultaneously, we can walk in and not stumble around everything. It would make a much safer attack if used properly," Tapp said.

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### Upchurch re-elected chairman

With very little discussion, Hoke County Commissioners re-elected Wyatt Upchurch and Neill McPhatter as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the board respectively.

"I commend you for being chairman and think you're doing a tremendous job and I'm glad we have you as chairman to lead us on this board," McPhatter told Upchurch.

In other business, County Attorney Duncan McFadyen told commissioners that state officials have given Daisey Vestel, owner of the Raeford Auto Building, a list of requirements that must be met to bring the building into compliance with state regulations. Commissioners have planned to convert the building into office space for a number

of judicial personnel since November, 1989. The project has been delayed by leaking gasoline originating from old tanks that were earlier removed from the building.

As an interim measure, commissioners recently leased the Hoke Realty building (old Bank of Raeford) to house judicial personnel until the necessary repairs are made on the Raeford Auto Building.

In other matters, County Manager Barry Reed told commissioners the county health insurance fund was in good shape, with over \$39,000 in the reserve fund. However, commissioners were cautiously optimistic about the fund balance because, as Commissioner Tom

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