

County Manager Eyes Solution To Complex's Parking Problem

BY RAHN ADAMS
Brunswick County Manager John T. Smith has a plan to reduce illegal parking at the county government complex in Bolivia—a problem partially caused by county employees.

Smith last week said he will begin enforcing a county policy at the complex later this month by assigning each county employee a specific parking space.

According to Smith, parking areas outside the Mental Health/Social Services building and the county courthouse are of the most concern.

"Just about any morning you come in, there will be cars parked everywhere," said Smith. "If the employees get here first and take the choice spots, there's no place for the public to park."

As a result, motorists ignore "no parking" signs and routinely park along the roadways near both buildings, often blocking other vehicles that are legally parked.

The county manager said he counted 55 illegally parked vehicles when he toured the complex grounds one morning last month. A check two hours later found that seven of the same vehicles were still illegally parked.

"We might as well take the 'no parking' signs down," he said, noting that the judges' parking spaces near the courthouse are the only ones that are patrolled regularly. Also, he said the county has no policy to ticket or tow illegally parked vehicles at the complex.

The problem was brought to Smith's attention in early December when Veteran Services Officer Jess Parker was unable to deliver insulin to a veteran in Bolivia because Parker's car was blocked by an illegally parked vehicle. Parker had to call someone else to deliver the medication to the diabetic man.

"Fortunately everything turned out all right," Parker said, "but it could have been a tragic situation."

According to county policy, the complex's 205 full- and part-time employees are supposed to park in the large lot beside the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, Smith said. However, the policy was never enforced.

Later this month, parking spaces in the lots at the sheriff's department and planning building will be numbered and assigned to employees.

"We're going to put everybody's names in the pot that needs parking spaces, then just start pulling names," said Smith, adding that employees would be allowed to trade spaces, if necessary.

"Then I'll administer it—I'm not going to put it on the sheriff's department or anyone else," Smith said.

Parking violations will be "written up and put in (the employee's) personnel folder, and after three times (violations) we'll let them find somewhere else to work."



STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS

ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES line the roadway near the county government complex's human services building. To help solve the parking problem at

the complex, county employees will be assigned parking spaces this month, and the county's parking policy will be enforced.

Icy Road Conditions Cause Wrecks

Icy road conditions were said to be the cause of a two-vehicle collision last Thursday that resulted in injury to a Supply man.

According to N.C. Highway Patrol spokesperson Ruby Oakley, the mishap occurred last Thursday at 2 p.m. on U.S. 17, 2.5 miles south of Bolivia.

Daniel Lenix Carlyle, 58, of Supply, was injured when his 1977 Dodge was struck by a 1986 Chevrolet tractor-trailer driven by Willie Harding Tyndall Jr., 34, of Wilmington.

Ms. Oakley said Tyndall was traveling north on U.S. 17 and attempted to stop for a car that was turning off the roadway ahead of him. Tyndall was unable to stop the tractor-trailer due to icy road conditions.

The rig traveled past the stopped car and struck Carlyle's on-coming auto, knocking the Dodge into the ditch where it struck the embankment and overturned.

Carlyle was taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply for treatment. Tyndall was not injured.

Damages were estimated at \$500 to the tractor-trailer and \$2,000 to Carlyle's car.

Ms. Oakley said Trooper T.W. Caulder filed no charges in the accident.

No injuries were reported in a weather-related collision last Thursday at the intersection of N.C. 130 and Redbug Road, seven-tenths of a mile east of Shallotte.

According to Ms. Oakley, a 1982 GMC truck driven by Eric Lamar Schilz, 20, of Shallotte, skidded on ice on Redbug Road when the driver braked as he was approaching the intersection. After skidding completely around, the vehicle slid backwards onto N.C. 130 and collided with a 1987 Chevrolet truck driven by Richard Wayne Soles, 20, also of Shallotte.

Trooper B.C. Jones charged Schilz with failure to yield the right-of-way.

Damages were estimated at about \$5,000 to the Soles truck and \$800 to the Schilz vehicle.

Two persons were injured Friday

in another wreck blamed on icy roads. The accident happened Friday at 8:30 a.m. on U.S. 17, 6.4 miles north of Bolivia.

Ms. Oakley said a 1981 Datsun driven by Garrett Wayne Mellor, 39, of Bolivia, was traveling north on U.S. 17 too fast for conditions and went out of control on an ice-covered bridge.

The car slid off the roadway onto the median and struck the back side

of a guardrail.

Mellor and his passenger, Helen Mellor, 28, also of Bolivia, complained of injuries and were taken to New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington for treatment. Ms. Oakley said.

Damage to the car was estimated at \$2,500.

Trooper B.D. Barnhardt charged Mellor with driving too fast for conditions.

Home Damaged By Fire

No one was injured Sunday in a fire that damaged a Supply area house.

According to Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department Chief Allen Inman, about 25 firefighters and six trucks from Tri-Beach and Civietown VFDs were dispatched to the Jimmy Robinson residence on Oak Road in Seabreeze subdivision Sunday around 5:25 p.m.

When firemen arrived, flames were coming out of the front door and a front window of the wood frame house.

Inman said the blaze was reported by Robinson, who was returning from a neighbor's residence when he discovered the fire.

Firemen brought the fire under control in about 15 minutes, and confined it to the kitchen and living room of the home. The blaze started in the kitchen area, said Inman. In addition to fire damage to the two rooms, the rest of the house sustained smoke damage.

Inman said firemen remained on the scene for about 2½ hours to make sure some smoldering attic insulation did not rekindle.

The cause of the blaze had not been determined Monday and was still under investigation, although Inman said the fire appeared to have been accidental.

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