

Shallotte Christmas Parade Scheduled For This Saturday

Santa Claus is coming to town a little early this year.

The jolly elf will be among 111 entries in the annual Shallotte Christmas Parade slated for this Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m.

The parade will follow the same route as last year, starting at Shallotte Middle School, following Blake Street to U.S. 17 and moving north to the main branch of United Carolina Bank.

After the parade, Santa will be stationed in the parking lot near Hill's Food Store to hear Christmas wishes and give out candy.

A complete list of entries, in order of appearance, is as follows:

1. Shallotte Police Chief Rodney Gause and Brunswick County Sheriff John C. Davis
2. WBHS Color Guard
3. Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad
4. Miss Brunswick County—Wendy Williams
5. Mayor Jerry Jones and Board of Aldermen
6. JROTC Drill Team
7. JROTC Marching Unit
8. JROTC Float
9. WBHS Band
10. WBHS Band Boosters
- *11. Chambers Development Company, Inc.
12. WBHS Homecoming Queen—Becky Stanley
13. Little Miss N.C. 4th of July—Fallon Walker
14. Little Miss Brunswick County—Allysun Abbott
- *15. Dance Connection/Brierwood Estates and Golf Course
16. Shallotte Volunteer Fire Department
17. Union Primary School
18. Gus The Bus
19. Sudan Thunderbolts
- *20. Brunswick Christian Center
21. Mike's Marine
22. WBHS Future Homemakers of America
23. Junior Miss World Myrtle Beach—Megan Farmer
24. WDZD
25. Brunswick Community College
26. Junior Miss Brunswick County—Ashley Marshall
27. N.C. Oyster Shucking Champion—Cathy Carlisle
28. Sudan Temple Drum and Bugle Corps
29. Boy Scout Troop 201

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SHALLOTTE TOWN EMPLOYEE Roland Varnam was busy lining Main Street with Christmas decorations last Friday, just in time for the annual parade which gets underway this Saturday at 10 a.m. Santa Claus will be among 111 entries this year.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

High Accident Rate Cited In Bid To Accelerate Four-Laning Project

Work on four-laning U.S. 17 between N.C. 87 at Bell Swamp and N.C. 211 at Supply would be accelerated and completion of the Bolivia bypass delayed one year under the state's proposed Transportation Improvement Program for 1989-1996.

The State Board of Transportation is expected to approve the \$3 million plan at its Dec. 9 meeting in Raleigh. Most other Brunswick County projects included will remain on their current schedules.

DOT spokesman Bill Jones said the decision to speed up work on the Bell Swamp-Supply section relates to the large number of accidents and fatalities that have happened on "the Supply end" of the 13.6-mile stretch of rural, two-lane highway. "They wanted to go on with it."

Between Sept. 1, 1985, and Sept. 1, 1988, 203 accidents—five of which resulted in seven fatalities—were reported on the 13.6-mile stretch of road, according to Roger Hawkins, DOT's Division 3 traffic engineer.

The eighth and most recent fatality

occurred on Sept. 9, when a tanker and a dumptruck collided north of Supply near Brunswick Community College.

A total of 203 accidents (113 of which involved personal injury) in the three-year period translate into an accident rate of 1.72 per 100 million vehicle miles and is "in the ballpark" with the statewide rate of 1.92 for all state rural, two-lane, undivided highways, he said.

However, the fatal accident rate is "significantly" higher than average, at 4.24 per 100 million vehicle miles compared to 4.0 for similar roads statewide.

Forty percent of the accidents occurred over three months—May, June and August, and nearly one in three accidents involved cars running off the roadway either to the left or right. Another 21 percent, or 43 accidents, were rear-end collisions that occurred when a vehicle slowed or stopped.

DOT estimates average daily traffic on the stretch of 7,700 vehicles.

While the overall Shallotte bypass project remains on schedule, delays in obtaining wetlands permits has altered the construction schedule for a welcome center along the Shallotte bypass. The permits have now been obtained and the facility will be built during the paving phase of bypass construction, rather than during the grading phase as previously planned.

In any case, Jones said, use of the center will not be delayed. It was due to open at the same time the bypass opens.

Contracts to begin work on the Bolivia bypass project are scheduled for letting in February 1989.

In related action, the board voted to approve an additional \$21,504.75 for the Bolivia-to-Supply improvement project. Previously, \$2.38 million had been approved for right-of-way acquisition.

In other business on Nov. 18, the state board agreed to add Bailey Street, a .31-mile unpaved street in Shallotte, to the state system.

Permanent Real Estate Listing Plan Will Assist Mainly Absentee Owners

BY RAHN ADAMS

Brunswick County Tax Administrator Boyd Williamson expects to have fewer headaches over tax listings next year, now that county officials have approved a permanent listing system for real estate.

The new system, which was approved Nov. 21 by the Brunswick County Commissioners, affects only real estate and does not involve personal property such as motor vehicles, boats or farm equipment.

"Permanent (real estate) listing will have relatively little impact on county residents, because county residents have to list personal property (every year)," Williamson told the Beacon last week. "It will have the most profound effect on non-resident property owners, because we'll just send them a bill every year for their property."

Starting this coming year, 10 percent "late list" penalties will not be charged to property owners who fail to list their real estate in January.

The penalty, however, will still be charged to individuals who do not list personal property during the listing period.

Williamson said the tax office already keeps up with land transfers through weekly reports from the Brunswick County Register of Deeds' office and with property improvements through regular reports

from the county Inspections Department.

Strict enforcement of the county's building permit ordinance, in particular, is necessary for the permanent listing system to work properly. Williamson said the Inspections Department is 90 to 95 percent effective in enforcing the ordinance, a

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LAND IS LOCATED

Fundraising To Begin For Ocean Isle Beach Museum

BY DOUG RUTTER

Ocean Isle Beach property owners will be the primary targets of an effort to raise \$200,000 to finance initial construction and furnishing of a natural museum on the island.

Stuart Ingram, who proposed the Ocean Isle Nature Center in September, said this week that an agreement had been worked out for use of land near the center of town and that the major fundraising campaign will begin shortly.

The museum will be situated on ap-

proximately one half acre of land located at the corner of Laurinburg and Second streets, one block east of the causeway.

Island developer Odell Williamson, who owns the site, said Tuesday he agreed to a 30-year lease on the property, but added that he will probably donate the land if the project is successful. The town's primary landowner said he will charge \$1 per year for use of the land, which he said has a value of about \$250,000.

Despite earlier statements that the

project may be too ambitious without state and federal tax dollars, Williamson said this week he wants to do whatever he can to help. "I certainly didn't want to stand in their way," he said. "I didn't want to be the person who didn't agree to cooperate with them."

Williamson, who owns all of the commercial property on which the building could have been located, said the museum could very well become an added attraction for the

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Williamson

Carolina Shores Slates Meeting On Incorporation

Residents of Carolina Shores will be able to learn more about incorporation during a meeting planned for this Sunday, Dec. 4, at 1 p.m. in the North Myrtle Beach Community Center.

Scheduled to discuss and answer questions about incorporation of the community are Jake Wicker of the N.C. Institute of Government and Jerry Ramsey of the Cape Fear Council of Government.

Carolina Shores, a golf course community in the southwestern corner of Brunswick County, is included in an area currently being considered for annexation by the Town of Calabash.

Community residents are expected to vote sometime next year on the issue of incorporation.

The North Myrtle Beach Community Center is located off U.S. 17 in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., along the entrance road to Possum Trot Golf Club.

Holden, Pinkerton Bring Diverse Backgrounds To County Commission

BY RAHN ADAMS

Kelly Holden and Gene Pinkerton both are successful Republican businessmen, military veterans and members of local Lions Clubs, but there the similarities end in the backgrounds of Brunswick County's soon-to-be newest commissioners.

The two men, along with incumbent Republican Commissioner Frankie Rabon, will be sworn into office at the regular commissioners' meeting on Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. in Bolivia. The meeting will follow a 5 p.m. reception at the Public Assembly Building in honor of the commissioners-elect and out-going board members Chris Chappell and Jim Poole.

In the Nov. 8 election, Holden, a life-long Shallotte area resident, soundly defeated Chappell by more than 1,600 votes in the District 1 race. In District 3, Pinkerton edged fellow Oak Island resident Poole by less than 200 votes, while Rabon easily retained his District 4 seat by beating Democratic challenger Tom Simmons.

As a result of the Republican sweep, the Board of Commissioners will have a GOP majority for the first time since 1976. Rabon, initially elected in 1984, is a familiar face in county government. However, Holden and Pinkerton will be holding elective offices for the first time.

Holden: Native Son

Few local residents have richer heritages in Brunswick County than Holden, a farmer whose land has been owned by his family for more than 200 years. A son of Minnie Holden and the late Paul Holden, the 38-year-

old commissioner-elect lives on the family farm, which is located about four miles south of Shallotte on U.S. 17.

Holden is married to the former Barbara Greer. They have two daughters—13-year-old Valerie and 6-year-old Kelly. He is co-owner of two family businesses—H&R Block, which he operates with his wife during the winter months, and Holden Brothers Produce, which he runs with his older brother, David Holden, from mid-April until mid-November.

In addition to his involvement with the Brunswick County Republican Party, Holden has served on the Brunswick Community College Board of Trustees since July 1985, when he was appointed by Gov. Jim Martin. Also, he is a member of the Shallotte Lions Club and a former member of the Whiteville Tobacco Warehouse's board of directors.

A 1968 graduate of Shallotte High School, Holden earned an associate degree in agriculture from Southeastern Community College in Whiteville. He also attended Western Carolina University and UNC-Wilmington. Between 1970 and 1973, Holden served as a submarine electronics technician in the U.S. Navy, with his home port in New London, Conn.

After returning to Brunswick County, Holden and his brother began farming in 1974, mainly growing traditional row crops such as tobacco, corn and soybeans. About four years ago, the brothers diversified by growing a variety of vegetables and opening their own produce stand.

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NEWLY-ELECTED COMMISSIONERS (from left) Gene Pinkerton and Kelly Holden talk with Clerk to the Board Regina Alexander prior to their county government orientation sessions last Wednesday in Bolivia.

STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS