

# School System Calls On Shallotte To Meet High School Sewer Needs

BY DOUG RUTTER

With expansion of the Shallotte sewer plant just a few weeks short of completion, county school officials are once again asking the town to help relieve wastewater treatment problems at West Brunswick High School.

Due to overloading and other circumstances, there have been problems at the school's sewer plant for more than a year, said Mike Williams, environmental specialist with the N.C. Division of Environmental Management in Wilmington.

He said the high school has been unable to consistently comply with the terms and conditions of its discharge permit. In particular, Williams said the school hasn't always complied with the "chemical parameters" in the permit.

Irene Webb, who operates wastewater treatment facilities at the county schools including the small package plant at West Brunswick, said the school has simply outgrown its sewage plant.

The facility is about 15 years old, she said, and it was designed to handle the waste generated by about 400 students—the number that attended West Brunswick when the plant was constructed. The high school now has about 900 students and the plant cannot handle the waste.

"It's not built for that many people," said Ms. Webb. "Every time there's a breakdown it's very costly."

*"We're not obligated to take on the school system outside the city limits."*

—Wilton Harrelson  
Shallotte Alderman

Another problem with the plant, she said, is that it operates only while school is in session—about eight hours per day. Since the plant depends on bacteria to consume the waste, Ms. Webb said she has to "feed" the bacteria five to 10 pounds of dry dog food each day to keep it alive while the plant is not operating.

Officials with the school system and the state say the quickest and least expensive solution from the school's point of view is to connect to Shallotte's sewer system.

Bill Turner, assistant superintendent of operations for county schools, estimated that it would cost about \$25,000 to tie on to the town sewer system. It would cost at least \$50,000, he said, to upgrade the high school's existing plant if the state approved it.

Shallotte officials, however, are hesitant about committing valuable wastewater treatment capacity to the school and getting relatively little in return. The town would collect monthly sewer fees from the school, but

would not collect taxes on the county facility.

Following a brief discussion of the request at their regular meeting last Wednesday, Shallotte Aldermen decided to postpone any decision until they receive more information from school officials.

Shallotte presently provides water service to the high school. But town officials have been reluctant in the past to extend sewer service outside the town limits because of the town's limited sewage treatment capacity.

Within the next few weeks, town employees should complete improvements at the sewer plant that would allow treatment of another 86,000 gallons of wastewater per day. That would bring the total plant capacity to 206,000 gallons per day.

Shallotte officials pointed out last week that the town recently turned down several annexation requests due to the town's limited sewage capacity. Annexation of those areas would have added tax base to the town. But even if sewer service was extended and the high school was annexed, the town would not benefit financially since it cannot tax schools.

"We've turned down some very good annexations because of our sewage capacity," Alderman Wilton Harrelson said last week. "We're not obligated to take on the school system outside the city limits."

Mayor Jerry Jones said the town would have to commit 10,000 gallons to 15,000 gallons of daily sewage

treatment capacity for the high school.

Harrelson said the school system should do whatever it can to reduce the amount of sewage capacity it needs from the town. He suggested the school system meet some of the high school's need by using the present sewage plant and allow the town handle any "overflow."

"I'm sympathetic to their situation, but I think they should do whatever they can to reduce the demand as far as possible on our system," said Harrelson.

Williams said his division has not imposed any time limit on the school system to correct the problem. But Turner said state officials are expecting some type of timetable by the end of this month.

Turner said last week he did not expect any problem hooking onto the town sewer system. "We really didn't anticipate any snags because the town has the excess sewage capacity now."

He said the school system has been hoping to tie onto Shallotte's sewer system for several years. Turner said the first request was made when Beamon Hewett was still mayor of Shallotte. Hewett left office in December 1985.

Over the past two years, the town has been unable to extend sewer service to new users because most of its sewage treatment capacity has been committed. Turner said the latest request comes as a direct result of the sewer plant expansion.

## No Foul Play Found In Death

No foul play was indicated in the drowning death early Friday of an elderly New Hanover County woman at a Winnabow residence, according to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff's department reports indicate that Pauline C. Bartlett, 84, of Wrightsville Beach, drowned Friday morning in an indoor pool at a home on Benson Road, Winnabow. Her body was found around 6 a.m. by resident Mary Moore.

Mrs. Moore's husband, who was not identified in the report, told investigators that Ms. Bartlett had been employed as his secretary since 1964. He brought her to stay at his home last Thursday afternoon, after she suffered a fall at her Wrightsville Beach residence and needed assistance.

Ms. Bartlett was sleeping in the Moores' den, which is located next to the pool and separated from it by glass doors. She was asleep around 4:30 a.m. when family members checked on her.

Mrs. Moore discovered the drowning after she heard the family's dog barking around 6 a.m. and got up to check the pet, which is kept in a cage in the pool area. She found the victim floating face down at the deep end of the pool.

Family members performed cardio-pulmonary resuscitation but could not revive the elderly woman. County Coroner Greg White pronounced Ms. Bartlett dead at the scene. An autopsy was done Friday in Jacksonville.

## Fatal Shooting Ruled Accidental

A shooting last Wednesday that claimed the life of a Southport area boy was ruled accidental by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, according to Sheriff John C. Davis.

Although complete details of the incident could not be obtained by Friday, a preliminary report on file at the sheriff's department indicated that the shooting occurred last Wednesday afternoon at a Jabbertown Road residence.

The victim was identified as South Brunswick High School student Warren Christopher Lanier Moore, 13, of Jabbertown Road. The accident happened at the home of a 16-year-old boy whose name was not provided by authorities.

The sheriff's department was notified of the shooting last Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. When they entered the residence, they found Moore lying in a rear bedroom. Det. Pam Hunt said the teen was dead at the scene.

The older boy involved in the accident told the responding officer that he didn't mean to shoot Moore, the report said. The youth also gave the deputy the 12-gauge shotgun involved. No other details of the accident itself were available Friday.

Davis told the *Beacon* Friday that preliminary results of an autopsy last Thursday at the Regional Medical Examiner's office in Jacksonville were consistent with the sheriff's department's conclusion that the shooting was accidental. He added that the investigation was

### CRIME REPORT

closed, pending receipt of the final autopsy report.

**Businesses Entered**  
The sheriff's department Friday was investigating break-ins and thefts that were reported last week at two Leland area businesses.

Bruce Smith of W.E. Blackmon Construction Company told officers that someone entered the firm's office building on Navassa Road between 7 p.m. Nov. 13 and 6:15 a.m. Nov. 14. Theft loss and damages were estimated at \$4,113.

The intruder gained entry by breaking out a rear window, then used a pick and an ax to open two vending machines and steal about \$40 in change. A chainsaw also was stolen. The individual also damaged the building's alarm system, flattened two tires on a company truck and ran another vehicle into a gate.

Alonzo Grady of Crowd Pleasure Lounge on Cedar Hill Road, Leland, reported that the establishment was broken into between 4 p.m. Nov. 13 and 11 a.m. last Wednesday.

After prying a padlock off the front door to get inside, the perpetrator broke into coin-operated pool tables and removed approximately \$200-worth of quarters. Food items worth about \$10 also were taken.

**Other Break-Ins**  
Freeman E. Hewett of Route 3, Supply, told deputies that someone

stole property worth \$1,200 from his truck and a storage building at his residence on Mt. Pisgah Road. The break-ins happened Nov. 14 between 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. An assortment of tools were removed from the truck. A set of truck walking beams and a stereo were taken from the storage building.

In the same area, Homer L. Phelps Sr. of Route 3, Supply, reported that his mobile home near the intersection of Mt. Pisgah and Morgan roads was entered between 1:30 p.m. Nov. 12 and 9:30 a.m. Nov. 13. Theft loss and damage to a door were estimated at \$590. Items taken included an AM-FM radio-compact disc player and a Minolta camera.

James Cross of Route 1, Leland, told the sheriff's department that property worth \$825 was stolen from a barn beside his house on U.S. 74-76. The items were a Homelite generator and pair of leather riding chaps. The break-in happened between 8:30 p.m. Nov. 13 and 7 a.m. Nov. 14.

Two neighbors on Route 1, Leland, reported break-ins at their mobile homes, with both incidents reportedly occurring around Nov. 14 between 7:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. David W. Stowell said \$75 in cash was taken from his residence while he was away for about 30 minutes. James Earl Flowers said a .308-caliber Mauser rifle was stolen from the bedroom of his home while he was visiting Stowell.

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## South Carolina Ready For Annual Christmas Regatta

Boats decorated for the holiday season will light up the inland waterway in South Carolina this Saturday at the fifth annual Intracoastal Waterway Regatta.

Ushering in the Christmas season in a colorful array of lights and decorations, the parade of boats will begin its journey at 4:30 p.m. at Tilghman's Point in Little River and travel south on the waterway. The parade will end at Vereen's Marina in North Myrtle Beach with the lead boat expected to arrive at about 7 p.m.

Boats of various shapes and sizes are expected to take part in the annual holiday event. All of them—from the small power boats to elaborate sailing vessels and yachts—will be transformed into holiday magic with twinkling lights, music and special effects, a news release indicated.

Viewing areas for the parade include the Little River docks, Palmetto Shores Marina, Harbour Gate Marina, Vereen's Marina, North Myrtle Beach Marina and all waterfront restaurants located along the six-mile route. Also, larger commercial boats will be taking passengers, allowing them to become active participants in the parade.

Awards for decorations will be presented to boat captains in five different categories: Best Decorated Sailboat; Best Decorated Power Boat (under 27 feet); Best Decorated Power Boat (27-50 feet); Best Decorated Power Boat (over 50 feet); and Best Decorated Pontoon/Houseboat.

Winners will be announced and trophies will given out Sunday at the awards ceremony at Myrtle Beach Yacht Club. Captains of all competing boats will have an opportunity to win a free vacation to the Bahamas in a fish bowl drawing. The parade entry fee is \$25 for all boats.

The annual regatta is a non-profit event, and all proceeds this year will go to the Horry County Chapter of the American Red Cross to assist victims of Hurricane Hugo. The event is free to the public, but Red Cross volunteers stationed at various spectator sites will be asking for contributions.

To enter a boat in the regatta or for more information, call Palmetto

Shores Marina at (803)249-4131 or (803)249-6300.

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If you have ever experienced double vision when you were tired, after taking medication, or after drinking too much, you know how disturbing it can be. Sudden double vision without any apparent cause is very frightening. Regardless of the cause, it indicates that the two eyes are not pointing in the same direction.

In the cases of fatigue or drugs (including alcohol), there is interference with the brain's ability to control and coordinate the muscles. Normally, the symptom will disappear as soon as the cause is alleviated, i.e. rest, cessation or drug intake.

A more serious matter is double vision which occurs suddenly and is present at all times. A possible cause could be a small stroke, hemorrhage, or brain tumor. In most instances, appropriate medical treatment will gradually restore normal vision. If you experience a sudden onset of double vision consult your eyecare practitioner at once.

In the interest of better vision from the office of:  
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