

County May Seek Contract For Its Recycling Program

BY TERRY POPE

County commissioners appear close to accepting a deal that would contract the county's recycling program out to a private firm.

At a workshop Friday, County Engineer Robert Tucker told the board that Waste Industries of Wilmington is willing to maintain drop sites for recyclable aluminum, paper, plastic and glass for a monthly fee of \$426 per site.

The board agreed to study the proposal more carefully. They also voted to pull \$1,200 from contractual services to help pay for hauling off recyclable materials at six sites in the county where trailers are presently provided by Bush's Recycling of Florence, S.C.

The six trailer sites are operated mostly by volunteer groups. Southport and Long Beach do provide manpower while sites at Carolina Shores, Sunset Beach, Holden Beach and Boiling Spring Lakes are operated by volunteers only.

Last week George Bush, owner of the recycling company, asked commissioners to supplement his program by \$200 per trailer to help defray the cost of hauling materials to Florence. Bush provides the trailers, which are parked on town property, at no cost providing he is able to recover \$150 from the sale of materials to cover the hauling fees.

Interim County Manager David Clegg will allocate the \$1,200 as needed to continue the recycling program now in place until a decision is made on the Waste Industries proposal. At Friday's meeting, an employee from Chambers of South Carolina, a solid waste disposal company, attended but chose not to address the

board. Chambers has a contract with the town of Sunset Beach for its garbage disposal service. The company's proposal to provide curbside service to collect recyclable goods was turned down by the town.

Commissioners have agreed to study a long-term plan rather than continue to supplement Bush's program. By 1993, counties must be recycling 25 percent of their solid waste, as mandated by the state, in an effort to reduce the amount of material arriving at landfills. Approximately 55,000 tons of garbage are dumped into the Brunswick County landfill each year, Tucker said.

By July 1, 1991, the county must have a recycling program in operation.

Tucker said the proposal from Waste Industries was originally more than \$1,000 per site. He said the company is asking the county to sign a three-year contract with the monthly \$426 per site fee guaranteed for the first year, but negotiable at the end of each following year.

He has recommended that the county establish recycling centers at nine locations in the county: one on N.C. 904 at Seaside; at the county landfill; at the Oxpen Convenience Center; on N.C. 211 between Midway Road and Supply; at the county government complex in Bolivia; at Longwood; and one each at the three solid waste transfer stations at Ocean Isle, Leland and Southport.

The board also established a committee to examine how the volunteer groups active at the recycling stations now in place could work with the county in getting materials to the nine drop sites. Commissioner

Keily Holden will head that group along with representatives from Sunset Beach, Long Beach, Southport, Carolina Shores, Boiling Spring Lakes and Holden Beach.

Each drop site would cost the county \$5,112 per year. For nine sites, as recommended by Tucker, the county would spend \$46,008 per year. Waste Industries would provide separate boxes at each site for paper, glass and plastic. The cost will be the same per month regardless of how often the boxes need to be emptied, Tucker said.

"A great number of communities have gone to this same system," Tucker said. "If we set up sites at those locations, we might be able to provide longer hours of service and get a higher volume of materials."

Not counting the hours that volunteers work, the recycling trailers now provided by Bush's Recycling is costing some towns more than it would like to spend. Carolina Shores estimates it has lost \$340 this year.

Charles Derrick of Long Beach says the program there has gone in the hole \$1,829 since July. Some of the cost was due to site improvements.

"It does cost money to recycle," he told the board.

Commissioners agreed to allocate enough money to pay Bush \$200 per trailer to keep the recycling program alive. If a contract with Waste Industries is accepted, it would take the company four to six weeks to implement the program, Tucker said.

Under the present program with Bush, a trailer fills every two or three weeks at a cost of \$350 each for hauling. Volunteers operate the trailers for certain hours each week. Under the Waste Industries proposal, the

drop sites would be open 24 hours a day.

Building Plans

Commissioners also met with Michael Rhodes, health director, Friday to discuss how much additional room his department will need when the Department of Social Services moves to its new building at the government complex.

Rhodes told the board the environmental health division could use double the square footage it now has. Although completion of the new building is six months away, commissioners are trying to decide now which departments will get the extra space created when social services moves. The building must first be renovated.

Clegg told the board he hopes the building can house all of the human services departments. Public housing should be in that building rather than in the planning department building, he said.

The board also viewed blueprints of the new emergency services and 911 building that will be built in front of the government complex. Commissioners did reach a consensus that of the three sites originally chosen the tract closest to U.S. 17 in front of the complex is best suited.

The estimated \$1.1 million building will contain 16,000 square feet of space for the 911 communications center and will also serve as a training center for emergency personnel.

Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan will meet with architects Pierson and Whitman to finalize the blueprints before presenting them to commissioners.



MARY MCKINNEY of Roanoke Rapids looks on as her daughter, Libby Mckinney of Kernersville, registers for The Big Sweep at Holden Beach. They planned to clean up the beach at Campground By The Sea.

Big Sweep Helps Clean Up Beaches

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the bridge, but some people were told to meet at the fishing pier at 9 a.m.

"It really messed us up on some of our volunteers," Mrs. Vasco said. "But there are glitches with everything. We tried to do the best we could under the circumstances."

Like people at the other local beaches, she said helpers at Holden Beach picked up a lot of cigarette butts. Volunteers also found a lot of plastic foam cups on the strand.

The local beaches weren't the only places where volunteers found lots of cigarette butts Saturday, according to Kathy Hart of UNC Sea Grant, one of the sponsors of The Big Sweep.

People picked up about 10,000 cigarette butts at one site on Emerald Isle, she said. The plastic filters inside cigarettes were a popular find across North Carolina.

Statewide, nearly 10,000 volunteers picked up 163 tons of trash at 160 coastal and inland sites. The number of volunteers was three times the number who helped out last year, and they picked up twice as much litter as they did in 1989.

Based on what was found and recorded Saturday, Ms. Hart said the biggest litterers appear to be people who use the beaches, lakes

and rivers the most.

The state's beaches were littered with a lot of plastics, including bottles, wrappers and foam pieces.

A lot of fishing bait bags and bottles were found along the inland lakes and streams, pointing the finger at boaters and recreational fishermen as the culprits.

Despite the tremendous amount of trash found on the shorelines Saturday, Ms. Hart said some veteran coordinators are starting to see improvement in the appearance of the areas being cleaned.

"They feel like we've made an impact in some areas," Ms. Hart said. "We're seeing fewer plastic bottles and aluminum cans than we did a couple years ago. But we're still seeing a lot of things like cigarette butts. We still have a long way to go to educate all of the people about the dangers of littering."

Some of the more unusual finds across the state included an inflatable woman found in a creek in Forsyth County and a two-ton truck found in a nearby lake.

Other items picked up Saturday included a bottle of pickled pig brains, a pay phone and a 43-year-old Orange Crush bottle. An airline boarding pass from Pakistan was found at Wrightsville Beach, Ms. Hart said.



JEANNINE GRISSOM-STEGALL was among a group of eight people from Raleigh who helped pick up litter at Ocean Isle Beach.

County Finds Errors On Census

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The letter also reveals that a resident near Calabash who served as an enumerator was stopped before she had completed her work.

Kathy Pope worked on the census for over a year and at the first of June, at least a month before she was through with the enumerations, she was stopped by the Census Bureau.

"She is of the opinion a significant number of people did not get counted because of that," the letter states.

Harvey said his department had to compare the census tract maps with the county's 1989 field checks to find the errors. The block bordered by Pisgah Road and Turnpike Road just off of Stone Chimney Road showed no housing units whereas the county's field check of 1989 showed 30 homes within this

area. "We have field checked that again this week and our figure is correct," Harvey wrote.

The Brunswick Cove Nursing Home on N.C. 133 near Leland was also left off of the group quarters population counts. The home opened in April 1990.

"By May 1, 1990, 77 of the 80 beds were occupied," Harvey wrote. "Today there is full occupancy and they plan to open another 60 beds on January 1, 1991."

The county expects responses to be filed to the census bureau from the towns of Bald Head Island, Shallotte, Southport, Bolivia and Navassa. The population and number of housing units reported in both Bolivia and Navassa dropped, according to the census. Southport believes its population count is off by about 1,600.

Oyster Season Opens Oct. 15

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as gas for vehicles and boats.

"I am for a limit. I've been for a limit for 20 years," said Carson Varnam, who runs an oyster house in Varnamtown. "Personally, I feel like seven bushels would be a figure I would agree on."

Alex Kuigre of Varnamtown said it takes a bushel of oysters or more just to cover expenses. He supported a seven-bushel limit per person and 21-bushel limit per boat.

Rodney Williams of Shallotte Point, who has been gathering oysters for 35 years, said he thought five bushels per person was plenty, based on a price of \$25 per bushel.

But several other fishermen said they only got \$17 per bushel last oyster season and expected the same price this season.

The daily harvest limit wasn't the only thing on the minds of local shell fishermen last week.

Several people asked if the three-inch minimum size on oys-

ters could be lowered in some cases so they could harvest smaller oysters that are turned over and killed by people digging for clams.

Mike Marshall, fisheries development chief for Marine Fisheries, said the state might change its rules to give the fisheries director the power to set size limits for oysters. That way, undersized oysters disturbed by clambers could be harvested instead of being wasted.

Local fishermen also asked that commercial fishing licenses be required for anyone harvesting oysters. They said the cost should be high—\$200 or more—so recreational fishermen don't take all of the oysters.

Responding to another complaint, Hogarth said the state's Shellfish Sanitation branch, which recommends when to close and open shellfish waters, should be more responsive this year when it comes to opening waters. He said the department has six new employees.

Holden Cop Found Guilty Of Assault, Trespassing

A Holden Beach police officer was found guilty of simple assault and second-degree trespassing in Brunswick County District Court Tuesday.

Patrolman Gary Dancy was found guilty of the two charges, which were filed in early August following an incident involving another town employee, Building Inspector Dwight Carroll.

Dancy pleaded innocent to both charges in district court Tuesday. Judge William C. Gore Jr. found him guilty on both counts, according to the clerk of court's office.

Gore sentenced the police officer to 30 days in Brunswick County Jail, which was suspended for one year, and one year of unsupervised probation.

Under the conditions of the sentence, Dancy is not allowed to assault, harass, molest or make any communicating threats to Carroll or his wife for 12 months. Dancy also is not allowed to go on or about Carroll's property without authorized permission or a search warrant.

The sentence also requires Dancy to attend Brunswick County Mental Health to see if he is mentally able to possess or use a firearm. Dancy has worked for the Holden Beach Police Department since July 1987.

The charges have been consolidated and the case was appealed to

Brunswick County Superior Court, according to the clerk's office.

Dancy was charged following an Aug. 2 incident involving Carroll, who later took out a warrant for Dancy's arrest. The building inspector said in an earlier interview that the incident occurred around 3 a.m. at his home on Holden Beach.

He had just returned from a store where he went to purchase a soft drink and pulled his car into his garage. Carroll said he closed the automatic garage door and when he got out of the car, Dancy was standing in the garage.

Carroll said the officer was dressed in uniform, had a hand on his gun and did not have a search warrant. He said he asked Dancy to leave several times, but he stayed in the garage for about 20 minutes.

At one point, Carroll said, Dancy tried to hit him in the head with a clenched fist, but he ducked and took the blow on the shoulder.

Dancy declined to comment on the incident at the time and said he wouldn't talk about it until it was settled in court.

Earlier this year, Dancy was suspended without pay from the police force for one week after he was involved in a car accident that occurred while he was on duty. The suspension was later rescinded and the officer was given his back pay.

Cool Weather Is Expected

The South Brunswick Islands should enjoy pleasant weather over the next few days with temperatures and rainfall expected to be below normal, according to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

The outlook is for temperatures to range from around 60 degrees at night to 80 degrees during the day, with less than half an inch of rain.

For the period Sept. 18-24, Canady measured 2/10 of an inch of

rain. The temperature during the seven-day period ranged from a maximum high of 89 degrees Sept. 22 to a minimum low of 49 degrees Sept. 24.

Canady said the average daily high was 82 degrees and the average nightly low was 61 degrees. The average temperature during the period was 71 degrees, which is about normal for this time of year.

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