

Holden Beach Officials Like Drug Testing Plan

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach Commissioners say they like the idea of a town employee drug testing program, but they don't all agree on how it should be implemented.

A proposed ordinance that would require everyone who applies for a job with the town to take a drug test as part of their pre-employment physical was discussed at a board workshop Monday.

Under the proposal, current employees also could be tested for drug use if the town manager has evidence they are impaired or incapable of performing their assigned duties.

Town Manager Blake Proctor, who drafted the ordinance, said it's designed for the safety of island residents and visitors as well as town employees.

"People don't realize how prevalent it is," he said of drug abuse. "It could be your neighbor."

Commissioners Gloria Barrett and Judy Bryan said they like the proposed drug testing program. The ordinance is six pages long and covers procedures for administering drug tests, processing urine samples and taking personnel action based on the test results.

Mrs. Barrett said the town could have used the ordinance about 10 years ago when a group of Holden Beach area residents, including a town police officer, were convicted of drug trafficking.

"It was a tough problem we had. The DEA couldn't even handle it," Mayor John Tandy said. "The FBI came in and finally got it straightened out."

Commissioner Bob Buck said he agrees with the intent of the ordinance, but said it is too redundant and goes into too much detail on how drug tests should be administered.

However, Proctor said the federal courts require that a specific process be followed when giving a drug test. "These procedures have been court tested and they've held up in court," he said.

Mayor Tandy said he didn't like the fact that the ordinance requires that another person be in the room with the employee or applicant when they give a urine sample.

"It's getting personal is what it is," Tandy said. "I tell you we can do a drug program without that."

Proctor said there has to be a witness when a urine sample is given to keep people from cheating on the drug test. He said the sample could be given in a physician's office or at the hospital.

Commissioner Gay Atkins said she wants a drug-free community and doesn't object to a drug testing program. But she pointed out that the town has only 15 employees. Ms. Atkins said supervisors should be able to tell if their workers are using drugs without having them tested.

Holden Beach officials plan to resume discussion of the proposed drug testing program at their Dec. 3 meeting.

Beach Board May Raise Speed Limits

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach officials are strongly considering raising the speed limit on all town-owned streets from 20 mph to 25 mph.

All four town board members who attended a Monday morning workshop said they favor increasing the speed limit as long as the new limit was enforced. Commissioner Kenner Amos was absent due to health reasons.

The proposed changes would affect every street on Holden Beach except the island's main thoroughfare, Ocean Boulevard, which is a state road.

The speed limit on that road would stay at 35 mph, except for the section of Ocean Boulevard west of the fishing pier where motorists can drive 45 mph in the off-season.

Commissioner Bob Buck said Monday morning he would have made a motion to increase the speed limits if he could have. Since it was a workshop, however, the board was not allowed to take any formal action.

Buck said increasing the speed limit to 25 mph is fine with him as long as the police department enforces it. Board members Judy Bryan, Gloria Barrett and Gay Atkins agreed.

However, at least one island resident opposes increasing the speed limit. Crawford Hart said he and most other Brunswick Avenue property owners want to keep the limit at 20 mph and want police officers to enforce it with radar. "They go up and down that street 50 and 60 miles an hour," Hart said.

Town Manager Blake Proctor said he's observed traffic on Brunswick Avenue and has never seen a car drive faster than 35 mph. He noted that policemen have issued 15 speeding tickets in the last two weeks on Brunswick Avenue.

Hart said most island landowners indicated in a recent survey that they like Holden Beach for its family atmosphere. "If it's going to be a family beach, you don't need to be in that big of a hurry to get from

point one to point two," he said.

Commissioner Barrett pointed out there are some island residents who aren't retired and need to get around in a hurry.

In a related matter, Buck said he thinks the town board should instruct police officers to issue warning tickets in marginal speeding cases and be more lenient with summer visitors.

Warning tickets would be good public relations for the town, he said, and serve the same purpose as a real ticket. "We're not in the business to make money," Buck said.

Hart said issuing warning tickets would give the town a good reputation among speeders and encourage more people to drive fast. He said Holden Beach already has too many ordinances that aren't enforced.

The proposed change in speed limits and a discussion on warning tickets will be included on the town board's Dec. 3 meeting agenda.

Other items to be taken up at that time will include the following:

■ An outside light ordinance that was adopted in November 1989 and took effect this month. Commissioners Buck and Barrett said Monday that a clause in the ordinance that prohibits homeowners from installing security lights more than 10 feet off the ground is too restrictive.

■ A proposed ordinance aimed at protecting threatened and endangered sea turtles that nest on the beach from sources of artificial light. Commissioners said they agree with the intent of the ordinance, but the proposal given to them by the town manager was too restrictive.

■ A formal request from the developers of Yacht Watch subdivision to get Roger Street paved between Brunswick Avenue and the inland waterway without following the town's usual assessment process. The town usually pays for 40 percent of the street paving cost and assesses lot owners to collect the remaining 60 percent. The developers have agreed to pay the entire 60 percent to get the work done quickly.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

SHALLOTTE POLICE CHIEF Rodney Gause (left) and officer Ray Altizer display awards earned by Gause and the department for crime prevention efforts during 1989.

Shallotte Police Receive Two Crime Prevention Awards

Shallotte Police Department and its chief, Rodney Gause, recently earned recognition from the state for outstanding crime prevention efforts during 1989.

Gause said the awards were presented Nov. 15 by the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety and the Office of the Governor at a banquet held at Kill Devil Hills for award recipients.

Shallotte Police Department was one of only 14 departments statewide honored.

Gause has served as the department's crime prevention specialist for the past two years. However, effective Dec. 1, Patrolman Ray Altizer will assume that responsibility. Altizer has been with the department nearly three years.

In discussing the award, Gause said that increased surveillance and increased visibility of officers as well as educational efforts have been important aspects of the department's overall crime prevention program.

Members of the department present programs to local school and community groups and businesses on various aspects of crime prevention. Topics include seat belt use, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, reducing employee theft, alarm systems, and identifying forgeries.

The department also conducts on-site surveys of individual business premises to pinpoint steps that can be taken to reduce crime.

Talks or surveys can be arranged by contacting the department at 754-6008.



PHOTO BY EMMA MCGRAW

Adventure Bound

Paul Wood of Ocean Isle Beach recently went rock climbing at the Wilson Creek Wilderness Area near Linville with the Adventure Bound program sponsored by the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department. Rock climbing is just one event the department sponsors through its Adventure Bound program. Other outdoor events include canoeing, horseback riding, downhill skiing, hiking and camping. County residents must be 21 or older to participate. For more information contact the department.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES UNDER ONE ROOF

FLORIDA ROOM

POWER WASH

VINYL SIDING

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

COLONIAL WINDOW & SIDING CO.
OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED

USA WATTS 800-344-3064 Traders Lane Calabash
Local 919-579-6712

Over 30 Years Experience FREE ESTIMATES

2 FOR 1 SPECIAL
BUY ANY FROZEN YOGURT PRODUCT AND GET ONE FREE WITH COUPON!
Cannot be used in conjunction with any other special. ONE COUPON PER ITEM PURCHASED.

Market Express

Corner Hwy. 130 and US Hwy. 17 - Shallotte, North Carolina
Open 24 Hours, 7 Days Also Good At EXPRESS STOP LOCATIONS
Corner Old Hwy. 9 and New Hwy. 9, Ft. Myrtle Beach, SC - Corner Hwy. 133 and Yaupon Drive, Yaupon Beach, NC

Holiday help is a phone call away

We'll fill your job opening fast. Koala-T now offers qualified temporary employment services for clericals, receptionists, and secretarial positions.
"Let us solve your personnel problems"

Koala-T
Business Service
754-5858
Brunswick Square Village
Hwy. 17 S., Shallotte

Free Delivery 457-6613

DISCOUNT FURNITURE WAREHOUSE
OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY, INC.
On Long Beach Rd. In Southport

Your Home Christmas Store

Give your favorite Santa a rest... on a comfortable new recliner
(swivels and rockers, too!)

Stylecraft by Klaussner
5-yr. warranty

Priced \$189⁹⁵ to \$429⁹⁵

100% Financing • Open Mon.-Sat. 10-6
★ **FREE DELIVERY** ★

Relaxing, Affordable...

Down East Spas

...by Fort Wayne Pools

Make Your Spa A Party!
Use: Bio Guard Spa Guard Products
Chlorine Concentrate-Water Clarifier-PH Balancers

PROFESSIONAL POOL MAINTENANCE
Hwy. 179, Island Village Specialty Shops, Ocean Isle Beach, Behind IGA
579-8828 OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY
Daily Maintenance
Chemicals-Accessorles & Equipment