

Commissioners Want Disposal Sites Cleaned Up By County

BY TERRY POPE

The signs say "household trash only," but everything from washing machines to old sleeper sofas are often dumped both inside and outside the county's green boxes at waste disposal sites. Trash blown from the opened lids and bags thrown errantly by residents clutter the ground.

Brunswick County Commissioners would like for the county to clean up its act at the disposal stations and have given the landfill department 30 days to do so.

Commissioners and the county manager will inspect the public green box sites next month, said Commission Chairman Kelly Holden.

The get tough on trash statement came at the end of the commissioners' regular meeting Monday night. Holden spent the morning taking photographs at green box sites throughout Brunswick County. He had those developed and showed them to other board members.

Solid Waste Supervisor Leo Hewett was instructed to police up the surrounding access areas at each box site and to ask that "whoever is in charge of each site to work a little harder" at making the sites more appealing, Holden said.

Hewett said keeping the trash disposal sites attractive is a never-ending job. The site at Sea Trail has been set on fire on several occasions, he said.

"I have tried to get that cleaned up at least once a week," Hewett said. "You go back the next day and you can't even tell it was cleaned up."

Holden said the clean up effort is one step leading to the county's goal of perhaps providing recycling stations at the green box sites in the future.

"The more appealing these areas are," Holden said, "the better response to the recycling program we will get from the public."

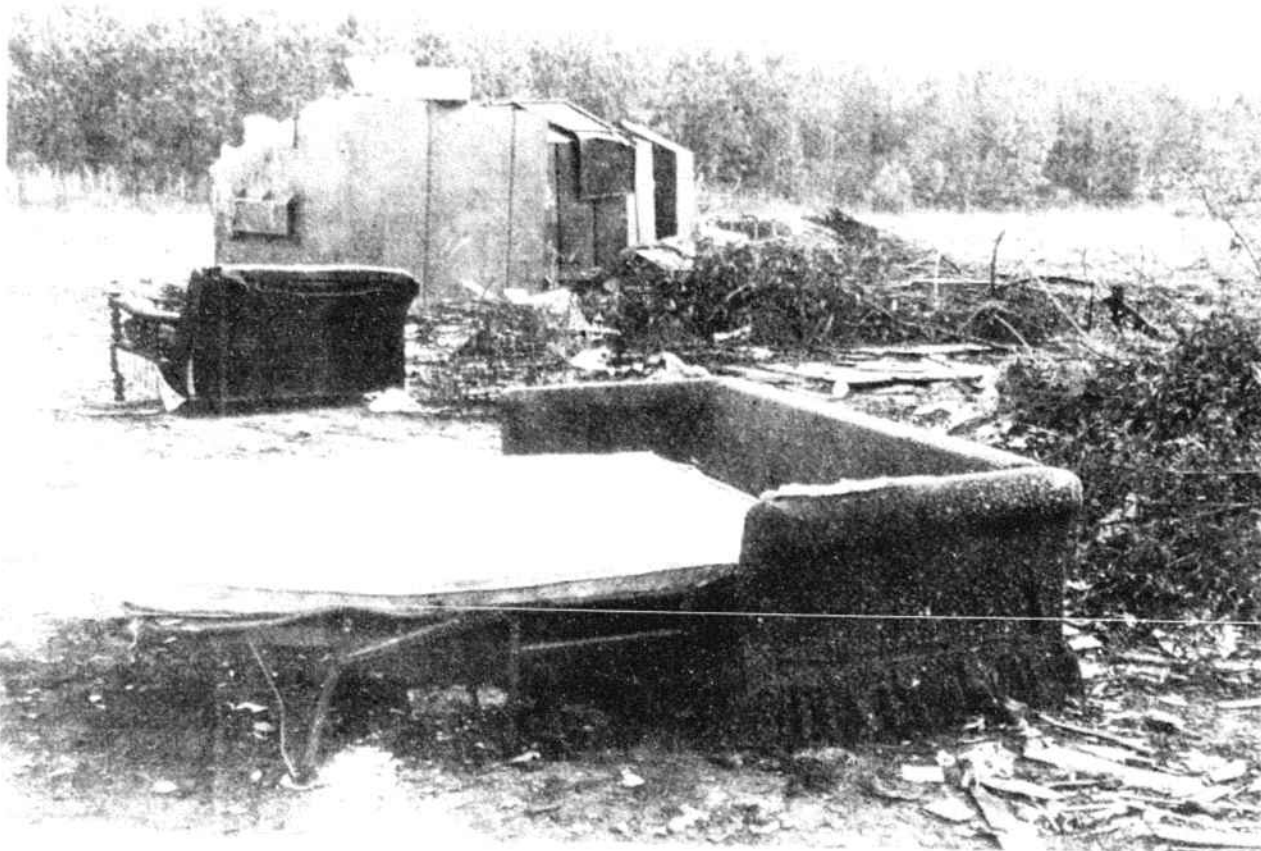
Holden said he noticed some similar green box sites in Columbus County that look better maintained than sites in Brunswick County, to which Commissioner Frankie Rabon objected. Rabon said he realizes how difficult it is to keep the sites cleaned even after the debris is picked up.

Holden said he visits the Sea Trail site once or twice a week. The garbage there has gone out into the woods, he said, pointing to a photograph.

"The picture you got there was probably taken prior to the clean up," Hewett said.

Holden said there is a lot of old garbage lying around the access area that has never been picked up by the landfill employees.

"You can tell old garbage from new garbage," Holden replied.



STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

BEDS, COUCHES AND OTHER debris litter the Brunswick County waste disposal green box site at Winnabow. Commissioners have ordered the county landfill department to begin cleaning up its solid waste convenient stations.

The county has budgeted for a new green box site on N.C. 904 at Seaside to replace the one at Sea Trail.

"There's not very much I can do at Sea Trail," Hewett said. "The last fire there destroyed a good portion of it."

The dumpsters and surrounding restraining fence have been damaged by fires, believed to have been set by vandals.

In other business Monday, commissioners:

■ Agreed, on a 4-1 vote, to reclassify a computer analysis programmer's position so the salary can be raised high enough to attract qualified applicants. Interim County Manager David Clegg said the salary will be raised from \$26,473 to \$37,354 per year. The county received 27 applicants for the advertised position, but only a few of those have received the necessary training for the job. The qualified persons are not willing to give up higher paying jobs, he said. The county is in the midst of a \$300,000 computer system overhaul, Clegg said. Rabon voted against the move.

■ Appointed to the Utility Operations Board, with the commissioner nominating the person in parenthesis: Charlie Long (Donald Shaw); Rudy Simmons (Jerry Jones); D.V. Jones (Shaw); and Al Morrison (Holden). Simmons, Jones and Morrison are being reappointed.

■ Appointed David Pridgen of Sunset Beach to the Brunswick Hospital Authority board to replace Pauline Morgan. Jones made the nomination.

■ Appointed Pat Nutter, a nurse at The Brunswick Hospital in Supply, to the Brunswick County Health Board on Holden's nomination.

■ Amended the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council's resolution to allow the appointment of a fire service and law enforcement officer to the board.

■ Approved a transfer of \$107,700 in Emergency Management funds to the Emergency Medical Services now that the EMS department has officially formed.

■ Adopted a resolution in support of the Southport Maritime Museum, as requested by John Thompson of the Southport Economic Development Commission.

Drug Trafficking Nets Area Man 10-Year Term

BY TERRY POPE

A Charlotte man who cooperated with authorities following his arrest on drug trafficking charges last year received a 10-year sentence in Brunswick County Superior Court last week.

LayFayette Hewett, 31, of Route 3, Charlotte (Cedar Grove Road), was given immediate work release and credited for time already served while awaiting trial. Hewett pleaded guilty on June 12 to conspiracy to traffic in more than 28 grams but less than 200 grams of cocaine into Brunswick County and two counts of possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine.

At that time, he was given a prayer for judgment continued under a plea arrangement with the District Attorney's office. In a special session of Superior Court last week, Judge Lynn Johnson consolidated the charges for sentencing. Hewett faced a possible maximum sentence of 35 years in prison.

He was charged by undercover narcotics officers who were working for the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department and the Ocean Isle Beach Police Department. According to the warrants, the arrest stemmed from purchases of various amounts of cocaine from the suspect on three occasions last year, April 3, June 21 and August 22.

In another drug trial last week, a Columbus County man was given a suspended sentence after pleading guilty to selling cocaine.

Richard Wayne Green, 22, was given a three-year suspended sentence and placed on five years' supervised probation. During his arrest by county undercover officers in June, Green listed a Route 7, Douglas, Ga., address. He had recently been staying in Columbus County.

Judge Johnson fined Green \$250

and ordered that he pay \$100 to the SBI undercover lab and \$450 to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department narcotics division. He was also ordered to perform 200 hours of community service within 12 months.

Green pleaded guilty to selling cocaine in court on Sept. 17. He had been held since his arrest in June under \$25,000 bond, which was reduced following his plea to \$5,000.

According to court documents, Green was charged for an alleged sale of cocaine to undercover officers on April 23, 1989.

In another Superior Court case last week, a motion to set bond for a North Myrtle Beach, S.C., man charged with cocaine trafficking was denied by Judge Johnson.

Jerry L. High had entered a guilty plea on Oct. 16 to one count of conspiracy to traffic in more than 400 grams of cocaine and one count of possession of more than 400 grams of cocaine in a plea arrangement with the District Attorney's office.

However, Superior Court Judge Giles R. Clark later refused to accept the transcript of plea, said Courtroom Clerk Lisa Aycock. In the transcript, High had indicated that he was not guilty of the charges. The case will now go to trial instead.

High was indicted in June 1989 on two counts of conspiracy to traffic and three counts of trafficking cocaine stemming from two undercover operations, one in December 1987 and another in January 1988. He had previously been given a 13-year prison sentence in 1984 in connection with the "U-Haul" smuggling case in Brunswick County dating to the early 1980s.

By mistake, High appeared on the Superior Court docket last week for sentencing. The next session of Superior Court is Jan. 14.

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