

# County Works Tight Schedule To Meet January 911 Deadline

BY TERRY POPE

County officials have mapped out a schedule for the 911 program set to begin next Jan. 1, a deadline that has some people worried.

It will take eight months to build the emergency medical services and 911 communications building, yet the county is still waiting on the state to approve the architect's designs.

"It's going to be a tight schedule," said Doug Ledgett, supervisor of Brunswick County's Emergency Medical Services. "You can find December on the map and count back eight months and realize that."

Ledgett said Southern Bell, the installer of the 911 telecommunications equipment, is hoping to have it operational by Jan. 1. Tests will then be conducted on telephone lines until a switchover date of Jan. 16, when the system will be placed fully into

the hands of county personnel.

Peirson and Whitman Inc. of Raleigh was hired to design the new building. Plans are to finish the 911 portion of the building first before completing interior work on the training center and emergency vehicle garage. It will be built at the front of the government complex in Bolivia.

Last Wednesday, the Brunswick County Planning Board set the ball rolling toward meeting that deadline by adopting a list of road and street names for every passable corridor in the county. County commissioners will have a first reading of the street naming ordinance at their March 4 meeting.

Commissioners are expected to hold a public hearing on the ordinance March 18, at which time they may vote to adopt the project that the planning department has worked steadily on since last January. The N.C. Department of Transportation will

likely approve the name changes in mid-April.

"Since we have about 60 Pine Streets, part of this project was to narrow that down to only one per postal zone," said Planning Director John Harvey. "If there are at least three housing units served by one corridor, we've given it a name."

Having duplicate street names in the same postal zone would disrupt what the 911 system is designed to do, send emergency help to a specific location as quickly as possible. Help will be sent based on the address that appears on the dispatcher's screen, information that will automatically appear when a 911 call is made.

Harvey said a good example of why some street names needed changing can be found in the Leland area where three roads, all within an eight-mile radius, had the name Old Mill Road. Two of those streets

had to be renamed.

Harvey told the planning board last week that because of the tight schedule, action was needed immediately on the street changes. He said a contract the county signed Jan. 22, 1990, mandated that the county have street names, house numbers and road signs in place within two years.

Residents will start to notice the changes in June, when the first street signs arrive from DOT and are put in place. Commissioners must adopt two ordinances along the way, one requiring all home owners to place numbers on their houses. The largest address any home is likely to have will be a number in the 10,000 range, Harvey said.

By July 15, the county will notify all residents of their new addresses, stating that they will have 60 days to make address changes on their mail. The post office will

follow up with a letter by Sept. 15, stating that no more mail bearing the old addresses will be delivered.

A part of the program to provide full-time emergency services to respond to 911 calls, the county will hire six emergency medical technicians next month from a pool of more than 100 applications received, said Ledgett.

The county stopped taking applications last Wednesday for the positions.

"We've had a lot of interest and a lot of qualified people apply," Ledgett said.

The six EMTs will be hired to work in pairs while stationed on a rotating schedule at rescue squad buildings in the county. More EMTs will be hired later.

The goal is to provide qualified rescue personnel at each area of the county to respond quickly to emergency calls when most volunteers are on their jobs during the day.

# Developer Drops Plan To Sell Lots

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to provide access to an additional 13 lots there. When the plat appeared before the board, the 13 lots lying over the dumpsite were said to be "for purposes other than residences."

When Stocks appeared before the board last month, he stated that the Wilmington West Land Co. had been reconsidering its plans for the proposed project. Stocks told board members that the company did not wish to subdivide the 13 lots over the landfill site at that time, but that it did want to leave a roadway open to the landfill area in case they decided to do something with the land at a future date.

Nancy Scott, with the state attorney general's office, told Harvey prior to that January planning board meeting that the state was strongly opposed to the developer's application to subdivide the landfill site. Her office, surprised by the project, began work on a report as a result of the proposed developing of lots over a hazardous landfill, in case a similar incident should arise in other areas of the state.

"To the state's knowledge," Harvey said, "it is the first that has ever been proposed."

**Extensive Landholdings**

Wilmington West Land Co., headed by J.B. Gerald of Wilmington, is also the developer of Jackey's Creek Plantation along N.C. 133 and U.S. 17 near Belville.

The company acquired the Leland landfill as part of its purchase of 1,688 acres from International Paper Co. on Nov. 15, 1988, according to a special warranty deed on file at the Brunswick County Register of Deeds office.

In January 1990, the planning board approved the construction of a connector road for the expansion of residential and industrial development from Lincoln Industrial Park on U.S. 17 near Belville to Lanvale Road.

According to information filed with the planning department, the development along this extended Lincoln Road is to be primarily residential. There have been engineering plans made for a sewer system which would serve this large tract along with Jackey's Creek and the town of

Belville. The company has filed for permits with the state for such a sewer system, according to minutes of that January 1990 planning board meeting.

The deed which records the company's land deal with International Paper does not indicate that part of the land purchased was a former hazardous waste landfill. Register of Deeds Robert J. Robinson said he had a member of his staff search the indexes at the office and could not find where the landfill had ever been closed.

The file was said to have been turned over to former Brunswick County Solid Waste Director Major White in January 1985, but Leo Hewett, who heads that department now, reported that he never inherited the file.

According to the state, the county's permit to operate the Leland landfill site was officially closed out in July 1984. Terry Dover, with the N.C. Division of Health Services, said the site stopped receiving solid waste in January 1980. The county had to apply additional earthen cover, control the surface water runoff and vegetate the site for a final inspection by a representative of the N.C. Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch on July 18, 1984, according to a state report forwarded to Harvey last month.

**Land Use Limited**

According to O.W. Strickland, head of the Solid and Hazardous Waste Management office, when a solid waste disposal site has been closed the owner of the land is responsible for future necessary maintenance and water quality monitoring.

County Engineer Robert Tucker said the final ground cover over an existing closed landfill cannot be disturbed, thus prohibiting the installation of public or private water and sewer to service any proposed lots over the landfill site.

Tucker outlined what he thought the planning board should do. He recommended that the board approve plans for lots 1-13 along Lanvale Road since a public water supply is available along that highway, serviced by the Leland Sanitary District lines. Tucker also suggested that the board allow the plat for the additional 13 lots on

the landfill be allowed with a statement recorded to indicate that it had once been a sanitary landfill.

"This would serve to make the potential purchaser aware," Tucker said.

Current state requirements for closing out landfill sites now mandate that a statement be recorded in the county registry indicating the past use of land as a landfill site, Tucker said.

"The purpose of this is to make the prospective future purchaser aware of his potential liability," stated Tucker.

County Soil Scientist Walter Marley conducted soil tests on the proposed between the Creeks subdivision and issued a report on his findings to the planning department Jan. 9.

Of the lots fronting Lanvale Road, three appear unsuitable for septic systems without some modification or filling of the lots, Marley reported. As for the lots located on the closed Leland landfill site, "These lots are unsuitable for development or any land-disturbing activity since the topsoil material serves as a cap for the landfill cells," Marley reported.

State code does regulate how lands over former landfills should be protected. Ikie Guyton, of the Solid Waste Management Section of the N.C. Division of Environmental Management office in Fayetteville, informed the planning board that state code mandates that the two feet of final earthen cover over a former landfill cannot be disturbed in any way, thus prohibiting the building of roadways and installation of drainage or water lines on the site.

Septic tanks would be prohibited from such a site, Guyton reported, because of likely leachate from drain lines.

It would be unlikely that an acceptable foundation plan would be approved under such restrictions, Tucker told the planning board. Foundations would have to penetrate the capping surface over a landfill or its natural liner, he added.

Said Stocks, "They (developers) were not aware of the regulations. We found it out and we withdrew that part of the project."

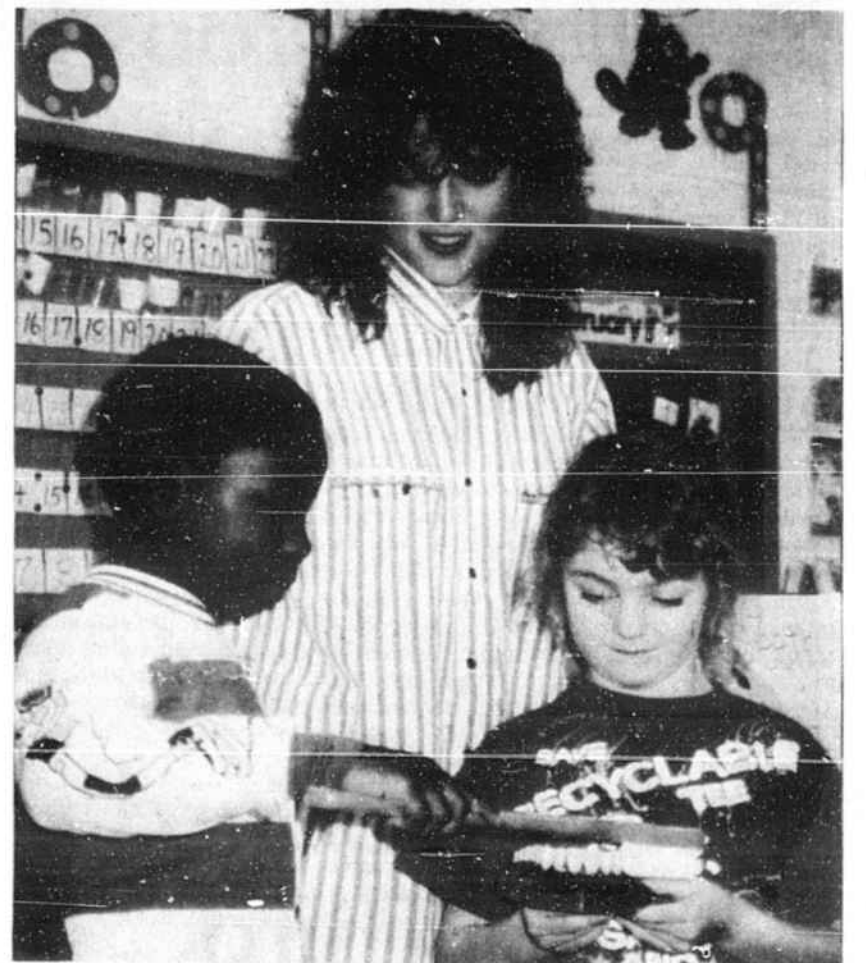


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## Brush Those Teeth Daily

Local dental assistant Joanna Holden (center) and helpers Andrew Hollins and Tina Hughes use an extra-large toothbrush and teeth to demonstrate proper brushing techniques. Ms. Holden stressed the importance of brushing daily to prevent cavities in a recent Dental Health Month talk to Bolivia Elementary School first graders, who are studying dental health practices.

# Holden Beach Policeman Resigns, Gets Back Pay

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was charged last August with simple assault and second-degree trespassing following an incident involving Holden Beach Building Inspector Dwight Carroll.

The men apparently confronted each other on the morning of Aug. 2, 1990, in the garage at Carroll's home on Holden Beach. Carroll later testified in court that the officer entered his garage without a search warrant and hit him in the shoulder. Dancy denied that he hit Carroll.

The policeman was suspended without pay from the police force after he was found guilty of assault and trespassing Sept. 25, 1990, in Brunswick County District Court.

Town commissioners voted to uphold the suspension following a closed-door grievance hearing Oct. 30, 1990. Blake Proctor, who was town manager at the time, suspend-

ed the policeman until the appeal could be heard in Brunswick County Superior Court.

Proctor said at the time that Dancy would be reinstated with full seniority and back pay if he were found innocent in superior court. He said the police officer would be fired if found guilty.

On Jan. 15, Dancy was found guilty of trespassing, and acquitted of assault. Proctor's guidelines hadn't provided for a split verdict.

Mayor Tandy said the town board agreed to give the officer his back pay as a compromise. "He wasn't found guilty on the whole thing," he said. "The verdict came down as sort of half and half."

Holden Beach Commissioners unanimously approved the terms of Dancy's resignation last Wednesday following a half-hour executive session called to discuss a personnel

matter.

Town Attorney Kenneth Campbell met with the town board during the closed session. He refused to discuss the personnel matter following the meeting, other than the action taken in open session.

Tandy said Dancy was not forced to resign. "He decided that it was in his own best interest," the mayor said.

In his letter of resignation, Dancy wrote that he would release any claims against the town regarding his employment status upon receipt of his back pay.

"I have enjoyed my association with the Town of Holden Beach and the experience that I have gained as a police officer with this town," Dancy wrote. "I wish the town and particularly the police department the greatest of continued success now and in the future."

Five lectures on groundwater quality will be presented on consecutive Tuesday nights beginning March 12, at 7 p.m., in the public assembly building at the Brunswick County government complex in Bolivia.

Groundwater is an important source of drinking water for more than half of the nation's population and nearly all of its rural population, said Milton Coleman, Brunswick County Agricultural Extension director.

"In recent years, widespread reports of bacteria, nitrate, synthetic organic chemicals and other pollutants in groundwater have increased public concern about the quality of groundwater," Coleman said.

To answer questions Brunswick County residents might have about groundwater quality, the lecture series is co-sponsored by the Agricultural Extension Service, the Brunswick County Health Department Environmental Health Section, Brunswick County Soil Conservation Service and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University.

The March 12 program, "Where Our Drinking Water Comes From," will be presented by Dr. Ron Huffman, assistant professor of the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at N.C. State.

On March 19, "Groundwater Quality—Legal Implications," will be presented by Milton Heath Jr., of the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill.

March 26, the topic "Pollutants in

## Program Covers Groundwater Quality With Five Lectures

## Normal Weather In Forecast

Shallotte area residents can expect temperatures over the next few days to range from the upper 30s at night to the upper 50s during the daytime, Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday.

Along with near-normal temperatures, the forecast calls for near-normal rainfall, about a half-inch, he said.

For the period Feb. 19-25, daily temperatures averaged 8 degrees above normal, he said.

Canady recorded a maximum high of 76 degrees on the 22nd and a low of 37 degrees on the 24th.

An average daily high of 64 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 50 degrees for an average daily temperature of 57 degrees, 8 degrees above normal for this time of year.

He recorded .98 inch of rainfall at his home at Shallotte Point.

## Third Straight Meeting Cancelled In Shallotte

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The board hasn't been able to authorize repairs to the police department roof, a project that was first discussed in December.

Police Chief Rodney Gause said at the time that the roof leaks in four different rooms, even though it has been patched five or six times in the last two or three years.

Aldermen also haven't been able to respond to a request from the fire department, which has asked the town to pay insurance on an old vehicle used for training and running errands.

A pair of tax releases and tax refunds have been on the agenda for the last three meetings, along with a discussion of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Aldermen first talked about giving their employees the extra vacation day in December, but postponed a decision until their Jan. 16 meeting, which was never held.

Shallotte employees worked when the holiday was celebrated Jan. 21, while county, state and federal employees had the day off. Other area municipalities do not give employees off for the King holiday.

A group that included Marcus Williams and Bunny Lauzon was scheduled to address the town board last week regarding a proposal for the town to help purchase the old Shallotte Presbyterian Church and turn it into a community center.

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