

LELAND HIRES FIRST POLICE CHIEF

McCarthy Sets Priorities For Department

BY TERRY POPE

Leland's first police chief said he spent 10 days working on an organizational plan for Leland's new police department before his interview with the town council last month.

John McCarthy, a 27-year veteran of the New York City Police Department, said he doesn't view his new job as a stepping stone to help further his career. He retired and moved to the Wilmington area in 1987.



MC CARTHY

"This is a job that's made for me," said McCarthy, who was hired on a 3-2 vote of the council last Thursday. He says crime prevention and formation of community watch groups will be among the fledgling department's top priorities.

He currently lectures at Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington and serves as a consultant for the Wilmington Police Department. In December, he hopes to have his lapsed police certification renewed.

McCarthy, 53, advanced with the New York police force from patrol officer to detective, sergeant, supervisor of detectives, lieutenant and acting captain in the internal affairs division.

From a list of 20 applicants, he was one of two people chosen to be interviewed in open session by the Leland Town Council July 18.

Also interviewed was Lt. Franklin Strickland of the Durham Police Department, who withdrew his name Aug. 4 after failing to get assurance from the council that the chosen candidate would receive an unanimous vote of the board, said Councilwoman Lynette Carlisle.

"We've been needing somebody for a long time," said Ms. Carlisle. "Mr. McCarthy brings us a tremendous amount of experience and knowledge, much more than we thought we could ever hope for when we first advertised the position."

Ms. Carlisle, Mayor Russell Baldwin and Councilman William Benton voted to hire McCarthy. Council members George Yates and Jane Gilbert voted no.

Yates said he believed neither candidate was the right person for Leland and that more candidates should have been interviewed.

In a statement to the council last Thursday, Yates said he was concerned about the "inconsistency" of some answers McCarthy gave during his interviews with the screening committee and council.

"I am troubled by the conclusion I reach when I try to understand the reason for the differences in those answers," said Yates.

McCarthy's lapse in certification and his lack of experience in a small town were also concerns Yates listed. The town should be "cautious and deliberate" in making the decision on whom to hire, he said.

"I feel now, as I felt last September, that we need to provide additional law enforcement to the citizens of the town of Leland," said Yates. "I do not, however, think it is wise for us to hire a police chief just for the sake of being able to say we have hired a police chief."

Ms. Gilbert said she was also concerned about McCarthy's lack of certification and inexperience with a small department but vowed to support him if selected.

McCarthy who was at work Monday as an unpaid volunteer, will officially start work Sept. 9, said Ms. Carlisle. His salary, ranging from \$21,051 to \$29,851, will be negotiated with the council.

Following are some comments McCarthy made during the council's interview:

On Becoming Chief: "I see this as an opportunity that's really a once in a lifetime opportunity for most people, to begin from scratch a police department that will be a model for other departments."

Unnecessary Force: "I would not tolerate it. I think any good officer feels exactly the same way."

Domestic Calls: Officers need to convince one side to temporarily leave the hostile environment, he said. "There are probably more police officers killed responding to domestic calls than to bank robberies. Going there and just quieting everyone down doesn't work."

Teen-age Crime: "It depends very much on the circumstances. We don't want to get these youths into the criminal justice system, if

we can avoid that. We try to resolve it at this level, or back at the home."

One-man Department: "For as long as it takes. You must be flexible; you must be adaptable. If the money's not out there, obviously, you can't spend it."

Small Department: "New York City is actually a number of smaller cities. Working precincts, it's almost like working in a small town. It's not so large and impersonal as it may seem. I honestly believe policing, is policing, is policing, no matter where it is."

Organization: "It'll probably take three months to get the department organized well enough to provide close to full-time service. It's going to take time."

New Officers: "One of the problems a small department faces is turnover, people that start their careers there with the intention of leaving. I'd want police officers out there discovering the problems before they surface."

Approach: "As soon as possible, if not the first day, I'd get out and about, to become visible in the community. The chief's position is going to call for something more than eight hours a day."

Priority: Crime prevention and community watch programs.

Community: "I was frequently called upon to organize new units to deal with problems. I organized a community council that met on a regular basis. The police chief plays an important part in making community watch active."



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Shallotte Receives Drug Tax

Shallotte Police Chief Rodney Gause (left) accepts a \$2,250 check from Chris Raines, director of the local N.C. Department of Revenue office. The check was the town's share of taxes paid on illegal drugs that were confiscated during an arrest six months ago. Gause said it was the third and largest check the town has received since the state drug tax law was passed in 1989.

No Harm Expected From Dredge

Dredging the Wilmington Harbor ocean bar channels and dumping the spoil off Bald Head Island won't significantly effect the quality of the human environment, according to an Army Corps of Engineers official.

Col. Walter S. Tulloch, district engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, reached a "finding of no significant impact," or FONSI, which means that an Environmental Impact Statement on the project not be prepared.

The Wilmington Harbor ocean bar channels are a series of channels or "reaches" at the mouth of the Cape Fear River. These include the Baldhead Shoal, Smith Island, Caswell-Southport, Southport and Battery Island channels. Authorized dimensions of the channels are 500 feet wide and 40 feet deep.

Approximately 840,000 cubic yards of dredged material are removed from these channels each year and disposed of in a 2.3 square nautical mile area about four miles southwest of Bald Head Island. The Corps plans to manage the site so that mounding does not pose a navigation problem.

The Corps' Wilmington district says report that it does not anticipate any effects on water quality, wetlands, threatened and endangered species or archaeological and historic resources as a result of the project.

This year, up to 320,000 cubic yards of material may be placed on

Dredging and ocean dumping are not expected to impact commercial or recreational fishing in the ocean or coastal and estuarine areas.

The project also isn't expected to affect navigation, marine resources or scientific study and research, according to the report released last week.

The dredging will be done by hydraulic pipeline dredge or bucket and barge dredge.

Board Sets Meetings

The Leland Sanitary District board meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Leland Sanitary District building, according to Janet R. Reed, office clerk.

All meetings are open to the public.

Calabash Break-Ins Land Ash Man In Jail

BY TERRY POPE

A string of break-ins that began last September has netted an Ash man 14 years in prison.

Darrell J. Cokeley, 23, of Route 1, was charged by Brunswick County sheriff's detectives with a number of break-ins in the Calabash area.

He pleaded guilty in Brunswick County Superior Court last week to eight counts of breaking and entering, six counts of larceny, six counts of possession of stolen goods, two counts of uttering and one count of forgery.

Judge B. Craig Ellis sentenced Cokeley to 10 years on the breaking and entering and possession charges, two years on the forgery and uttering charges and two years for a probation violation. The cases were consolidated for sentencing.

Cokeley was also ordered to pay the following amounts in restitution to the businesses that reported break-ins between Sept. 8 and Oct. 29: \$55 to Letino's Cafe; \$175 to Moore's Grocery; \$186 to Calabash Laundry Mat; \$1,050 to Derbster's Restaurant; \$718 to Tony's Pizza; and \$75 to Bill's Auto Center in Supply.

Judge Ellis also heard the following cases in Brunswick County Superior Court last week:

■ Thomas Pendleton Carr, 38, of Nun Street, Wilmington, pleaded

guilty to second-degree kidnapping, larceny of a firearm and armed robbery. Sentencing was continued to allow testimony against a co-defendant, James Wayne Smith, 48, of Wilmington.

They are accused of kidnapping a woman who was at work on a telephone cable on April 22 south of Shallotte, with taking her truck and a gun inside. Smith was indicted on the same charges plus a charge of first-degree sexual offense stemming from that same incident.

■ Keith Lee Fields, 22, of Route 5, Lumberton, pleaded guilty to felonious breaking and entering and larceny. He was sentenced to six years in prison, suspended for five years and placed on five years' intensive probation. He must serve 60 days in the Robeson County Jail with work release, perform 100 hours community service, submit to searches, pay a \$500 fine and court costs and testify truthfully against a co-defendant if requested by the state.

Fields was charged May 5, 1990, by Ocean Isle Beach Police Officer Jerry Bass following a break-in at a home on East 2nd Street.

■ Kenneth Goodman, 23, of Route 2, Bolivia, was found guilty by a jury of felonious larceny and was sentenced to five years in prison, credited for time served and, when eligible for work release, ordered to pay \$1,800 to D&J Mini Mart at

Winnabow plus attorney fees.

Goodman was accused of reaching behind a counter at the store in October 1990 and taking \$1,800 in cash.

■ Kenneth Elton Hooper, 31, of Route 1, Leland, pleaded guilty to felonious possession of a weapon of mass destruction and was sentenced to two years in prison, suspended for five years and placed on five years' intensive probation. He must also serve 90 days in the Brunswick County Jail with immediate work release beginning Aug. 8 at 8 p.m.

Hooper, who was charged Dec. 24, 1990, by Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Ken Messer, must perform 100 hours of community service, pay court cost and \$525 in attorney fees. The weapon, with an 11 7/8 inch-long barrel, is to be turned over to the sheriff's department to be destroyed.

■ Kenneth J. Beagle, 26, of Holden Beach, was found guilty by a jury of driving while impaired. He was

sentenced to 60 days in the Brunswick County Jail, suspended for two years, ordered to pay a \$100 fine and court cost, serve 24 hours community service within 60 days and attend alcohol driver's education classes. He was ordered to surrender his license and to not operate a motor vehicle for a year except for limited privileges.

■ Bryan Carpenter, 20, of Greensboro, pleaded guilty to driving 40 mph in a 35 mph zone and was fined \$5 plus court costs. He was charged Oct. 4, 1990, with exceeding a safe speed by Southport Police Officer R.T. Willis.

■ Earl Dean Dial, 50, of Sandpiper Drive, Shallotte, pleaded no contest to driving while his license was revoked and was sentenced to two years in prison, suspended for five years and placed on five years' supervised probation. He must pay a \$300 fine and court costs and not operate a motor vehicle in North Carolina until issued a valid license.

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Answers to your Questions about Anterior Uveitis

Q. What is anterior uveitis?
 A. Anterior uveitis is an inflammation of the middle layer of the eye, which includes the iris and adjacent tissue, known as the ciliary body.

Q. Is the disease serious?
 A. If untreated, anterior uveitis can lead to other eye problems and cause permanent damage. It usually responds well to treatment, however, there may be a tendency for the condition to recur.

Q. What causes anterior uveitis?
 A. Anterior uveitis can occur as a result of trauma to the eye, such as a blow or foreign body penetrating the eye. It can also be a complication of other eye disease, or it may be caused by general health problems such as rheumatoid arthritis, rubella and mumps. In most cases, there is no obvious underlying cause.

Q. What are the signs/symptoms of anterior uveitis?
 A. Signs/symptoms may include a red, sore and inflamed eye, blurring of vision, sensitivity to light and a small pupil.

Q. How is anterior uveitis diagnosed?
 A. Since the symptoms of anterior uveitis are similar to those of other eye diseases, your optometrist will carefully examine the inside of your eye, under bright light and high magnification, to determine the presence and severity of the condition. Your optometrist may also perform other diagnostic procedures and arrange for other tests to help pinpoint the cause.

Q. Does anterior uveitis affect vision?
 A. If untreated, anterior uveitis can affect adjacent eye tissues, causing the development of glaucoma, cataracts or retinal edema leading to a loss of vision.

Q. What is the treatment for anterior uveitis?
 A. Usually prescription eyedrops which dilate the pupils, in combination with anti-inflammatory drugs are needed. Treatment usually takes several days, or up to a few weeks, in some cases.

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