

# County Moves Ahead Of State With LPP Sewer System Rules

BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick County's ahead of the state in regulating low pressure pipe sewer systems that are getting blamed for polluting groundwater and coastal nursery areas.

A policy for permitting LPP systems was unanimously approved by the Brunswick County Board of Health Monday, 10 months ahead of when new state regulations are expected to begin.

"I think it's excellent," said Rosetta Short, of Long Beach, who has lobbied the health board for stricter control over LPP systems.

LPP systems were developed in the early 1980s and approved by the state as an alternative for soils where traditional gravity-fed septic tank systems do not function.

Such systems must be wired and equipped with a mechanical pump. They also contain a series of small pipes that make better use of top soils for drainage fields.

"I'd like to commend the board for going ahead, because the state may postpone it again," said Ms. Short, who is president of the Brunswick County Board of Realtors and also serves on the Coastal Resources

Advisory Council.

The N.C. Health Services Commission plans to implement new rules in July 1992, requiring owners to contract with someone certified to inspect and to operate LPP systems before a permit can be issued.

The procedure approved Monday requires the same standard, providing the maintenance contractor has successfully completed a 24-hour subsurface sewage operator workshop sponsored by either the N.C. Department of Environmental Management or the Brunswick County Health Department.

Board members also voted to ask Brunswick County Commissioners to fund an additional environmental health specialist position to "fill the need that is now created" by the adoption of the new policy.

At its August meeting, the board voted to place a moratorium on the issuance of new LPP permits until a policy was in place "to ensure their proper maintenance."

The environmental health committee met to draft the new policy, which will take effect immediately and remain in effect until the new state regulations are in place.

The moratorium was only in place about a month, but a number of residents remain concerned, said Ricky Parker of Supply, past chairman of the health board and also owner of a septic tank business.

"Articles in the paper give LPP systems a bad rap," said Parker. He said he received about 50 phone calls from concerned clients after the moratorium was announced.

Parker said there is no solid evidence that LPP systems pollute coastal waters.

"The only thing I have found, as a contractor, is that they do need maintenance," he said.

The policy requires maintenance contractors to inspect LPP systems yearly, to inspect the nitrification fields for erosion or surfacing of effluent, to maintain a permanent vegetative cover, to maintain a traffic barrier, to check the controls and pumps monthly, to flush the laterals and manifolds at least four times a year and to check the pressure head and reset it after flushing the lines.

The system owner is required to inspect the nitrification field monthly for erosion and surfacing of efflu-

ent, to maintain vegetative cover and maintain a traffic barrier over the system.

Inspection reports are to be submitted after the first month's operation and at least twice each year as required by the N.C. Sewage Rules.

Environmental Health Supervisor John Crowder said Monday the department now has a backlog of 190 applications for septic tank permits, 38 percent of which have been pending 10 days or more.

The backlog for on-site soil evaluations formed with the resignation of two environmental health specialists last month.

In other business, the board:

- Delayed action on a proposed seafood ordinance that will regulate the handling and preparing of fish and other seafood products by county vendors.
- Heard that Brunswick County Sheriff John Carr Davis is willing to assign detectives to help animal control officers investigate animal abuse cases.
- Heard a report on the adult health program from Nancy Ledgett, covering hypertension and osteoporosis, and the need to educate the public of their dangers.

## Raids Net Marijuana Plants, Stolen Buick And Old Still

Officers seized 148 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$366,400 and discovered a stolen car and an abandoned liquor still during a countywide marijuana eradication land and air search last week.

No arrests were made during the search, said Lt. David Crocker, chief of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department narcotics unit, as officers on the ground had to keep pace with the two helicopter teams in the air, but follow-up investigations have begun.

"We anticipate making three arrests this week," he said.

Of the 148 plants pulled up, 81 were sinsemilla, with a total street value estimated at \$259,200, or an average of \$3,200 per plant.

Crocker described sinsemilla as a very potent, seedless marijuana hybrid with a higher than usual street value. Value per plant, he said, is calculated by the state on the basis that the average plant yields about one pound of marijuana. Sinsemilla's street value is \$3,200 a pound, he said.

The balance of the plants were estimated to have a street value of \$1,600 each, totaling \$107,200.

Crocker said the Sept. 9-12 joint

air-land operation was coordinated by the SBI. It involved Air National Guard spotters and pilots certified by the state's eradication spotters school, and field support by the sheriff's department narcotic and detective divisions.

Plants seized ranged from 18 inches to as much as 15 feet tall, averaging 8 to 10 feet in height.

Officers also recovered, in the Cedar Hill Road area of Phoenix, a Buick that had been stolen from a Wilmington residents approximately one month ago in that same area. Headlights had been broken out and the tags and keys removed, said Crocker.

An abandoned still found in a wooded area behind Water Street in Navassa is not believed to be connected with several arrests made this past July for possession and transport of non taxpaid liquor.

Brunswick County ABC Officer Francis Michael Speck said the still appeared to have been out of operation for at least a year.

The still, a submarine type in which the copper worm is submerged in a 55-gallon drum, was "well camouflaged," said Speck.

No arrests are expected in relation to the still seizure.

## Local Men Arrested For Drugs

Shallotte Police arrested two local men for cocaine possession last Friday—one of two drug busts officers made during the week.

Police Chief Rodney Gause said the men were arrested after Officer Carey Gaskins stopped a vehicle on N.C. 179 at 4 a.m. last Friday.

Officers seized approximately

five grams of cocaine, a small bag of marijuana, a .25-caliber automatic gun and \$155 in cash, Gause said.

Ottis Lorenzo Hill, 21, and Jesse Addison "Bud" Graham, 26, both of Route 2, Shallotte, were charged with felony possession of cocaine and possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine.

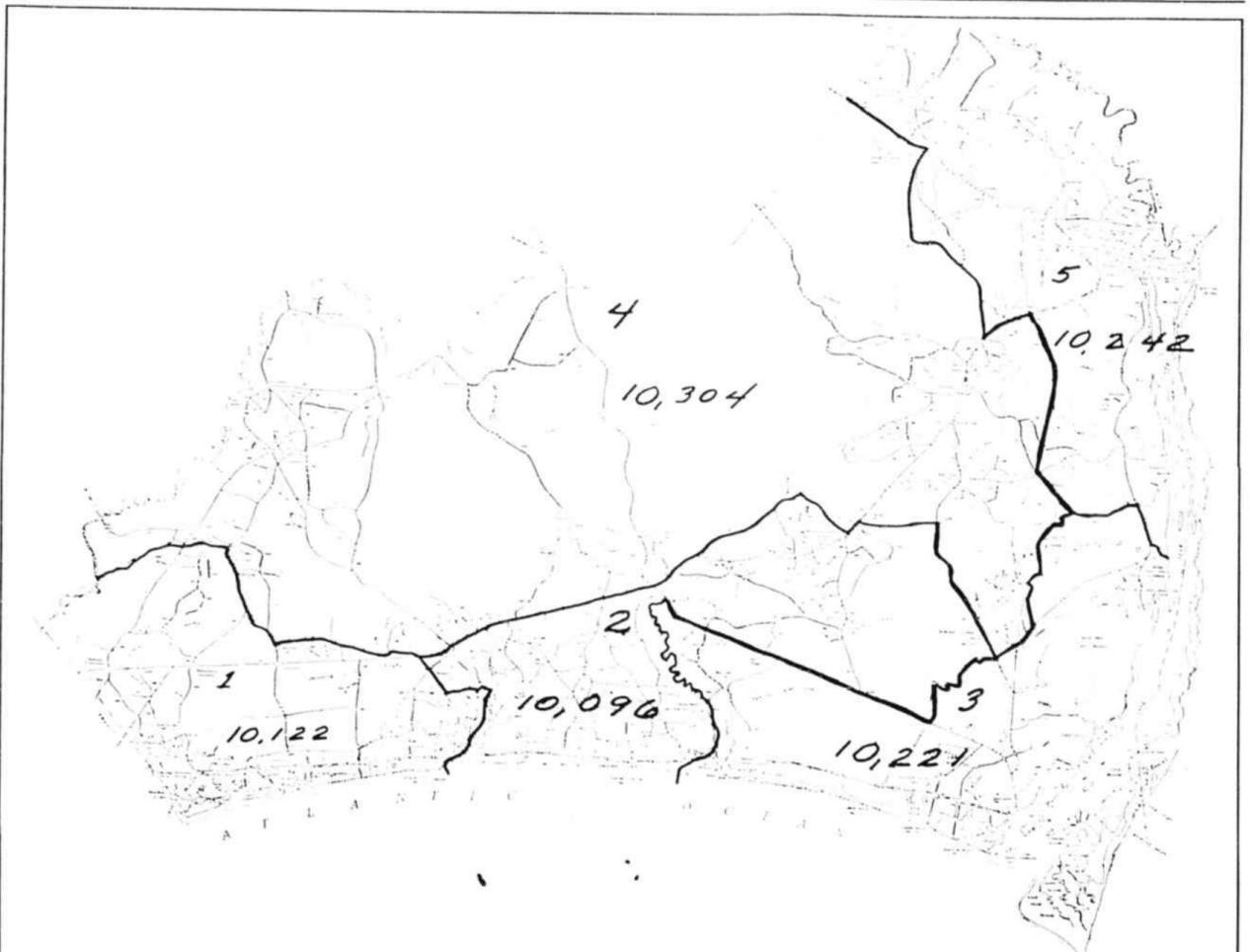
Gause said police also charged Hill with simple possession of marijuana and carrying a concealed weapon.

On Sept. 10, Shallotte Police charged two other men with drug possession after stopping a vehicle on Holden Beach Road and finding about two ounces of marijuana.

Gause charged Marty Keith Hankins, 23, of Route 2, Supply, and Scott Creighton Bryant, 21, of Shallotte, with felony possession of marijuana.

Bryant also was charged with maintaining a vehicle for the purpose of selling marijuana.

Gause said police made both arrests after receiving information that the suspects would be driving through Shallotte with drugs in their possession.



## Weather Remains On Warm Side

South Brunswick Islands residents can expect a gradual transition to more fall-like weather.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady expects warmer than usual weather to continue for now, highlighted with scattered periods of cooler temperatures.

"Overall we should have warmer than usual weather on the average," said Canady. "There may be some periods of cooler temperatures, but overall I expect we will be on the warmer side of the norm for this time of year."

Canady anticipates temperatures ranging from about the mid-60s at

night into the upper 80s during the daytime, with no more than three-quarters inch of rainfall.

For the week of Sept. 10-16, Canady recorded a high of 95 degrees on Sept. 12 and a minimum low of 66 degrees on both Sept. 10 and 11.

A daily average high of 91 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 70 degrees for a daily average temperature of 80 degrees—about 5 degrees above normal for this time of year.

Canady measured .14 inch of rainfall at his home near Shallotte Point.

## Issues Added To Ballot

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Hobbs of Shallotte Point on the board's vote to fire Houston and Associates of Shallotte, engineers of a project that will route water lines to the Point. Holden said the matter is in litigation and cannot be discussed.

"I'm not going to comment further on this," said Holden. "There's a firm working on the project at this time."

■ Took no action on raising the county's building inspection fee by \$5. The increase has been mandated by House Bill 37, said Holden.

"What happens if we don't?" asked Commissioner Jerry Jones. The state will still want its money, said Ledgett.

■ Tabled three appointments to the Brunswick County Keep America Beautiful Board.

■ Appointed Larry Prince of Long Beach to the Brunswick County Airport Authority, to fill the vacancy of Johnny Vereen, who resigned.

■ Voted to give two surplus vehicles to the Brunswick County Board of Education, to be used for an auto mechanics class at West Brunswick High School.

## BCC Registration Stable This Fall

Fall registration at Brunswick Community College remains stable, with 741 students enrolling for curriculum courses this fall, as of last Friday, compared with 748 a year ago.

BCC President Michael Reaves said he was pleased that a mandated increase of more than 40 percent in community college tuition rates did not keep new or continuing students from enrolling this fall. Full-time students paid \$161 tuition this quarter compared to \$113 before.

Enrollment in the general education program increased nearly 10 percent from last fall, from 169 students to 184. General education ma-

jors comprise one-fourth of the college's total curriculum enrollment. Students who take approved courses receive transcripts from both BCC and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, which makes it easier to transfer to other four-year schools.

Approximately one-half of the fall quarter curriculum students are enrolled in technical programs such as business, law enforcement and electronic engineering technology. Another one-fourth of BCC's curriculum students are enrolled in vocational programs such as cosmetology, welding, nursing and auto mechanics.

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