

Rivergate Still Violating Environmental Rules

BY DOUG RUTTER

Four weeks after signing an agreement with the state to resolve alleged environmental violations, a corporation developing land on the Waccamaw River still isn't in compliance.

Developers of Rivergate Estates promised to submit a sedimentation and erosion-control plan to the state by Oct. 3 in a consent judgment filed last month in Brunswick County Superior Court.

But the company still hadn't turned in the plan as of Tuesday, according to Carol Miller, an inspector in the Wilmington regional office of the N.C. Land Quality Section.

Jimmy Gore and Dale Gore are developing the 100-acre-plus Rivergate Estates subdivision off N.C. 904 next to the N.C. Wildlife

Resources Commission boat ramp at the Columbus County line.

The consent judgment filed Sept. 23 is the state's latest effort to get the developers to comply with the N.C. Sedimentation and Pollution Control Act of 1973.

State land quality officials cited the developers for six violations of the act in September and November 1990.

Initial violations included failing to submit an erosion-control plan to the state prior to beginning development and failing to install devices to control erosion at the site.

North Carolina officials later charged the owners with failing to take measures to keep sediment on site, failing to have a buffer zone between the development and river, grading slopes near the river too steep and failing to provide ground

cover on exposed slopes.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a "cease and desist" order last fall to prevent the developers from filling any more wetlands along the river.

In March, the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources filed a civil suit seeking an injunction ordering the development company to halt all land-disturbing activity at the site.

Assistant N.C. Attorney General Kathryn Jones Cooper and Robert D. Floyd, attorney for Rivergate Estates Inc., filed the consent judgment last month. It was signed by Superior Court Judge B. Craig Ellis.

The judgment, which is designed to "amicably resolve" the matter, says the site is still out of compliance, but the corporation wants to take action to correct the problems.

The judgment prohibits Rivergate Estates Inc. from conducting any more land-disturbing activity at the site without first complying with the law.

It gave the developers 10 days to submit a sedimentation and erosion-control plan to the state reflecting work going on at the site. The deadline passed three weeks ago, and no plan has been submitted.

Under the terms of the consent judgment, the court will retain jurisdiction over the case until the corporation is in compliance with the state regulations and the matter is resolved.

The judgment does not prevent the state from assessing civil penalties against the corporation, and gives the developers the right to challenge any fines that are assessed.



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Getting A Fair Chance

The South Brunswick Isles Civitan Club has donated two bowling aids for disabled participants to use at the Brunswick County Bowling Center in Shallotte. Above, Kelly Smith of Brick Landing is trying out one of the bowling aids with a group from the Brunswick Interagency. Helping her is assistant Dorothy Hewett.

Leland Man Dies Of Heart Attack Before Auto Crash

A Leland man died of a heart attack while driving along Village Road in Leland Monday afternoon, sending his car crashing off the road and into a power pole wire.

According to a report filed by Trooper T.W. Caulder of the N.C. Highway Patrol, Burton Hilliard Richardson, 72, of Neil's Mobile Home Park in Leland, was heading west on Village Road (S.R. 1472) Monday at 4:25 p.m. when he suffered cardiac arrest and died.

His 1983 Nissan then ran off the right side of the road and hit a power pole guide wire and several small trees, according to Caulder's report, said Ruby Oakley, spokesperson for the Highway Patrol office in Wilmington. She said that Richardson was taken immediately to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, but that investigation determined he was dead before his car crashed. The report will not be filed as a traffic accident.

No other persons or automobiles were hit by Richardson's car, Oakley said, but Carolina Power & Light Co., owner of the utility pole, reported slight damage of an undetermined amount. Damage to Richardson's car was valued at approximately \$600.

Faulty Turn
A faulty left turn caused severe damage to two cars traveling Cherrytree Road 3.9 miles north of Bolivia the morning of Oct. 16.

Wilson Carlie Edge, 77, of Leland was heading south on Cherrytree Road (S.R. 1406) at 8:30 o'clock Wednesday morning when he attempted to make a left turn into a driveway. His 1975 Chevrolet struck a 1988 Ford driven by Anneli Elderice Dyckman, 48, of Winna-

bow, who was traveling north along the same road.

Trooper B.C. Jones' report stated that approximately \$3,000 worth of damage occurred to Dyckman's car, while damages to Edge's car were estimated at about \$2,000, said Ms. Oakley.

Neither person was reported injured in the accident. Edge was charged with making an improper turn.

Ms. Oakley said that no other serious accidents occurred last week, but "that's a good thing."

Volunteers Help Launch Leland Police Unit

BY TERRY POPE

Volunteers are helping to organize Leland's first police department, which may be temporarily without its new chief.

John R. McCarthy, hired in September as the town's first police chief, has been denied a waiver from the state and must take basic law enforcement training courses to become recertified.

He has 27 years' experience with the New York City Police Department and teaches classes in law enforcement, but his certification lapsed following his retirement and move to North Carolina.

Some council members say it is only a temporary setback.

"All of us knew of his situation," said Councilwoman Lynette Carlisle.

McCarthy's credentials impressed a review committee that chose him as one of two finalists for the council to interview.

"He has already gotten 16 volunteers for the department," said Ms. Carlisle. "Six of those have police

certification."

In its first year, Leland may depend on an unpaid auxiliary police force since the town has budgeted only \$50,000 for a police department for the 1991-92 fiscal year.

The town council approved an interim personnel policy last week that will "enable the departments to get started," said Ms. Carlisle, who as head of the personnel committee drafted the 29-page document.

The new policy outlines employee recruitment and selection, the role of the council and its town administrator, pay classification plan, holiday and vacation periods and benefits package. It also outlines a grievance procedure for disgruntled employees.

The council may adopt the policy permanently at its Nov. 7 meeting.

In a report to the town council last week, McCarthy outlined what

he has done to organize the police department since he was hired in September. He has been patrolling an average of two to three hours a day, including patrols with Brunswick County sheriff's deputies, he said.

McCarthy said he will not accept a salary while actually attending classes for his recertification. That doesn't present a problem, he said, because he will be busy instead with writing policy and procedures for officers. He also hopes to have auxiliary patrolmen—both sworn officers with full police authority and police aides (unsworn personnel)—in place and on patrol soon.

While providing only part-time coverage, McCarthy said the officers will still be able to assist deputies and fire and rescue units; respond to emergencies; organize

community watch groups; provide security inspections of homes and businesses; assist in marking property for an Operation I.D. program; operate a citizen Ride-Along program; and enforce all local laws and ordinances.

McCarthy says he has worked an average of 55 hours per week in getting two vehicles donated by the county repaired and ready for patrol and in renovating the town hall to accommodate the auxiliary staff.

The town will rely on sheriff's patrols until the department can provide full-time coverage, he said.

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Democratic Party Raising Funds

The Democratic Party of Brunswick County has announced a fundraising drive to benefit their building fund.

Treasurer Mark Lewis said that persons who donate \$100 will become members of the Century Club, so named due to the amount being asked from donors.

Lewis urged interested Democrats to call him at 754-7557 or to call Crawford Hart, party chairman, at 754-8880, for more information on this fundraiser and other party activities.

Answers to your Questions about Nearsightedness

- Q. What is nearsightedness?**
A. Myopia, or nearsightedness as it is more commonly known, is a vision condition in which near objects are seen clearly but distance objects do not come into proper focus.
- Q. Why does nearsightedness occur?**
A. When the eyeball is too long or the cornea has too much curvature, light entering the eye is not focused properly. Some theorists believe that nearsightedness is hereditary. There is growing evidence, however, that nearsightedness may also be caused by the stress of too much close vision work.
- Q. How common is nearsightedness?**
A. Nearsightedness is actually a very common vision condition that affects nearly 30% of the total U.S. population. It normally first occurs in school age children. Since the eyes continue to grow during childhood, nearsightedness almost always occurs before the individual reaches the age of 20.
- Q. Will I have to wear glasses?**
A. Nobody has to wear glasses. They are worn because they will enable you to see more clearly. If your condition warrants it, your doctor of optometry will prescribe corrective lenses for you. You may only need them, however, for certain events, like watching television, going to the theatre, or driving an automobile.
- Q. Will glasses/contact lenses cure nearsightedness?**
A. Eyeglasses or contact lenses correct the problem by altering the way the light images enter your eyes, but the procedure does not cure nearsightedness. At present, there is no proven cure for nearsightedness.
- Q. How is nearsightedness diagnosed?**
A. Nearsighted children are usually easy to identify because they often squint or have trouble seeing the chalkboard, the movie screen, the television or other distant objects. When your doctor of optometry gives you a complete vision examination, it will include a test for nearsightedness.
- Q. How will nearsightedness affect my lifestyle?**
A. If glasses or contact lenses are prescribed, it may take you a few days to adjust to them and to seeing clearly. After that, nearsightedness will probably not affect your lifestyle at all.



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