



Commission Chairman Won't Seek Re-Election

BY TERRY POPE
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Chairman Kelly Holden announced Monday that he will not seek re-election to the board in 1992.



HOLDEN

In a prepared statement, Holden told his fellow board members at the conclusion of Monday's meeting that he will leave his options open, raising speculation that he may enter the race for the 13th District State House seat held by Democrat David Redwine of Ocean Isle. "I haven't decided what I want to do," said Holden.

At the Dec. 2 meeting, District 3 Commissioner Gene Pinkerton announced that he would not seek re-election to the board, saying he needed more time to devote to his growing import business.

Holden, of District 1, won his seat on the board by an overwhelming margin in 1988 over Democratic incumbent Chris Chappell. He was appointed chairman of the board last December and again Dec. 2.

"It's not a big letdown," explained Holden following the meeting. "I'm not going to drop out of sight. As far as my personal and political options go, I'm not discounting anything."

The seats open for election next year are those held by Holden, Pinkerton and District 4 Commissioner Frankie Rabon. So far, Rabon hasn't indicated if he will seek re-election.

Seats held by Donald Shaw, of District 5, and Jerry Jones, of District 4, will be up for election in 1994, when voters will elect a slate of five candidates.

Residents voted last month to begin electing commissioners and school board candidates to two-year terms rather than staggered, four-year terms.

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Most Shallotte Postal Operations Moving To South Brunswick Branch

BY SUSAN USHER

When the South Brunswick postal station opens in February, most mail-handling operations and a majority of the employees at the Shallotte main office will be re-assigned to Sunset Beach.

However, Postmaster Frank Bringoli said his plans call for window and box service to continue at the Shallotte site, which will remain the service area's main post office.

"Everything gets handled the same," he said. "Anything mailed from Shallotte will have a Shallotte postmark if that's what the customer chooses."

"The bottom line is nothing is changing, except that there will be no carriers working out of here, but there will be carriers stopping here for mail," Bringoli con-

"It's the only way that makes sense to me."

—Frank Bringoli
Shallotte Postmaster



Incoming mail will be sorted at the South Brunswick station, and carriers for all 10 area routes will work out of the branch office.

Also, both Bringoli and Ronald Reeves, superintendent of postal operations, will work from offices at the South Brunswick location.

"Both Ron and I will be going back and forth, with one of us in the Shallotte office for at least a part of every day," he said. "We won't leave the staff here unsupervised."

Individuals who contact the Shallotte office with problems the staff there cannot handle, he said, will be referred to the station in Sunset Beach.

The Shallotte office would be staffed by two window clerks. Bringoli said he doesn't anticipate any change in service hours, now 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

He has asked to hire up to three new clerks in addition to filling an existing vacancy, but doesn't know if

he will get the slots.

With or without additional staff, Bringoli said he believes the change of plans is for the best. Succeed or fail, he said, his superiors in the U.S. Postal Service have "left the final decisions up to me."

"It's the only way that makes sense to me and the carriers agree," said Bringoli of the changes planned. "I expect there will be more changes, depending especially on whether we get any new people. But that's our plan as of now."

"We're going to have to play it by ear as we go," the postmaster continued. "I think it will work out better for everyone."

Previous plans called for the seven rural routes in

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Friendly Dog Snitches Neighbor's Marijuana

BY TERRY POPE

At first, it looked like a trash bag filled with dirty diapers, said Cecilia Kinlaw of Shallotte Point.

But the garbage bag found on her lawn Saturday evening contained more than two pounds of marijuana.

She knows the beast that put it there, too.

Brandy, a black, female Labrador retriever, had just retrieved about \$5,000 in illegal drugs from some unsuspecting neighbor.

"She snitches shoes and anything that's left out at the neighbors," said Mrs. Kinlaw, who operates a day care center. "She's a little thief."

Brunswick County Sheriff's

Detective David Crocker said Tuesday the case is still under investigation. No arrests have been made.

Mrs. Kinlaw said it is in Brandy's nature to retrieve objects left lying around. Sometimes it is a kid's toy. Once it was a coat.

"Then she drags it into Grandma's yard," she said.

Her daughter and son-in-law, Steve and Nancy Nagy, own Brandy.

It was ironic that Mrs. Kinlaw's granddaughter graduated Monday from her school's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program sponsored by the Sheriff's Department and Brunswick County

Schools. The program teaches children to resist pressure to use drugs.

The wide-eyed pupil got a firsthand look at how drugs can be found most anywhere, even in her Brunswick County neighborhood.

It was also the first time Mrs. Kinlaw has seen marijuana, she said.

"I'm so thankful that I found it and not a young person who might not have had the same intentions," said Mrs. Kinlaw.

She immediately called a law officer that she knew, State Trooper B.D. Barnhardt. Officers indicate the bag contained about 2 pounds, 7 ounces of homegrown marijuana,

some of which had spilled out onto the ground.

Brandy had managed to chew through part of the package and evidently didn't like the taste, said Mrs. Kinlaw.

She says there is probably an angry neighbor around who wants to blame someone for the theft.

"They probably think a friend took it," she speculated.

Instead, it was just a friendly dog, and she hopes the neighbor will understand.

"I'm afraid that someone might want to do harm to her," she said. "We want people to know that it's just something that a dog did."

10 RECYCLING STATIONS PLANNED

Private Hauler To Handle County's Trash

BY TERRY POPE

A company hired Monday to begin a trash collection and recycling program in Brunswick County says it can begin hauling the county's trash within 60 days.

In a 3-2 vote, Brunswick County Commissioners accepted a low bid of \$561,082 per year from Waste Industries of Raleigh, which has agreed to hire the county's 13 to 15 employees affected by the move for a 90-day probationary period.

Chairman Kelly Holden said he was surprised the bid was so low. The contract could save the county more than \$2 million in five years, estimated District 3 Commissioner Gene Pinkerton.

"The companies that are hungry are putting in the bids," said Holden.

Waste Industries, which has trash contracts with Southport and Long Beach, wants a five-year contract with Brunswick County. The county will have an option to renew it for two years in 1997.

Commissioners budgeted \$878,000 for the 1991-92 fiscal year for trash collection and close to \$1 million for operation of the county landfill in Supply, which will remain under county control. Landfill employees will keep their jobs, said County Manager David Clegg.

Brunswick County will auction its trash collection equipment and trucks, some of which will likely be purchased by Waste Industries, which has a Wilmington office, said County Engineer Robert Tucker.

Commissioners Donald Shaw and Frankie Rabon voted against hiring the firm.

"What happens after we sell our equipment and we're not satisfied?" asked Shaw. "We'll be in bad shape."

"It eliminates a lot of our overhead. That's what it amounts to."

—Gene Pinkerton
District 3 Commissioner

Tucker said the firm must post a bond equal to two years' payment for the contract. The company can be removed for poor performance, he noted, and the bonding company would have to hire another firm.

"I just think we're moving too quickly on this," said Rabon. "Just looking at the numbers, it's a big savings. I don't think we can question that. It's the possible hidden things that scares me. I have a great concern for the employees."

Jones said he hoped the county's employees, who will be given layoff notices from the county, can keep their jobs with Waste Industries.

"I think we're all concerned about that," said Jones. "I think every one of us is."

Concern for what would happen to former county employees after a probationary employment period was a key factor in a decision by commissioners a number of years ago to drop similar plans to contract the service to a private firm.

Clegg said he believes it will take more than 60 days for the company to begin operation.

"I think that's quick," he noted, but Tucker indicated the company is equipped to begin on the short notice.

"I'm very confident this firm has the stuff and

the resources to launch this in a 60-day time frame," Tucker said.

The company will also operate 10 recycling stations to collect newspaper, aluminum, plastic and three colors of glass. Tucker said those stations may open in less than 60 days.

Recycling stations will include five staffed sites—at the county's three transfer stations and two convenience stations on Oxpen Road near Holden Beach and one under construction on N.C. 904 at Seaside.

According to County Finance Director Lithia Hahn, the county paid \$706,000 in 1989-90 for trash collection, \$843,000 in 1990-91 and budgeted \$878,000 1991-92. Not included in the figures are indirect costs for administration and personnel, she said.

Other bids submitted by Nov. 25 included \$821,886 per year from Waste Management of Wilmington; \$1,141,336 per year from Chambers of Conway, S.C., and a recycling only bid of \$30,000 from M & J Plastics of Bolivia.

"It eliminates a lot of our overhead. That's what it amounts to," said Pinkerton.

The firm cannot raise its fee until 1993. Any fee hike afterward is restricted based on the inflation rate, said Tucker.

State law requires counties to have recycling programs in place this year and to cut down on the amount of waste entering landfills by 25 percent in 1993.

"I don't expect this one program of dropoff sites to meet that goal," said Tucker. The county can expect to recycle just 5 percent to 6 percent of wastes through dropoff sites, he continued, and will need to take other steps to reach 25 percent.

Brunswick County has been without a recycling program since 1989.

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STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Season Worth Celebrating

West Brunswick's Jimmy Grissett celebrates his 15-yard touchdown catch in the N.C. 2-A High School Football Championship Saturday afternoon in Chapel Hill. Thomasville beat West Brunswick, 21-6, but the Trojans won a school-record 13 games this season and claimed their first eastern championship. For more details on the state title game, turn to page 8-B.

News, Advertising Deadlines Earlier During The Holidays

Because of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, there will be earlier news and advertising deadlines for *The Brunswick Beacon* issues of Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

Routine news items should be submitted no later than Friday, Dec. 20, for the Dec. 26 issue and Friday, Dec. 27, for the Jan. 2 issue.

Real estate advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, for the Dec. 26 issue and Thursday, Dec. 26, for the Jan. 2 issue.

Classified and display advertising must be in by noon Monday, Dec. 23, for the Dec. 26 issue, and noon Monday, Dec. 30, for the Jan. 2 issue.

Both issues will be mailed on regular schedule. Mail subscribers should receive their copies on the usual delivery day. However, the Dec. 26 issue will be in racks and in stores Tuesday, Dec. 24, and the Jan. 2 issue will go on sale in racks on Tuesday, Dec. 31.

The *Beacon* office will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, but items may be left in the drop box 24 hours a day.