



STAFF PHOTO BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

Sprucing Up The Grounds

Some Shallotte Middle School students escaped the classroom last Thursday afternoon to flex their muscles in the school yard. Darryl Cheers (left rear) took his science class to the front of the school building to finish a job begun by a horticulture class. Pictured hard at work trimming and watering bushes and planting pansies are (from left) Billy Russ, foreground, and Carmen Hewett, Buffy Queen, Lucy Alloway, Letitia King and Amy Gale.

Local Chamber Executive Is Fired Friday By Board

BY SUSAN USHER
South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President Holly Richards was fired Friday morning following a meeting Thursday of the chamber's board of directors.

Ms. Richards, who began work last July 15, said she first rejected an opportunity to resign with two weeks' severance pay, and was then told that she was being terminated by unanimous vote of the board.

"I am very disappointed in the board's decision to terminate me," she said Monday. "I felt I was doing a very good job for the chamber."



RICHARDS

chamber's board of directors, was one of the two members who notified Ms. Richards of the board's decision. "I really don't want to talk about it," he said Tuesday.

The chamber has made no official announcement of the board's action.

At the time of her dismissal, Ms. Richards said, "All I was told was I was not doing my job; there were no details, no specifics, nothing."

According to Ms. Richards, conflicts between her and some board members were "personal" in nature, not professional. She said there had been two earlier attempts by unspecified board members to have her dismissed.

Ms. Richards said she is returning to Raleigh and is speaking with a lawyer.

She succeeded Susanne Sartelle in the chamber executive post, moving

here from Raleigh. Previously she had served as legislative assistant for N.C. Citizens for Business and Industry and secretary to the N.C. Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. This was her first chamber position.

"I appreciate all the people who did support me," she said, noting that during her brief tenure she arranged a donation of 20 computers that the chamber gave to a local school and was instrumental in several state groups scheduling annual meetings in the chamber's service area. She had been nominated as vice president of Chambers of Eastern North Carolina and secured publication of a 16-page pull-out section on the South Brunswick Islands in *North Carolina* magazine, she said.

As of Tuesday, no one had been named interim administrator for the chamber, Barbee indicated.

Perot Petitions Circulating Here

Brunswick County volunteers are working to help put Texas business leader Ross Perot of Dallas on the North Carolina ballot as an independent candidate for president.

Elaine Dumont of Carolina Shores said that, as of last week, N.C. Citizens for Perot had 22 local volunteers circulating petitions. The local effort began March 23.

"We don't think there's any problem getting him on the ballot in North Carolina," she said.

Her own reasons for supporting Perot?

"Because I think we need a change for the better and someone who does not have any special interests. He has the country's well-being in mind.

"Most politicians talk, talk, talk; I have a feeling he does."

Walter Goldsberry, another volunteer, citing disillusionment with the country's political situation, said,

"This just gives voters another choice. That's all it does."

Petitions must be in to Perot's volunteer organization by May 15 in order to ensure the state Board of Elections' June 1 cut-off date is met for getting on the ballot for the November election.

Voters may sign only one petition and must sign a petition for the county in which they vote. They may not sign anyone else's name, only their own. The petition also asks for the voter's precinct number, if available.

The state organization has set a goal of obtaining 100,000-plus signatures.

Perot is the founder of Electronic Data Systems (EDS) and served as its chairman from 1962 to 1986. He is currently chairman of Perot Systems Corporation, a computer services company he founded in 1988.

The Texarkana, Texas, native and U.S. Naval Academy graduate

gained international recognition in 1979 when he financed and directed a team of EDS employees who freed two fellow employees being held hostage in Iran in 1979.

He has also earned recognition for his efforts in getting treatment of United States POWs in North Vietnam changed, earning the highest civilian award given by the Department of Defense; and in heading Texas' 1979 War on Drugs.

Perot received the Winston Churchill Award, the Jefferson Award for Public Service and the Raoul Wallenberg award for a lifetime of service.

To run as an unaffiliated candidate for president, Perot must make it on the ballot of all 50 states.

Ms. Dumont can be reached at 579-4945, daytime, or by writing N.C. Citizens for Perot, P.O. Box 4508, Calabash, N.C. 28467. Another contact is Merle Goldsberry of the Shallotte area, 754-4124.

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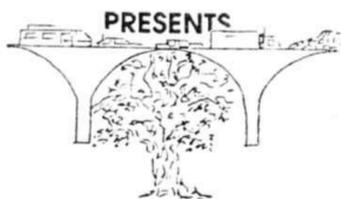
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