

# Shallotte Cutting Back On Commercial Trash Pickup

BY DOUG RUTTER

Some Shallotte merchants will be paying a lot more for trash pickup come November when the town enters into a new contract for sanitation service.

On a unanimous vote Tuesday night, aldermen decided to drastically reduce the amount of money it's been paying for commercial trash pickup.

When the new contract is approved, town officials

plan to give business owners the same deal they're already giving residents.

Shallotte will pay for pickup of one 90-gallon trash container once a week for every house and business in town. Businesses that create more garbage than they can stuff into a 90-gallon cart will have to arrange for extra pickup with the sanitation company.

Under the present contract, the town pays for removal

of up to 16 yards of commercial garbage per week.

But town officials say the current system isn't fair because residents get about \$85 worth of pickup per year while businesses get up to \$1,000.

"We are slowly becoming one of the few that picks up as much on the tab as we do," Maintenance Supervisor Albert Hughes said Tuesday.

Town board members agreed that it would be fairer if the town paid for the same amount of trash pickup for everyone.

They said some business owners pay less in town taxes than the town spends to pick up trash at their businesses.

Alderman Roney Cheers voted in favor of the new policy, but only after questioning the proposal.

"Are we sure we don't owe the businesses a little more consideration?" he asked. "After all, they're the lifeblood of the community."

Wilton Harrelson said the extra cost of trash pickup would be a minor overhead expense for most businesses in town.

Harrelson, who owns a business himself, said it isn't fair for the town to tax the homeowners to subsidize the merchants.

Mayor Sarah Tripp and Alderman Paul Wayne Reeves were sick and missed Tuesday's meeting.

## County Plan Approved

In other matters Tuesday, aldermen voted 2-1 in favor of a county plan to boost water pressure on the north side of the U.S. 17 bypass.

The county will install a \$15,000 to \$20,000 metering vault near the bypass to improve low water pressure for the town's benefit.

In exchange, the town will turn over to the county the lucrative West Brunswick High School water account.

Shallotte makes about \$5,400 profit per year by selling water to the school, minus any related water system maintenance costs.

The town could install a metering vault and keep the

water account. But officials said there's no guarantee the county wouldn't run its own water line to the school in a few years and wipe out the profit.

"There's a possibility we wouldn't recover that money," Harrelson said. "We have no control over what they (county officials) do."

Hughes said the town needs to boost its water pressure near the high school one way or another.

"There's been a problem out there for some time," he said. "It's a serious matter that we do something out that way."

Aldermen Morris Hall and Harrelson voted in favor of the proposal, while Cheers opposed it.

Cheers said earlier in the discussion that the town had prepared its budget based on the anticipated revenue from the high school.

## Other Business

In other business Tuesday, aldermen:

■ Authorized Town Attorney Mark Lewis and Tax Collector Sandy Hewett to work on collecting overdue taxes.

■ Approved a mutual aid agreement that will allow the Shallotte and Ocean Isle Beach police departments to assist each other when needed.

■ Heard from several Brierwood Estates residents who support a proposed ordinance prohibiting peddlers on Main Street.

■ Referred to the town planning board a requested variance from the sign ordinance. Westphal Sign Company wants to erect two billboards on the bypass in the town's extrajurisdictional area.

■ Approved a revised police department policy manual. The manual includes guidelines for a new program that will allow residents to ride in patrol cars and observe officers on the job.

■ Voted to write a letter supporting the creation of the Cape Fear Resources Conservation District.

## Third Charge Is Filed Against Former Pastor Charged With Grave Desecration

A third warrant charging desecration of graves has been drawn against the former pastor of a Leland church who allegedly unearthed and moved five caskets to facilitate a land sale, a Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective said Monday.

Jerry Calvin McKinney, 43, recently of Wallis, Texas, was arrested Sept. 4 on two felony charges of "desecrating, plowing over or covering up graves" after authorities were alerted by a woman who says her stepfather was one of the five bodies moved.

The woman, Judy Johnson of Winnabow, had been keeping track of McKinney's travels for two years and notified authorities that he would be in the county on business that day.

A third warrant was issued this week after the daughter of another moved decedent agreed to press

charges, according to Detective Ken Messer.

McKinney is the former pastor of the Damascus Road Church in Leland. While in that position he negotiated to sell a piece of church property to the New Jerusalem Outreach Ministries. As a condition of the sale, McKinney agreed to relocate a small cemetery containing the five graves, Messer said.

It appears that McKinney initially tried to have the graves moved legally and even approached the Brunswick County Health Department for the proper permits. But he ended up falsifying documents to show he had permission to move the graves, Messer said.

The incident was first discovered in January, 1991, by another church member whose stillborn baby had been buried in the cemetery, Messer said. The man rode by and saw

workmen with a backhoe digging up the graves. The caskets were being reburied in a wooded area at the edge of the church property.

"(McKinney) had hired some jack leg laborers to do the work," Messer said. "It's my understanding that a couple of the caskets were broken open in the process."

McKinney was released on \$4,000 bond after his initial arrest. He has not been served with the third warrant, Messer said.

The new charge was brought after a complaint was filed by the daughter of a woman whose body was moved, Messer said. The woman said McKinney had asked her grandmother if he could move the grave, but was not given permission to do so.

An investigation is continuing and more charges may be filed in the case, Messer said.

## Officers Nab Arson Suspect After Tip-Off

A tip from an informant last week led to the arrest of a Shallotte man wanted for allegedly setting fire to a home occupied by his 4-year-old son, a Brunswick County Sheriff's detective said Monday.

Hyle Eugene Rosser, 26, was surrounded by five detectives and two SBI agents outside a home in Ocean Pines at about 8:30 Wednesday night (Sept. 9).

He surrendered without a struggle and has been charged with first-degree arson, said Detective John Ingram.

Police had attempted to arrest Rosser the previous day at another house, Ingram said, but the suspect jumped out a window and ran off.

Also staying at the Ocean Pines home was Rosser's ex-wife, Brenda Lee Rosser, 33, who had been renting the one-story wood frame house in East Tanglewood that Hyle Rosser allegedly set afire Sept. 2, said Ingram.

The incident occurred after a domestic dispute during which Brenda took her two children and went into the backyard, according to Ingram. As one of the children went back inside to go to the bathroom he saw Rosser setting fire to items in the house, Ingram said. The house was declared a total loss.

After questioning witnesses, Ingram issued a warrant for Rosser's arrest. Detectives Tom Hunter, Charlie Miller and Billy Hughes and Deputy Jimmy Davis assisted in Rosser's apprehension.

Rosser is being held in Brunswick County Jail in lieu of \$40,000 secured bond, Ingram said.

## Ribbon-Cutting To Mark Bolivia Bypass Opening

Brunswick County residents and beachgoers who have experienced backed-up traffic in Bolivia over recent years can celebrate the opening of the U.S. 17 bypass of Bolivia with state and local officials Friday, Sept. 25.

State Transportation Secretary Thomas Harrelson, area State Board of Transportation member Marilyn Williams of Wilmington and others will formally open the 7.5-mile road with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 3:30 p.m. at the intersection of the bypass and Galloway Road.

After three years of construction the bypass actually opened to traffic Aug. 11, providing a clear shot of four-lane highway from Wilmington to Supply.

Construction began in May 1989. Contractors who have worked on the project include W.E. Blackmon Construction Co. Inc. of Smithfield and S.T. Wooten Construction Company Inc. of Wilson, with grading and paving of the project costing \$8.8 million.

## Clarification

The Fred Parker listed in the court docket of last week's Beacon is not the John F. Parker Sr. of Lockwood Folly Golf Links.

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