

It took a little over a week and came none too soon... Recently a stretch of Highway 306 from NC 55 to SR 1200 (headed towards NC 33) was widened from 18 feet to 22 feet.

Frank Spain of the county Department of Transportation division said that some money was left after the projects scheduled for the past year were completed. It was decid-

ed, he said, that the best use for the limited funds would be to widen the heavily-traveled road. He did not know how much the widening cost.

Development May Be Hindered By Sewage Regulations

Some realtors and real estate agents in Pamlico County have already had run-ins with the septic tank regulations which went into effect January 1; others have yet to experience them. Those who have say they are concerned about the regulations' impact on development in the county.

In Minnesott Beach, Gilbert Evett of Hardison Realty said he has not yet had any problems with the regulations, which say that a septic tank cannot be installed on a site where the seasonal high water table is twelve inches or less below the surface of the ground, but that he understands others have.

Linda Lane at Neuse Shores

Realty in Bayboro also said that she has not yet been "really affected" although she expects the regulation to have a detrimental effect on any large tracts of land being sold for development. Contracts for property now being sold, she said, stipulate that the sale will be binding only if the lot proves suitable for a sewage disposal system.

A few years ago, she commented, no one ever bothered to ask about a sewage system but now one of the first questions a prospective buyer has is, "Will it be suitable for a septic tank?"

One realtor, who preferred to remain unidentified, said he believes the regulations will

render as much as 90 percent of the property in the county unusable.

Bernice Nobles of Oriental speculated that the regulations, which were drawn up by the state, seem to be pushing the county towards a county-wide sewer system "which cannot now be afforded."

Nobles said one of her major concerns was that property bought now, and judged suitable for a septic tank, might not be approved for a system in several years if the regulations should change again. She said that most of the lots she sold were bought by

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Meeting On Septic Tank Regs Set For Oct. 18

Complaints from Pamlico County property owners and developers about the septic tank regulations which became effective January 1 are still coming into the health department, the agency which oversees and approves septic tank installation permits. An educational meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 18, for anyone who would like to comment, make a suggestion or ask a question about the regulations. State officials will be present to discuss the matter with the public.

The majority of the complaints center around the restriction which prohibits the installation of a septic tank on a building lot where the seasonal high water table is 12 inches or less below the surface of the ground. In January, the county had the option of adopting the state-proposed regulations or writing its own, which would have to have been more strict than those presented by the state.

In the August 29 issue of *The Pamlico News* an article ap-

peared quoting Jim Baluss, director of the health department, as saying the purpose of the meeting, which was originally scheduled for September 12 but was not held because of Hurricane Diana, is "to begin stimulating reasonable discussion about the problem...and the problem's impact and how we're going to cope with these impacts." One of the primary impacts, he said, is that the regulations render 35 to 40 percent of the county's usable land useless for development because the water table is, by the regulations, too high for a septic tank to function properly.

The state maintains, he said, that sewage cannot be properly treated by filtration in areas where the water table is high. The state, said Baluss, put down test wells throughout the state and monitored the movement of ground water and its quality. Twelve inches seems to be, according to the results, the "absolute minimum", he commented, less than that allowing

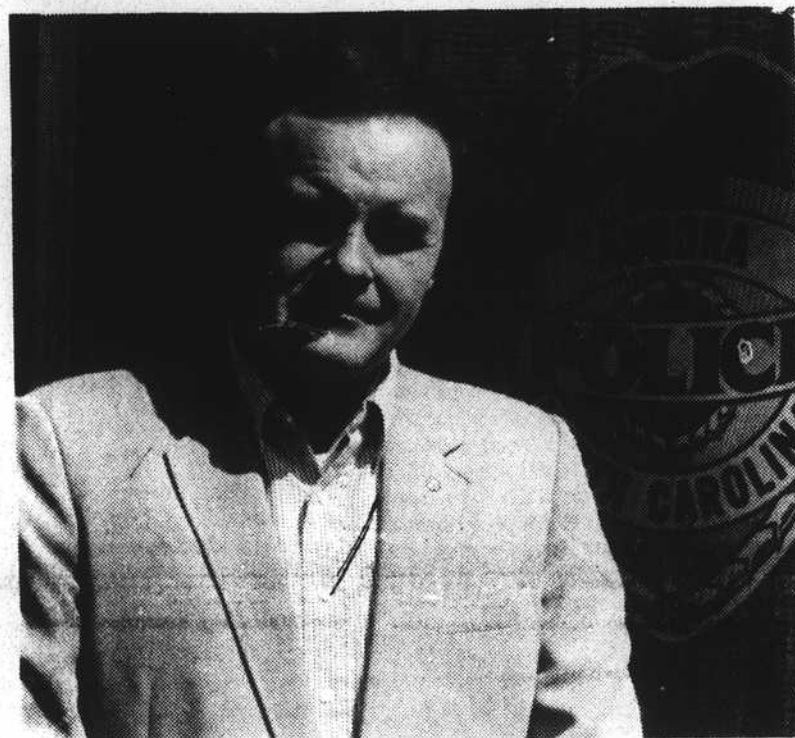
contamination; and presently the state is very concerned about the contamination of private wells.

The seasonal high water table is determined by visual inspection of a soil sample taken by the county sanitarian. A auger is used to remove a core. The depth of the water table is determined by the colors of the soil layers; the presence of water makes the soil darker. The state, commented Baluss, maintains that this "eyeball method is a very valid way of determining water level" but that it has become somewhat controversial. Whenever a permit is denied in Pamlico County, he added, a soil scientist is asked to give a second opinion, which sometimes differs from the first. "When two trained readers get different opinions, that's a fairly inexact science," commented Baluss, "and that's not good enough when dealing with property that costs so much."

Another point of contention has been "pre-approval" of large tracts of development property. Some property which would have

been suitable for septic tanks under the former regulations now is not. One difficulty, explained Baluss, is that while a tract as a whole may have been approved, the individual lots which must have individual permits before a septic tank system is installed weren't. This may result in some legal problems for the health department so a policy was implemented that states they will no longer give blanket approvals of tracts of property. In order to find out if a piece of property will be suitable, the property owner must submit an application for a particular lot which tells how many bedrooms the house will have, where it will be situated on the lot, if it will have a washing machine, and so forth, and pay the \$35 fee. The health department will also issue non-binding letters of preliminary suitability for tracts. Another difficulty in assessing the suitability of large areas, said Baluss, is that on unimproved, uncleared tracts, the health

(See REGS, Page 13)



Lee Pascasio

Aurora Gets New Police Chief

After almost a year and a half of having no police department, the town of Aurora has decided to reactivate it; the new chief of police was sworn in Monday morning at 11 am.

Lee Pascasio, 38, a Greenville native, comes to the position of chief of police with over ten years of experience in law enforcement. From 1975-1983, Pascasio served with the Pitt County Sheriff's Department. He was employed by that department as chief narcotics investigator and training officer and was later promoted to shift supervisor/criminal investigator. Pascasio worked with the Greenville Police Department from 1973-75 as a training officer, in narcotics investigation and also performed general police duties.

For almost ten years, Pascasio served in the United States Marine Corps; he was discharged in 1973 with the rank of staff sergeant. He served in Viet Nam for three years where he was a

platoon leader, in Japan for one year and stateside for his remaining time. In the service, he worked as an instructor, advisor, training officer and in the military police. He was also a conventional and nuclear explosives weapons specialist. He received 25 decorations--22 medals and 3 commendations--and 21 awards for marksmanship.

Pascasio has an associate's degree in criminal justice and is working on his bachelor's degree in the same field. He also holds advanced certification in law enforcement.

A member of several professional associations and religious, civic and fraternal organizations, Pascasio and his wife, Emily, live in Greenville and they have two children, Skip, 16, and Alicia, 12.

The phone number of the Aurora Police Department is 322-5288.

Oriental CDBG About Two-Thirds Complete

Under Oriental's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project, twenty-one houses have been rehabilitated leaving fourteen to be finished.

Oriental received a \$707,950 grant in 1982 with construction beginning in April of 1983; \$393,000 was to go to housing rehabilitation and \$134,450 to sewer line construction with the remaining funds to be used for relocation, street paving and clearing plus \$15,000 was allocated to the renovation of the target area's community building. Originally the program was set up as a one-year project but it has since been extended to two years.

As with other CDBG projects in the area, initially there were problems getting contractors. Presently, there are three contractors either actually working on a house or holding a contract. Seven homes, including three mobile homes, have yet to be bid. Current contractors are C. B. Rogerson, Rowe Appliance and George L. Pugh out of Greenville.

For the houses completed, rehabilitation costs are averaging \$11,739 a house, according to Clem Paffe, local project administrator. The overall project is being administered by McDavid and Associates. Initially a \$12,000 per house ceiling was set; this,

however, was changed in May, said Paffe, to \$14,000. The increase was necessary, he explained, because eight to ten of the homes then being renovated needed extra work, such as bathrooms costing \$2,000 to \$2,500 each. On one house, an expenditure of \$16,000 was approved. This house, explained Paffe, is located in a very prominent position at the edge of town. He said that he and the town commissioners decided that the additional expenditure was justified in order to improve the general appearance of the entrance into town. To date \$250,000 has been spent on renovations.

Relocation assistance for a family whose home was too deteriorated to rehabilitate was budgeted at \$15,400. It will actually cost \$15,800-\$10,000 to purchase the house which will be located on their lot and \$5,800 to move it and set it up on the property.

Four houses, said Paffe, are vacant and are unfit for rehabilitation. Under the terms of the block grant, the town agreed to clear the eyesores in order to improve the appearance of the area. Paffe explained that there are three options; the owner of the property can agree to let the town clear the lot without cost to him; the town council can condemn the property; or the town, if the owner refus-



Although only one house is presently being rehabilitated, Oriental's block grant program is about two-thirds through.

however, said Paffe, will not permanently be acquiring any property. Administration was budgeted at \$98,000. So far, \$71,000 has been expended. (See CDBG, Page 13)

Single Copy Price For THE PAMLICO NEWS Now 25¢.

Effective with this issue--October 10, 1984--the single copy price of *The Pamlico News* is 25¢. The price change is necessary due to increases in sales tax, distribution and production costs.

The yearly subscription rates remain the same.

Pamlico Tax Notices In The Mail

Although the notices are late this year property owners should receive their tax notices in the mail this week. The forms were delayed at the printers. This is also the first year that the county will be preparing and mailing the tax notices for the towns.

Tax supervisor/collector Randy Beeman explained that the forms, which were expected in time to have been mailed in September, were delayed at the printers, located in Wilmington. Notices are going out this year--they were mailed Tuesday--about three weeks later than they did in 1983.

Beeman said his office is mailing 7,936 notices for county taxes and 1,100 for property within municipal boundaries. He pointed

out that although the return address on all the forms is the county tax office, payments for town taxes should be made directly to the appropriate town, not to the county. When paying county taxes, he added, it would be helpful if the taxpayer would bring the notice with him.

This is the first year that the county has prepared the notices for the towns in the county. This service was made possible by the use of the county's computer system. The cost to the towns is \$150 or \$1 per taxpayer, whichever is greater.

Taxpayers are reminded that failure to receive a notice does not grant relief from late payment penalties.