

# Bridgetenders Have Radio Contact With Fire, Rescue

BY TERRY POPE

Emergency traffic should flow more smoothly both on and off the South Brunswick islands in the future. Two-way radios monitoring both fire and rescue frequencies were installed on each of the three bridges Friday afternoon, said Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan.

"Now for any event, whether it be fire or rescue," Logan said, "we have to hold water traffic until the vehicles are off the island."

The N.C. Department of Transportation, working with Logan's office, installed the radios at no cost to the county, Logan said. In all emergency situations, the bridgetenders at Ocean Isle, Holden and Sunset Beach bridges have been instructed to hold

all water traffic after being notified that an emergency vehicle must cross to the island.

An effort to establish radio contact between the bridges and emergency vehicles began in October when Sunset Beach resident Lois Stein wrote letters to DOT officials and to Rep. E. David Redwine asking that some form of communication be installed. At that time, the town's only means of communication with the bridgetender was by telephone, Town Manager Wallace Martin said.

Ms. Stein told members of the Sunset Beach town council how she had waited on the island in the back of a rescue squad vehicle with her husband, who was suffering a heart attack, while the bridge was open to allow a barge to pass. Her husband later died at the Brunswick Hospital.

All three bridges will monitor the rescue frequency at all times, Logan said. Although the radios have a fire frequency also, it will only be used in the event of a fire. Calls can be relayed through the rescue channel if bridgetenders need to change frequencies, Logan added.

"Life has priority over property," Logan said. "That's why they'll be monitoring the rescue frequency."

Tuesday morning, Holden Beach bridgetender Marvin Watts said he had not had an opportunity to use the new equipment. However, he added it will help bridgetenders keep in contact with emergency vehicles, to "maybe save some lives someday."

"It'll also be good in the event of an evacuation," Logan added. "We'll be able to keep in contact with the bridgetender at all times."



STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

HOLDEN BEACH bridgetender Marvin Watts monitors the new fire and rescue two-way radio installed on the Holden Beach bridge Friday afternoon. Both Ocean Isle and Sunset Beach bridges received identical radios that

will be used to monitor emergency traffic while on the islands, said Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan.

# Island's Undeveloped Areas Key To Holden Land Use Plan

BY TERRY POPE

A policy recommending planned development of large, presently undeveloped tracts of land on Holden Beach may be introduced into the town's updated land use plan.

At a workshop last Wednesday afternoon, Holden Beach planning board members reached a consensus to add a section to the final draft calling for "planned unit development" of large undeveloped areas of the island to create "more attractive projects."

Commissioners were to review the land use plan at a workshop this morning (Thursday) at 9 a.m. Craig Root of the Satilla Planning Corp. of Atlanta, Ga., presented the first draft of the revised land use plan last Wednesday.

Town Administrator Bob Buck, who said he was speaking individually as a resident rather than as a town official, recommended a "policy of promoting coordinated land development of presently large undeveloped areas to provide a more attractive

environment."

"I'd hate to see that thing cut up when it lends itself to beautiful, quality and planned developments," Buck said of the available large, undeveloped tracts still on the island. Under the policy, the planning board would recommend that developers

work with town officials to plan larger developments for those areas, rather than building a string of single- or multi-family units on the subdivided lots.

Buck said planned development has been given a bad name in the past, but has proved to be effective when used in other towns. Contrary

to popular belief, there is a large area of undeveloped land on the island that could be used for such projects, Root said. Some areas would require obtaining CAMA permits for providing accesses, he added.

One-third more land has been developed on the island since the 1980 land use report was adopted, Root told the planning board. That represents a 33 percent increase in single-family units and a six percent increase in multi-family units, he added.

Although commercial property on the island increased by 50 percent, "in percentage terms it's big, but in acreage it's very small," Root said. Only a little more than six acres on the island is considered commercial, consisting mostly of real estate offices.

"Adding one commercial business could have caused the 50 percent increase," Root said.

Totals comprised in Oct. 1984 show there are 1,004 single-family units, 213 duplexes or multi-family units and 177 mobile home or campground spaces on the island, Root said. In

mapping those areas for the revised plan, mobile homes and travel trailer spaces are now considered residential zones rather than recreational zones and will be included in the island's "peak day population count."

Taking the total 1,319 inhabited lots on the island and multiplying it by 6.5 persons per living space gives the island a "peak day population" of 9,060, Root said. For example, on a typical July 4th holiday weekend, one of the busiest of the summer season, the population on the island could vary from 9,060 to 10,050.

Several planning board members questioned the 6.5 persons per living unit figure, saying it appeared to be too high. However, county planning director John Harvey added the figure may realistically be as high as eight per living unit during the typical "peak day population."

"It's something we tried to get a handle on," Harvey said. "The average we got was around eight people per living unit. Ocean Isle's is around 12 per unit."

Such figures are used to compare the impact of sewer, other uses of

utilities and potential evacuation routes for the island on certain peak days.

Other areas the planning board asked Root to revise in the initial draft include the town's policy on future parking on the island. A paragraph will be added recommending the area beneath the new high-rise bridge be used for public parking, since "you're not going to build any houses under it," Root said.

Root also suggested that other marsh areas may be potential areas for parking since the areas can not be used for development. However, planning board Chairman Alan Holden added "it would be safe to say that it is within our hopes and goals of building a lot underneath the bridge—everything else would be unrealistic."

The revised plan will also include a town policy of favoring a sewer system for the island, although the town's present policy "is that we're still very hopeful," Holden said.

"The general public wants sewer," Buck added, "but the town can't get involved with public funds. A public referendum is not going to pass."

## County Republicans To Meet

The Brunswick County Republican Party precincts will meet at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, to elect officers, delegates and alternates to the county convention March 9.

The precincts and meeting sites are as follows: Hoods Creek, Lots-A-Tots Nursery, Landvale Road; Leland, Leland Fire Department; Woodburn, North Brunswick High School; Belville, Belville Town Hall; Town Creek, Winnabow Fire Department; Bolivia, Bolivia Town Hall; Southport 1, Jaycee Building; and Southport 2, Brunswick Technical College (Old Middle School building). Also, Oak Island, Long Beach

Recreation Department; Mosquito, Zion Hill Community Building; Supply, Supply Volunteer Fire Department; Secession, Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department; Shallotte, Shallotte Fire Department; Frying Pan, National Guard Armory; Grissetown, AA Building; and Shingletree, Calabash Fire Department.

Also, Longwood, Gwynn Building; Ash, Waccamaw Fire Department; Waccamaw, Myrtle King Building; Exum, Community Building; and Boiling Spring Lakes, rescue squad building.

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