

# Residents Question Survey At Sunset Public Hearing

BY TERRY POPE

A sample survey answered by 71 property owners at Sunset Beach has become the focal point for discussion surrounding the town's 1985 land use plan update.

At the first of several public hearings that will be scheduled during the drafting of the land use plan, the survey conducted by the town last month came under mild attack Tuesday night.

Some residents questioned the wording of the survey while two town council members questioned the method the town used in sampling residents.

Of the 100 questionnaires mailed to property owners last month, ten were permanent residents of the town while eight of the 100 owned land on the mainland. It is not known how

many of the eight mainland residents returned the questionnaire, but council member Mary Katherine Griffith feels certain some questions eliminated the mainlanders' input.

How an islander responds to certain questions, particularly questions like parking on the island, will differ from answers given by those living on the mainland, she stated. The results of a similar property owners' questionnaire were published in the town's 1980 land use plan, but Town Manager Wallace Martin, organizer of the recent survey, said it will be up to the board to determine how to use the 1985 survey results.

When gathering information for the land use plan, the town is required by law under the Coastal Area Management Act to include the town's participation; however, the town must decide how the public should be allowed to participate.

Two questions on the survey drew criticism Tuesday night from John McCarthy, president of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association. McCarthy spoke against one question that asks if property owners would support a program of "keeping the existing tax rate and appropriating the excess revenues for the purpose of paving roads on an established basis within the town" following the county's 1986 property revaluation.

In a 44-17 vote, property owners favored the idea, but McCarthy said the town should not take the vote as a

mandate to "double our taxes without knowing what the revaluation is going to do."

McCarthy also spoke against a question that asks, "Do you feel construction work should be allowed on Sundays?"

"I don't think it's an issue," McCarthy said. There is already a town noise ordinance that prohibits building on the weekends, he added, but it is not being enforced. McCarthy was a member of a committee that discussed building regulations a year ago, and the majority of those serving on the committee, including several home builders, had favored the ordinance, he stated.

In other questions, property owners voted 58-6 against a tax increase to improve beach access in the form of increased public parking on the island. They ranked parking as the least serious of the problems the town is likely to face in the next five years, behind development and planning, sewage, roads and drainage and a new bridge.

Of those responding, 32 favored construction of a high rise bridge while 33 were against a new bridge. When asked what services or facilities the town should be providing 11 said sewer, five said parking and 11 also listed none.

When asked what type of construction they would like to see more or less of, 62 stated they would like to see more single-family units while

five said they would like fewer. Five stated they would like more condominiums while 58 requested fewer condominiums in the future.

At the request of County Planning Director John Harvey, the board reached a consensus to work with the county in preparing a countywide emergency evacuation plan and major thoroughfare plan.

"This is something we recognize we need," said Mayor Pro-tem Ed Gore. "We need to support, name and identify, another corridor throughout community. As bad as it is during peak flow periods now, in 20 years it will be impossible."

Civietown Volunteer Fire Department will hold a flounder and pork barbecue dinner Saturday, April 6, beginning at 11 a.m. at the fire station.

Plates are \$3.50 each and include candied yams, coleslaw and hushpuppies.

Takeouts are available; orders of five or more plates will be delivered. To order, call 754-8392.

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Shalotte Point Volunteer Fire Department will serve chicken and barbecue pork plates at the fire station Saturday starting at 11 a.m.

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pies.

Coffee and tea will be available along with baked goods, said spokesman Joyce Land. Five or more plates will be delivered. Call 754-6508 to order.

## Department Plans Bake Sale

Baked goods can be purchased Friday, April 5, in front of Wilson's Super Market in Southport and in front of Winn-Dixie Store at Live Oak Village at a bake sale sponsored by the Boiling Spring Lakes Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at both locations. Proceeds go to support the fire department.

"Support a good cause and have some good eating, too," said Rita Black, spokeswoman.

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## BTC Trustees Meet Tonight

A special meeting of the Brunswick Technical College Board of Trustees has been called for 7 p.m. today (Thursday) in the college board room.

The regular meeting slated March 20 had been canceled.

On the agenda are pending litigation, a request for drainage through the school property and a proposal to construct a pumping station for the county water system on school property.

The building and grounds committee is to meet at 6 p.m.

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