

# Sunset Will Redo Street Abandonment Plans

BY BILL MCGOWAN

Acting upon advice from its attorney, Sunset Beach Town Council agreed Monday night to redraft its controversial streets abandonment resolution and to "go through the whole process again."

Town Manager Wallace Martin told council that Attorney Michael R. Isenberg said a valid argument to the abandonment may arise because a specific plat was not in existence at the time council passed its resolution of intent to close several streets and portions of streets.

The town proposes to permanently close or narrow portions of North Shore Drive, Canal Avenue, Hickory Avenue, Mary's Drive and Cobia, Sailfish, Dolphin, Marlin, Main and

Dunes.

It would retain utility easements and the town would probably extend the setback for those properties the same distance as the difference between the new and old boundaries for the lots.

On North Shore Drive, lots abutting the marsh would get an added 20 feet. On the canal lots, however, where houses on both sides are along the water, each would get an added 10 feet. The lots must be 100 feet deep to qualify for septic tank permits.

Martin had presented Isenberg with several questions citizens raised at a March 4 public hearing on the issue. In his answer, Isenberg told Martin the town must have a specific plat at the time the resolution of in-

tent is adopted.

The resolution the town adopted at its February meeting only refers to streets "as shown on maps prepared by a local surveyor," Isenberg said.

"There is no reference to a specific plat which shows the exact sections of the roads to be closed," he said. "There may be a valid argument that if there was in fact no specific plat on the date the resolution of intent was adopted, then the commissioners could not have possibly been in agreement and known exactly which portions of the road they were proposing to close."

"There must be a valid description from which persons can ascertain the exact portions to be closed," Isenberg said. "At the time the

resolution of intent was adopted, there should have been a map marking the exact portions of the roads which were proposed for closing or a legal description of said road portions should have been included in the resolution."

Isenberg also addressed other questions in his letter to Martin. His opinions are as follow:

"If an order is adopted by council closing any street, the property owners will not have to obtain a deed of correction to reflect this. The statute, Isenberg said, requires that a certified copy of the council's order be recorded in the Register of Deeds office. That is sufficient to vest title of the closed road in the adjoining landowners.

Isenberg also addressed charges which surfaced at the public hearing that Gore is attempting to push the streets abandonment project through for his own interest. He said, "Of course, Mr. Gore should disqualify himself from voting if the closing of any road would vest any property whatsoever in him or one of his corporations."

"Concerning newspaper publication of advertisements for the public hearing, Isenberg said that if some streets were omitted in some of the publications, then there would not be legal notice of the council's intent to close those streets.

Isenberg added that the statute does require that a copy of the resolution be sent to all property owners ad-

joining the street or alley "as shown on the county's tax records." Concerning married couples, only the spouse whose name appears on the record books must receive a copy of the resolution.

"As to whether or not the street closings are in the public interest, Isenberg said the statute requires only that council determine that the closing "is not contrary to the public interest" and that no individual owning property would be deprived of reasonable means of ingress and egress to his property.

Following a brief discussion on the matter, council agreed to redraft its resolution. In addition, Martin will ask Isenberg to attend the next public hearing when it is scheduled.

## Churches Herald Easter

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Poston, Rev. Roger Thompson and Dr. Brian D. Weger.

Oak Island Presbyterian

Oak Island Presbyterian Church holds a covered dish supper and will celebrate Holy Communion at a Maundy Thursday service 6:30 p.m. today. The service and meal are open to the public.

On Good Friday at 7:30 p.m., the Youth Fellowship will conduct a tenebrae service featuring extinguishing

of lights that signifies the crucifixion and death of Christ. The service is closed in darkness.

Easter Sunday the church will conduct a full schedule of services, beginning with the islandwide sunrise service at 6:30 a.m., followed by a light breakfast at 8 a.m. Worship services will be held at 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., with church school at 9:15 a.m. Following the 10:15 a.m. service, a fellowship time will be held for members and visitors.

## Shifting Winds Played Havoc

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justed their strategies to the changing.

Curcio said it was a bad day for fires.

"If a fire got going in the right place it was gone," he said. "That's what happened here."

Crews had problems establishing a fire break, driving plows across low bays and cutover woodlands that held progress to a minimum.

**Winds Shifted**

Also, the wind played "havoc" with containment efforts, he continued. "It was frustrating. Everything we tried to do, it wouldn't respond and we'd regroup and try something else."

While the fire was long and narrow, its behavior was erratic because of the wind. It grew under prime conditions—increasing daytime temperatures and decreasing humidity and high, gusting, shifting winds.

"It kept shifting. The fire would be racing, the wind would shift and it would die down and then pick up again. We'd call the tanker in and it would do some good, but it was not as effective because the wind would shift. The fire was off and racing again."

Curcio said the fire stretched 2½ miles in length and was about three-quarters of a mile across at its widest point.

**Costly Fire**

Willingham estimated the fire cost the N.C. Forest Service approximately \$8,500 Monday and a similar figure Tuesday. That included \$5,000 for the tanker drops and other air services, \$1,000 to fuel the tractors and personnel costs.

The paper companies incurred similar expenses, he said, in addition to losses suffered in the fire.

On Monday, Robert Nelson of Georgia-Pacific's Whiteville office said the company was experiencing one of the worst fire seasons in his 12 years there. He estimated loss of 200 to 300 acres of plantation. Most of that was young, he added, which reduced the severity of the loss.

Still each planted acre represents a loss of about a \$200 investment that must be replaced.

Curcio said that fighting big District 8 woods fires would "be a whole lot worse" without the willing aid of the paper companies, which he said respond regardless of who owns the property where the fire is located.

District 8 teams from Columbus and Brunswick counties first tackled the blaze with three forest service fireplows and six provided by international, Federal and Georgia-Pacific paper companies. A Fairchild C-119 fire "bomber" leased by the state made nine drops over the fire Monday, guided by a small scout plane. The tanker is based at Bear Pen Airfield in the Green Swamp and carries a load of 2,000 gallons of chemical fire retardant.

Sixty-six men were fighting the fire as of Tuesday—29 forest service employees, 14 paper company employees and 23 "paid volunteers," forestry students from Southeastern and Wayne community colleges.

When designated a "major" fire late Monday, personnel and equipment from across the coastal region moved in to relieve the initial attack

team of local personnel. That freed them to respond to any other fires that develop.

Camp was set up Waccamaw Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, situated several miles above the fire scene. Kitchen facilities, a planning van and a service trailer were among the equipment requested from the Region 1 office at Kinston.

Waccamaw and Shallotte volunteer firefighters also helped on the scene Monday, guarding houses and private property initially threatened by the fire.

At one point, firefighters thought they had lost a Federal Paperboard Co. plow that bogged in a bay in front of rapidly-advancing flames. Crewmen abandoned the plow because of the threat to their safety, but about 1½ hours later retrieved the burned-over plow and returned to action.

"We were lucky," said Davison. Curcio said clean-up could take several days or even seven months, with the time depending primarily on the weather.

"With this type of dry weather we're going to be here until we get a break in the weather," he predicted. "It could be out with a big rain if Mother Nature gives us a break or it could burn for months. Or it could burn to the water table."

Much of what was burning Tuesday was matted vegetation or peat-like "turf" beneath the trees, materials that have never rotted away because of the low-lying bogs.



DISTRICT FORESTER LAIRD DAVISON (facing camera) plots strategy with Georgia-Pacific and state forest service employees Monday afternoon in a windstorm created by the fire advancing swiftly toward them behind a swirling wall of orange and black smoke.

## Easter Weather Looks Pleasant

Brunswick County visitors will bask in daytime highs averaging in the mid-70s over the Easter holidays, while nighttime temperatures will average in the mid-40s.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said that along with continuing slightly above normal temperatures, the area will receive no more than a half-inch of rain. That's normal for this time of year, but unfortunately, he said, offers no relief of the dry conditions that have fueled recent forest fires in the county.

He added, "There's no general relief in sight at the present time, I'm

sorry to say." Canady recorded no rainfall last week on his backyard gauge, but recorded some warm temperatures for March.

For the period March 26 through April 1, Canady recorded a maximum high reading of 81 degrees daily from March 29 through April 1. The minimum low for the period was 30 degrees, recorded on March 26.

An average daily high of 78 degrees combined with an average daily low of 49 degrees for a daily average temperature of 63 degrees, about five degrees above normal.

## NCNB Calabash Branch Opens

The new NCNB branch at Calabash opened for business Tuesday morning.

John Truelove, who has been with the the Shallotte NCNB office for the past two years, is the Calabash branch manager.

Loretta Todd is head teller. Bank officials said a grand opening of the facility is being planned.

The Calabash branch will observe the same banking hours as the branch in Shallotte.

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## Egging We Will Go...

The Easter bunny's busy this week, hiding decorative eggs in secret places at both the Brunswick County Government Center at Bolivia and at Shallotte Township Park for children to find.

Youngsters can win prizes for the eggs they find at two free Easter egg hunts scheduled Saturday and Sunday.

Children from all over the county are invited to join the Easter Bunny for a 10 a.m. hunt Saturday at the county complex. The event is sponsored by the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department and the Brunswick County Library Children's Program in conjunction with Modern Woodmen of America. Three prizes will be awarded, in-

cluded coordinators Tina Pritchard and Felicia Hardy.

Modern Woodmen Agent George Peters said the society is helping sponsor community Easter egg hunts as part of its program "to provide worthwhile recreation for young families and to further interest in hometown activities."

Children ages 2 through 10 living in the Shallotte area are invited to an Easter Egg hunt planned Easter Sunday from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Shallotte Township Park about one mile south of town on U.S. 17.

Sponsored by American Legion Post No. 247, the hunt features a major prize, a tricycle or a bicycle, for the winner in each of three age divisions, said Jim Buffalo, post commander.

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