

# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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## College Doesn't Need Communication Gap

A bill that cleared the N.C. House of Representatives last week would work to destroy the limited channels of communication that already exist between county commissioners and the local college board of trustees.

If approved by the State Senate during this session of the N.C. General Assembly, House Bill 895 would prohibit future appointments of county commissioners and local board of education members to community college boards of trustees.

It may seem like a moot point for legislators to dwell on, but the bill's impact could be important for Brunswick County residents. Brunswick Technical College is in the building phase, a point where help is needed from the state, local county commissioners and residents in order to survive.

Eliminating the college's only ear to the board of county commissioners could be damaging to the progress of Brunswick Technical College. Commissioners appointed Herman Love to serve as its liaison on the BTC board.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Murray Pool of Sampson County, who contends that commissioners face a conflict of interest by serving as a trustee while appropriating county funds to the institution. It was introduced in response to a bill filed by Rep. Ed Nye of Bladen County that would have affirmed commissioners' rights to serve on college boards of trustees.

There may be times when commissioners face a conflict of interest by serving on the college board, but a simple abstention can cure those pains. Under the bill, appointments made prior to March 1, 1985 would not be affected by the new legislation.

Local Rep. E. David Redwine opposed the bill, saying county commissioners and local school board members "can perform a valuable service by knowing what the community college needs are and what the future direction of the community college is going to be. Those members act as a liaison between the two boards."

It makes good sense. One conflict among neighboring counties shouldn't create a communication gap for the entire state.

## Some Natural History

I often wonder what the coast of the Carolinas must have seemed to the early explorers. We are told there were wide expanses of marsh all along the east coast and not nearly as many pine trees as we now have. Some of the characteristics of the coastline are related by some of the early historians and naturalists.



Bill Faver

William Hilton wrote about the coast of Florida and is believed to have included information about the lower coast of South Carolina. In his "A Relation of a Discovery Lately Made on the Coast of Florida" in 1644, he wrote "the county abounds with grapes, large figs, and peaches; the woods with deer, conies, turkeys quail, curlews, plovers, teal, herons; and, as the Indians say in winter, with swans, cranes, ducks..."

In 1714, John Lawson in his "History of North Carolina" reported wild turkeys weighing as much as 60 pounds. He had seen half a turkey feed eight hungry men two meals. In his writings about the Indians and their customs he often succumbed to hearsay and wrote the tales told by the natives.

In 1722, Mark Catesby landed in Charles Towne as he was exploring for his "A Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands" published in 1931. He collected botanical specimens, many of which were sent to the Swedish naturalist Lennaeus. He was also an artist and completed over 100 plates of American birds. Each species of bird is associated with the characteristic vegetation of its environment. Catesby found familiar birds such as the teal, wood duck, bald eagle, mourning dove, robin, bobolink, cardinal, and the now extinct passenger pigeon, Carolina parakeet, and Ivory-billed woodpecker.

Another North Carolinian was the Edenton-based physician, John Brickell. He tried to expand and improve on the work done by Lawson and in 1737 published "Natural History of North Carolina". As a physician, he saw birds in relation to curing man's physical ills, such as:

using distilled buzzard's feet to cure sciatica; crane's gall for palsy, consumption, blindness and deafness; bittern bill ground to a powder for sleep; and the dung of a hawk in wine to help conception.

William Bartram, in "Travels Through North and South Carolina", became much more serious in his research and is considered the starting point in American ornithology. He catalogued some 215 species of birds in North America and was one of the first to deal with migration. One review of his writings states his "intimate knowledge of living things combined with his poetic and sensitive diction."

Alexander Wilson was a contemporary of Audubon and visited the South several times in his travels. He completed 320 figures of birds, 39 of them new to science. He died at age 47 and is fairly unfamiliar to most people because of Audubon.

John James Audubon made several visits to Charleston where he worked with John Bachman, a naturalist and pastor of St. Johns Lutheran Church. Audubon was an authority on birds and mammals and most of us are familiar with his work and with the Society which bears his name. His is probably the greatest contribution of the early naturalists. Certainly if not the greatest, the best known!

We can get some ideas about the Carolina coast in the 1700s and 1800s from these writers and explorers. If they had used cameras, we might have a detailed record of photographs and hundreds of slide shows. But their artistic interpretations leave us a heritage inviting us to compare and explore and appreciate the work they have done.

## Code Enforcement: Grin And Bear It?

Come July 1 there will be no escaping it anywhere in Brunswick County—or North Carolina, for that matter: state building code enforcement.

By that day every county and every municipality—by state order—will have begun enforcing all volumes of the state building code, not just some of them. That includes coastal, plumbing, construction, heating and air conditioning, electrical, mobile homes...

Mandated code enforcement started several years ago, with larger counties and municipalities having to make the transition first. Brunswick County and its municipalities are in the very last batch affected.

Officials' telephones have been ringing steadily since people started hearing the news. Apparently—though the media and



Susan Usher

local officials have discussed the impending change for several years—people didn't realize what was coming, or refused to accept it.

A typical exchange runs like this: Why? We gotta. Who says so? The state. What happens if we don't do it? They do it for us. Who pays then? We do. Oh—In that case, I guess we'd rather do it ourselves.

The county commissioners get to sit back and pass the buck on this

one: Don't gripe at us, we didn't do it; take it to the (mean old dictatorial) state.

But there's another way to look at it, isn't there always? You could look at the permitting process as a service to the people. The code sets a standard—however minimal—for the quality and safety of construction. Theoretically, that's a bonus for prospective buyers who want to know what they're getting and want to get what they're paying for.

Many people who come to our area from other places are accustomed to permits and construction standards. I've heard enough complaints since coming home four years ago to know that while these folks may like our lower prices, most would rather pay more and have something not built shoddily.

But having a code and enforcing it

properly are two different stories, based on what I've seen locally in those communities now enforcing parts of the code.

Building inspectors who do their jobs and make contractors do theirs aren't popular. They slow down a job—sometimes making a worker tear something out to allow an inspection or to fix something done wrong and not always being available at the split second a builder's ready for them. Sometimes they don't last very long.

But County Attorney David Clegg says the county inspections department will enforce the code—that it won't be a sham operation.

That's good. It protects the county. And, while a lot of folks don't like the idea of buying the permits, at least they'll be getting something for their money.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Let Property Owners Vote On Some Issues

(Editor's note: the following letter, addressed to the Holden Beach Town Commissioners, is printed here at the writer's request.)

In the June 6 Brunswick Beacon, we saw a letter written by Mr. Ward about the rezoning for multi-unit buildings on the east end of the beach. The week before there was a letter from a man who came away in shock from the commissioner's meeting where "it happened."

Mr. Ward mentioned Myrtle Beach, Garden City, Surfside and other South Carolina beaches. All one has to do to see what can happen (and come away in shock) is to go to the west end of Ocean Isle Beach.

We are relative newcomers to Holden Beach. We have been going there since 1972 and had a cottage finished in 1977. We explored all of the beaches from Topsail to Pawleys Island before coming back to Holden Beach. Everyone who loves Holden Beach understands why—not commercial, all cottages (except for one or two units which were multi-unit buildings)—a family beach.

A few years ago the multi-units began to creep—those toward the west end near the end of the pavement (then), a few duplexes, then those near where the causeway comes into Ocean Boulevard. The

pace has quickened during the last two years or so.

Unfortunately a very large majority of property owners cannot legally vote in any election of commissioners or on any other thing. A very different situation in a city or town. I firmly believe the commissioners are headed away from where practically all property owners want Holden Beach to go or where to stay—the primary reason why they chose Holden Beach in the first place.

Please, let us keep it a non-commercial, family beach. You have done many things to help—cars off the beach, accessways, limiting

number of bedrooms per lot (in effect), nature trails, annual family type events, etc. Do not let the "condos" spoil all this.

Why not let all property owners vote (by letter) on this and similar very important issues before the developers and realtors ruin Holden Beach? If there is a long range plan, five years or whatever, all property owners should be allowed to vote on that. Where does most of the tax/operating money come from? The group I am talking about—and I believe for.

Virgil E. Verheyden  
Roanoke, Va.

## This Community Cares—Even For Strangers

To the editor:

Monday our three-year-old daughter fell from a second-story porch of a beach house we were renting at Ocean Isle Beach. We kept her immobile and sought emergency help.

The response from this community was almost instantaneous—plus sincere and professional. Police officers, concerned citizens and volunteers from the Shallotte Rescue Squad arrived to help. Even rental agents from Cooke Realty Co., from

whom we were renting, came by to assist.

The rescue squadmen carefully and gently examined our daughter and helped reassure us that she was in good hands. She was taken by am-

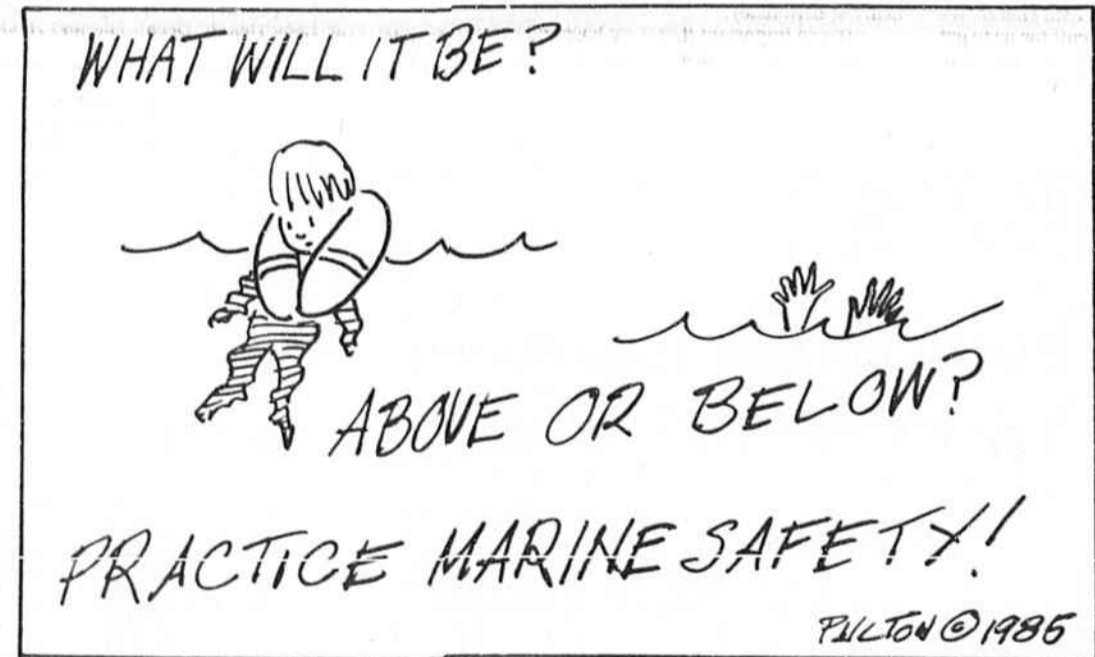
bulance to The Brunswick Hospital. Even while we were at the hospital, several residents stopped by and inquired about our daughter and made offers to help.

The staff at the hospital thoroughly examined our daughter and found no serious injuries. For that, we were relieved.

But we were even more relieved to find that this is a community that cares—even for strangers.

This was our first vacation at Ocean Isle Beach—but it likely won't be our last. We certainly won't forget it—or the wonderful folks.

Dick and Anita Hammerstrom  
Roanoke, Virginia



## Tips On Ridding Fleas Appreciated

If Paco could read, he would be so proud of the public's concern over his health and well-being. Poor Paco, my cocker spaniel, was featured in one of my columns last month, during a period when both he and I were having a rough time with fleas.

Since that column appeared, I have received several phone calls and tips on how to get rid of those pests. Some deal with home remedies while other suggestions deal with the more medicinal methods.

After dipping Paco and spraying the entire yard with a flea-ridding agent, the flea problem has subsided. A few are still found now and then, obviously hitchhikers from our daily walks along the beach and waterway at Holden Beach.

I was also able to use several of the tips on flea control that Paco and I received from concerned callers. We appreciate everyone's concern and would like to pass along the ideas in hopes of helping other dogs, cats and animal lovers who are dealing with the same problem this summer.

The first caller suggested I place a teaspoon of vinegar in Paco's water-dish. He said the remedy goes way back and would not affect the dog.

Another caller, Lucy Harper of Ocean Isle Beach, said the solution to getting rid of fleas is as simple as going out and gathering wax myrtle bushes.

A couple of years ago, Ocean Isle experienced a flea infestation, she



Terry Pope

said. The wax myrtles became popular then. A few still exist around Ocean Isle today.

By placing some wax myrtle limbs around the dog house or cat house, the fleas will leave. It's as simple as that. The limbs "have a distinct odor to it," that drives fleas away, the Harpers said. Only the wax myrtles work, not the crepe myrtles.

Or if wax myrtles are not available, walnut tree branches will also work. Clarice Coleman at Ocean Isle passed the information along to the Harpers. They suggested I pass the information along to the Brunswick Beacon readers.

Another concerned dog owner, Lois Vander Poel of Twin Lakes, said she uses Proban on her three dogs to keep fleas from biting. Proban is a product obtained from your local veterinarian that must be mixed with the dogs food according to their weight.

"My three dogs are on it and they look great," she said. The fleas hurt

them more than the Proban will, she added.

Fleas are like lice. They're genuine pests and don't choose their victims according to race or stature within the community. Their bite is not tremendous or poisonous, but is unwelcome.

I learned that others within the community also can't stand having the pests hanging around and are united in their efforts to get rid of them.

"The flea, though he kills none, he does all the harm he can,"—from English poet John Donne's "Devotions."

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## Looking Forward To Retiring Here

To the editor:

Since becoming a homeowner at Holden Beach, we have been traveling down at least once, sometimes twice a month.

As we come into Shallotte we stop at the supermarket and get our groceries and pick up the Beacon.

I enjoy reading the Beacon and I always take it back home to Davie County with me. My father-in-law looks forward to reading it. Once I forgot it and he was really disappointed when he found out I didn't bring it back with me. He wanted to know how much it cost to subscribe to it.

He can't come down with us as often as he would like to; the 200-mile drive is hard on him. So I'm enclosing a check for a year's subscription to be sent home to us.

We enjoy Holden Beach and are looking forward to retiring there.  
Nell Lagle  
Mocksville

### Passes It On

To the editor:

I subscribe to The Brunswick Beacon and enjoy it very much. Now, as a birthday gift, I would like to subscribe for my sister. Please find check enclosed.

We both have vacation homes at Ocean Isle Beach and enjoy reading the news when we are away.  
Carlene F. Hedrick  
Kernersville

### Needs To Be Informed

To the editor:

A most enjoyable newspaper! Please renew my subscription for two years.

Your editorials are excellent and your feature writers are to be commended. Thanks for keeping us up to date on local laws and proposals.

As absentee owners, we need to be informed on a regular basis. I do not agree with the decision to build condominiums on Holden Beach. Maybe you can write a column on that decision?

Bill Martin  
Gastonia