

Grissettown, Longwood Discuss Joint Fire Department Tonight

BY SUSAN USHER
Brunswick County's fast-growing south end may soon have another volunteer fire department, which would serve the Grissettown-Longwood area.

A second meeting to gauge interest in the department will be held tonight (Thursday, Aug. 8) at 8 p.m. at the Alcoholics Anonymous Building at Grissettown.

"We're in real need of one (a fire department)," said spokesman Malcolm Grissett. "We're in a little dead area, a circle."

The area he referred to lies within no specific fire department's rated district, he said. Fire departments at Sunset Beach, Ocean Isle, Shallotte, Waccamaw and Calabash all respond to calls in the area.

"Sometimes we call one, sometimes another—anybody who can get there the fastest. They all respond," said Grissett. "They do a fantastic job."

But, he said, those who favor a fire department hope it would speed

response times and lower insurance rates. With such rapid growth in the area, he added, people are beginning to acknowledge the need for another department.

District 1 presently includes fire departments at Calabash, Waccamaw, Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach. The county has 17 established departments and two in the organizational stages, Northwest and Navassa.

An initial organizational meeting was held last Thursday, involving only Grissettown area residents and County Commissioners Chris Chappell and Herman Love.

"We got some good response. We could see a lot of interest there," noted Grissett. "If response is as good from the Longwood community, we'll be in good shape."

Longwood area residents have discussed the possibility of their own fire department for a year or longer. A fire department was on a list of needs established by the non-profit

Longwood Community Improvement Association, which meets monthly at Flowers' Store.

Grissett said tentative limits for the fire district would extend along Old Shallotte Road to Grissettown and out to the Thomasboro area, along N.C. 904 from Sea Village development in the south into the Longwood community and to a mobile home development on Four Mile Road.

Final lines won't be drawn until a housing count is received from the Brunswick County Planning Department.

Grissett said the service area boundaries will probably exceed the five-road-miles limit for insurance rating purposes, which means that all residents of the proposed district might not qualify for reductions in fire insurance premiums once the department is established.



STAFF PHOTO BY EDDIE SWEATT

Something Fishy Here

No, this sign is not advertising a fish market just off Ocean Boulevard West at Holden Beach. Apparently someone put up the word "Tuna" because the street sign is missing from its pole. The "\$1.00 per pound" was added, no doubt, by some joker.

Beach Accessway Maps Aimed At Lost Tourists

BY BILL MCGOWAN
Seasonal visitors may not have any trouble finding the town of Holden Beach. But finding their way to the water and strand once on the island is another matter entirely.

Action taken by the town's commissioners Monday night, however, should clear up the situation, at least for those out-of-town visitors who rent cottages, apartments or condominiums.

Upon the recommendation of Mayor Kenner Amos and a motion by Commissioner Hal Stanley, the body voted unanimously to allocate \$400 from the fiscal 1985-86 operating budget to have public accessway maps designed and printed. Commissioner Jim Griffin was not present at the meeting.

The maps, which will list street names, also will include the locations of all public accessways to the ocean on Holden Beach.

According to Mayor Amos, the maps will be distributed to all realtors. When someone checks in and picks up the key to a cottage, he said, the realtor can hand that person a map with the appropriate accessway for that particular rental clearly marked.

"New renters are not told where their accessway is when they come in

on Saturday and Sunday," Amos told commissioners. He said that many visitors are unaware of where the accessways are or even that they exist. The problems occur when tourists, and residents of the area, do not have this information and end up cutting through yards and lots to get to the strand, he said.

In addition, many visitors and local residents alike are unaware that state law prohibits access to the strand over dunes not covered by a boardwalk. Vacant lots, on which dunes are usually uncovered, are often inviting parking lots for those unfamiliar with state and local ordinances.

According to town Administrator Bob Buck, the map will be designed by Satilla Planning Associates of Woodbine, Ga., the same firm which prepares the town's land use plan.

Buck said 1,000 maps will be printed. The estimated cost of designing and printing the maps is \$400.

"I think this will help a great deal," Amos said immediately following passage of the measure.

While commissioners discussed distributing the maps to tourists through local realtors, no mention was made of how to reach visitors who do not rent or live on Holden Beach.

Interested persons who can't attend tonight's meeting or who want more information are asked to contact Grissett at 754-8565 (days) or 579-6599 (nights).

Hurricane Bob Left Impression In July

Hurricane Bob had its influence on area weather in July, giving Brunswick County one of the wettest months so far this year, the National Weather Service in Wilmington reported.

Total rainfall for July reached 10.34 inches at the New Hanover County Airport, or 2.9 inches above the normal amount, but still well below the wettest July on record which is 21.12 inches in 1886.

There were 15 days in July with

measurable rainfall and five days had over one inch of rain. Most of the heavier rains fell during the latter part of the month with 2.47 inches the greatest amount in a 24-hour period on the 24th and 25th, the monthly report states.

"July was also hot. The highest temperature was 98 degrees on the tenth which tied the record in 1926," the NWS report states. There were also 17 days when the temperature reached 90 degrees or above.

Average temperature for the month was 81.4 degrees, or 1.1 degrees above normal, with the lowest temperature of 66 degrees recorded on the 19th.

During July, there were only two clear days, 13 partly cloudy days and 16 cloudy days. The average wind

speed was 7.8 mph, with the fastest one-minute wind speed 29 mph recorded from the south on the 25th and a gust of 41 mph recorded on the same day.

Hurricane Bob was a minimal hurricane that made landfall south of Charleston on the 24th and tracked

through the Carolinas.

"However, it managed to produce strong winds and very heavy rains in southeast North Carolina," the NWS report states. "Early Thursday morning, the wind gusted to over 80 mph along the Brunswick County beaches."

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