

County Inspection Effort Earns Kudos, Complaints

BY SUSAN USHER

Since the county's building inspections program began on July 15, inspectors have issued 865 permits, but not without a few problems.

Within the next few months, the inspections office plans to submit recommendations for changes in the building code ordinance, commissioners learned Monday during a briefing on the program. The changes would relate to remodeling, buildings such as sheds and greenhouses, mobile home underpinnings on permanent foundations and travel-trailer parks.

The office was created to bring the county in compliance with a state requirement that all counties and towns begin enforcing all aspects of the state building code.

Inspector Julius "Buddy" Lewis told commissioners the public has generally received the program well.

"Most say it's the best thing that ever happened in the county, that it will keep this junk from being build," he said.

When a permit is denied, though, added inspector Frank Adams, applicants tend to blame the inspector rather than the worker who perform-

ed the substandard work.

Some of the problems can't be fixed by the county, County Planning Director John Harvey noted.

Some applicants ask the impossible, he said. They come in at 3:30 p.m. or later on Friday and want inspections completed in time for their electricity to be turned on for a weekend move. The office has also been asked to try persuading local utility companies to begin making connections on weekends.

Occasionally permit issuance is delayed because of lack of proper documents or what Harvey called "state intervention in the development process," the need to obtain additional approvals from the health department or other government agency.

In some instances, he added, state building and health regulations directly conflict, making it difficult to know what to enforce. He and county health officials are seeking written clarifications on these.

For instance, the state building code doesn't provide for privies, but state health regulations allow discharge of wastewater from washing machines, tubs and sinks directly into the ground rather than into a wastewater treatment system such as a septic tank.

Impact Broad

Still, he suggested the impact of the program is yet to be felt.

Harvey said county planning board members have told him that "the

building code program is going to have more impact on the lifestyles of Brunswick County and the way people are accustomed to doing things than any other program the county has."

Several board members, he said, are concerned that many normally law-abiding citizens aren't aware of the new ordinance and may unintentionally violate it.

While the program is publicized more widely, commissioners said they will consider extending the grace period before builders have to pay double fees as a penalty for starting construction without the proper permits. The penalty is scheduled to be imposed starting Sept. 15.

Under the ordinances adopted last spring, set-up of a mobile home and most new construction—whether a new shed, house or roof—requires one or more permits. Some must be obtained before any construction begins, others as electrical wiring, plumbing or mechanical work begins.

While most developers and contract builders are aware of the ordinance, those most likely to be in violation are individuals in rural areas.

Correction

An article in last week's Brunswick Beacon reporting that three men had been charged in the Aug. 6 hit and run death of a Leland girl was in error.

State Trooper B.D. Barnhardt stated only two persons have been charged in that incident which is scheduled for trial today (Thursday) in Brunswick County District Criminal Court.

The article listed only two suspects that have been charged in the death, but incorrectly referred to three suspects. Regina Mae Sullivan, 16, of Route 4, Box 396, Leland, was struck from behind by a vehicle while walking on the shoulder of the Northwest Road.

So far, said Frank Adams and Julius "Buddy" Lewis, they haven't had time to stop and investigate when they've passed construction projects for which no permits have been obtained.

"We've just been too busy," said Adams.

In the office, a temporary helper and a county planner are helping Manager Judy Holden keep up with the flow of applicants, paperwork and telephone calls. Added permanent office help is a definite need, she said.

In the field, a "pattern of problems" has emerged in mobile home inspections, Harvey and Adams noted, with three or four of every 10 applications initially denied.

The problems relate to work performed during set-up, a job most dealers contract out.

"Most firms install them properly, but several consistently do it wrong," said Harvey.

Adams said the office probably would not deny a permit if the only error were the turn of the blocks. Most often, he added, if one problem exists, there are more that may relate to health and safety and could not be ignored, such as plumbing or tie-down requirements.

"We do bend a lot out there," said Adams. But failure to enforce the code could mean loss of an inspector's license as well as future liability for the county.

Pancakes On Calabash Menu

An all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast begins at 6 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 31, at the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department building and continues until 11 a.m.

Each \$3.50 meal includes pancakes, sausage, orange juice or coffee, said spokesman E.Y. Hickman.

Proceeds benefit the fire department.

Holden Chief

Briefs Watch

Holden Beach Community Watch members met with Police Chief Raymond Simpson Aug. 20 for an update on items of mutual concern.

Simpson encouraged citizens to continue reporting suspicious actions, noting that police have received a number of calls that have "paid off," said Watch President Norma Swarts.

She said Simpson reported that auto break-ins are still a problem, that some local and out-of-state license tags have been stolen, and street signs stolen or damaged.

Members expressed concern, she said, about illegal parking along Ocean Boulevard and running of the red light at the bridge.

"One resident reported the theft of the daily newspaper, which is not only dishonest but it is cheap," she said.

Town Commissioner Gloria Barrett and volunteer Jim Buffalo also discussed attempts to improve hurricane alert procedures. Efforts are being made to obtain better communication and more management personnel; to identify more resource people with items such as chain saws, radio equipment and generators, and to develop a list of disabled persons who might need assistance in case of evacuation.

At its September and October meetings, the organization is trying to schedule programs on CAMA regulations and hurricanes.

Also, said Mrs. Swarts, alphabetical and alert rosters of permanent residents are being updated for publication and distribution. Corrections should be passed on to a board member.

Leland Community Building Opens

A grand opening ceremony Thursday (today) at 1 p.m. marks the formal opening of the Leland Community Park Building at the park.

Brunswick County Commissioners and Parks and Recreation Board members are expected to attend and the public is invited.

A celebration of the park's opening, the community's first "ole time" festival will be held Sept. 21.

Honor Roll Deadline Set

What do the late General Benjamin Smith, an aide de camp to General George Washington; John W. Anderson, a Civil War blockade runner, and Clarence Mobley of Winnabow have in common?

They were all Brunswick County residents—officers and enlisted men from all branches of service—who died while serving in the U.S. armed forces. Their names will be included in the Brunswick County Honor Roll.

The roll is a record of Brunswick County veterans who died while in service, whether in the line of combat, due to illness or some other cause.

A Sept. 30 cut-off date has been set for submitting names for inclusion on the list, said Brunswick County Veteran Service Officer Jess Parker.

To submit information or to ask questions, contact Parker at the service office, 253-4307.

End Of Summer Buys

All Summer Merchandise

40% Off

Come See Our New Fall Arrivals!

Ocean Isle Beach Shop Fashion Loft

Ocean Blvd. Ocean Isle Beach 579-2404

Summer Clearance thru Labor Day or while stock lasts on all PVC Patio Furniture

REDUCED TO NEAR COST!

Ocean Isle Furniture

Hwy. 179 579-9434 Free Delivery
MC, VISA and American Express Welcome



Careful attention to your financial needs

You can depend on it here! We offer you full financial services . . . with a personal touch. Be it checking, savings, retirement plans, loan applications . . . or any other financial need . . . large or small . . . depend on us!

Security

SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION

•Southport •Leland •Shalotte •Calabash
457-5246 371-6546 754-4371 579-3595



Labor Day Sale

Great Savings On Salem Carpet

COLOUR FLAVORS—pin point texture, protected by Scotchgard® 10-year warranty. **\$13⁹⁹** sq. yd.

LOVING TOUCH—plush Saxony Dupont nylon and Scotchgard® 5-year warranty **\$9⁴⁹** sq. yd.

RADIANCE—Made of K-Tron® Scotchgard® 5-year warranty **\$8⁷⁹** sq. yd.

Main Street
Shalotte
754-6965

NO LABOR DAY SALE

But, in honor of the return of HALLEY'S COMET we are giving some out-of-this-world buys on carpet & flooring

LOOK!

	WAS per sq. yd.	NOW per sq. yd.
Beautiful multi-colored Saxony	\$10 ⁹⁵	\$7 ⁹⁰
Antron extra body cut & loop	\$13 ⁵⁰	\$9 ⁵⁰
Great looking plush pile in 32 designer colors	\$16 ⁵⁰	\$12 ⁹⁵
Antron cut & loop with 5-year wear warranty	\$14 ⁹⁵	\$11 ⁵⁰
Congoleum vinyl flooring	\$8 ⁹⁵	\$4 ⁹⁵
1/2" high density bonded pad	\$2 ⁵⁰	\$1 ⁵⁰

EXPERT INSTALLATION/FULLY GUARANTEED

C. E. Edwards, Inc.

HOLDEN BEACH CAUSEWAY 842-3591

Our South Brunswick Islands team

...always ready to serve you!

CALL 754-4488

LOWE'S

Your Household Word