



Festival by the Sea

Festival Begins Friday Night

BY DAWN ELLEN BOYD

Holden Beach's N.C. Festival By The Sea this weekend promises fun and activities for all ages.

The festival is sponsored by the Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association.

The party begins on Friday night at 6:30 p.m. with a Halloween Carnival at the Tri-Beach Fire Department.

Costumed children can meet at The Beach Mart on the Causeway around 6 p.m. for a "parade" to the fire department building.

Trophies will be presented to children wearing the best costumes.

The carnival also features a haunted house, games and prize drawings. Refreshments and baked goods will be sold.

Festival activities resume at 8:30 a.m. Saturday with the festival runs. A one-mile fun run, 5-kilometer and 10-kilometer races will begin at the fire substation near the west end.

Arts and crafts will be displayed at the town hall area from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Last year 82 craftsmen set up displays; this year at least 100 are expected.

The festival parade, featuring bands, clowns, queens, race cars and other surprises, will begin at 11 a.m. at the Inland Realty parking lot. The parade will move down the causeway, across the bridge and turn east on Ocean Boulevard.

The horseshoe pitching competition will also begin at 11 a.m. (or perhaps later if the tide isn't low enough) on the strand beside Ocean View Pavilion. Interested pitchers can sign up at the site.

A sand sculpture competition will follow the horseshoe pitching at the pavilion at 12:30 p.m. Interested persons or groups should come a few minutes early to sign up. Tee shirts and ribbons will be awarded to the winners, but groups will receive only one tee shirt. The grand prize winner will also receive a sand castle sculpture.

Barbecue plates will be available from the town hall area from noon until 6 p.m. Plates are \$3.50. There will be a drawing for a 13-inch color television set at 5 p.m. You must be present to win.

A bridge tournament will be held at Reaves Fish Camp on the causeway from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Prizes will be given to the winners.

The Brunswick County Taxpayers Association, which is fighting the closing of road access to Holden Beach's west end, will hold an all day attic, bake and tee shirt sale Saturday at the old Faircloth service station at the causeway intersection. Proceeds will go into the group's legal fund.

Festival events which will take place outside the town of Holden Beach include the long-driving contest, which will be held at the Holden Beach Driving Range on N.C. 130 at 3 p.m. and the gospel music exhibition.

The Coastalaires of Holden Beach and the Ennis Family of Supply will entertain at 7 p.m. at the gospel music park near Jane's Restaurant on N.C. 130 (Holden Beach Road).

One of the highlights of the festival is the street dance, which will feature the East Coast Rhythms from High Point. The band specializes in show, top 40 and beach music.

Mitchell Simpson, the band's leader, is the son of Holden Beach Police Chief Raymond Simpson.

The dance will be held on Brunswick Street, between Davis Street and the Intracoastal Waterway.

The Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association will make contributions to the Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad and the Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department with proceeds from the festival.

Money will also be earmarked for landscaping the causeway after the completion of the new high-rise bridge.

Steam Power Plant Will Buy County Water, Provide Jobs

BY SUSAN USHER

A business that plans to sell steam-generated electric power to Pfizer Chemicals and Carolina Power and Light Co. promises to be one of the large-volume water users Brunswick County has been looking for.

Cogentrix of Charlotte will be "the first major benefactor of the county's new water system," according to Michael deSherbinin, executive director of the Resources Development Commission. Revelation of the company's plans at a Monday meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners was the latest of several announcements of industrial activity in the county and one of two announcements that night.

The company plans to begin construction in March of a \$75 million plant on nine acres of the southwest section of Pfizer Chemicals Inc. tract at Southport. The plant will eventually employ 40 permanent shift workers.

The 100-megawatt capacity plant will burn 36,000 tons of low-sulphur

Kentucky coal per year and generate 945,000 pounds of steam per hour, according to Larry N. Frost, vice president for corporate development.

Cogentrix will produce all of the electricity needed to operate Pfizer's citric acid production plant and will sell additional power to Carolina Power & Light.

Its plant will produce electricity cheaper than the oil-burning facility Pfizer now relies on. "This will put Pfizer in a more competitive position" with corporate facilities in Connecticut and Indiana, said Pfizer plant manager Robert Nubel, increasing the likelihood of expansion at the Southport plant.

"We will be totally dependent on their steam. Without it, we don't make pound one of citric acid," he added.

Cogentrix will require a steady flow of up to four million gallons of water per day, an amount not available from the county's current water plant on N.C. 211, but which will be available upon completion of

the 24mgd surface water treatment plant at Malmo next year.

The water it discharges into the Cape Fear River will be recaptured through condensation of steam, according to deSherbinin, and will be of excellent quality.

Production wastewater and storm-water runoff will both be treated before discharge. Sanitary waste will go into Pfizer's treatment plant, Frost said.

All pollution-control systems at the plant will be "100 percent redundant," Frost said, meaning that one-half of the systems can fail and still provide the plant 100 percent coverage.

Those systems include the use of "bag houses," Teflon-lined fiberglass bags that capture particulate waste such as soot in a giant vacuum system.

According to deSherbinin, the plant will "actually improve the air quality" because it will release less particulates into the atmosphere than Pfizer's existing system.

The plant will require landfill space for disposal of five to six truckloads of non-hazardous ash each day. Cogentrix will work with the county in financing and locating additional solid waste disposal areas.

Frost estimates a 15-month construction payroll for the private utility of approximately \$20 million. An average of about 225 workers will be on the job at any one time, with a peak work force of 450.

Of the 40 permanent jobs, about 25 to 30 will be filled locally, he said.

Cogentrix is the only independent co-generation production company operating in the state. Others are owned by the companies for which they provide electrical power.

"We're here because CP&L allows us to be," said Frost.

Cogentrix has generating facilities under construction "on time and under budget" at Elizabethtown, Lumberton and Kenansville. Under its exclusive agreement with CP&L, another will be built at Roxboro, but the Southport plant will be largest of these.



DIGNITARIES took shovels in hand Sunday afternoon to "break ground" for the first expansion of Brunswick Hospital at Supply since its doors opened in 1977. At the left are Charles Sons, Sen. R.C. Soles Jr., Rep. David Red-

wine and Robert Sellers. At right are Alfrieda Ward, Dr. Mushtaq Khan, Kenneth Bellamy and Rev. Dan Norman.

Hospital Launches \$3.2 Million Expansion

BY SUSAN USHER

A \$3.2 million expansion and renovation project at Brunswick Hospital in Supply should be completed by mid-1987, enhancing the hospital's ability to provide intensive care and obstetrical services.

At a groundbreaking ceremony for the project Sunday afternoon, Robert Sellers, chairman of the Brunswick County Hospital Authority and board of trustees, described the expansion as the "beginning of the final phase of a three-year effort to update and upgrade the hospital," facilitating the move toward a "full service hospital."

Other participants included Sen. R.C. Soles Jr., Rep. E. David Redwine, Administrator Charles E. Sons, staff surgeon Dr. Mushtaq H. Khan, and authority members Kenneth Bellamy and Alfrieda Ward. Chris Chappell, chairman of the county

commissioners, and Billy Carter, county manager, sent their regrets.

The project will be the first expansion since the 60-bed hospital began operation in November 1977 on a shoestring budget.

It will include conversion of four medical/surgical beds into a four-bed intensive care/coronary care unit, addition of one operating room and two minor procedure rooms by replacing the old delivery and labor rooms with a new labor and delivery suite and C-section room, an expanded emergency room with trauma bays, triage area and waiting room, addition of an ultrasound and nuclear medicine suite in the radiology area, expansion and redesign of the administrative and business/accounting office areas, addition of a private dining room, and expansion of the engineering and storage areas. The hospital's long-troublesome

sewage treatment plant will be replaced. To round out the project, said Betsy Lewis, community relations director, other areas will be redecorated.

The project, which will be financed by Hospital Corporation of America, which has leased the facility from the Authority, and the hospital in a 60-40 split that will involve no county tax dollars.

The improvements would be accomplished with no significant increase in operating costs and with what Sons called "the lowest rate increase in the history of the hospital." Speaking for the medical staff to a group of about 60 well-wishers, Dr. Mushtaq H. Khan, a surgeon, said the proposed improvements will help doctors serve their patients "more efficiently and ably."

Sen. Soles stressed that the health of the nation and the local communi-

ty depends in part on the availability of good medical facilities.

"It is very unusual to have the facilities you have here and what is projected without a large expenditure of public funds," he added.

Sellers echoed that sentiment, praising "the beneficial partnership" between government and private enterprise represented by the hospital's leasing arrangement.

While tax dollars continue to pay for the original facility, the hospital no longer relies upon an operating contribution from the county and private dollars will finance the expansion.

"We've had our ups and downs," Rep. Redwine noted, adding that the actions of the hospital, its staff and administration demonstrate a "renewed commitment to quality

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CRC Extends Consideration Of Water Quality Regulations

BY SUSAN USHER

Just as local planning and development interests had hoped, Coastal Resources Commission members decided Friday to further study controversial building regulations aimed at protecting shellfishing waters before bringing them to a vote.

The rules considered Thursday and Friday will be readvertised as revised, with two more public hearings to be held, one in the northern and one in the central part of the coast. The period for receiving written comments on the proposals has been extended to Nov. 30.

The rules will be considered for adoption when the CRC meets Dec. 12 and 13.

At the same time, the commission directed its staff to investigate the impact of extending the CRC's authority over the estuarine shoreline from 75 feet to 200 feet from shore.

Reactions to the proposed rules during a public hearing last Thursday in Wilmington ranged from pleas for reconsideration of such "drastic" measures to comments that the proposals were not stringent enough. Most comments were supportive.

Meeting at Sunset Beach Wednesday night, the Brunswick County Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend postponement and further study of the regulations in conjunction with coastal communities, planning board chairman and beach developer Ed Gore told the CRC.

He read a planning board memo to the CRC, drafted by County Planner John Harvey, which urged that body to "be a positive development guidance force, rather than a negative one of short term 'Thou Shall Not's'."

The memo cited the "tremendous loss" of tourism

revenues that could result from regulations Gore said wouldn't solve the problem.

Gore said large inland watershed systems that drain across Brunswick County are responsible for point pollution of area waters; that no studies or evidence indicate development of Sunset or Ocean Isle beaches is responsible. He said the CRC has available a study that says the difference in water quality degradation adjoining developed and undeveloped lands isn't significant, about 10 percent.

He suggested also that the proposals are "diametrically opposed" to current state septic tank regulations.

Meanwhile, with CRC adoption of the regulations anticipated Friday, at Brunswick County beaches last week building inspectors' offices were flooded with applications for local CAMA permits, primarily for single-

family residences on canal lots.

Estuarine Shoreline

The proposed regulations would affect development within the 75-foot area of environmental concern along estuarine shorelines. Present regulations don't restrict how close construction can come to estuarine waters.

As first drafted the proposed rules would have prevented development of a number of local lots, particularly canal lots on the barrier islands and lots that measure less than 50-by-100-feet. But revisions accepted last week would allow those individual lots to be used.

"If you think there aren't many (affected lots), we figured there must be at least 100 of those boys in Brunswick County," Ralph Cantrill of the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development said. (See CRC, Page 2-A)