

# Schools And County Want Traffic Concerns Settled

**BY SUSAN USHER**  
Brunswick County's school superintendent wants traffic safety equipment for all 11 campuses, he told county commissioners Monday night.

Gene Yarbrough had tentatively planned to ask the county board for additional money to install flashing lights near Leland Middle School, where fifth-grader Michelle Spivey was killed Nov. 6 as she walked home from school, and other campuses as well.

"We would need to do them all," he said. "It could cost up to \$20,000."

But district and state representatives of the N.C. Department of Transportation could not come survey the situation at Leland Middle School until Tuesday following the board meeting, so Yarbrough agreed to return with the state's recommendation and a plan, as well as cost estimates.

While both boards said they wanted to do whatever is necessary to eliminate the possibility of similar incidents occurring in the future, each had its own ideas about where the money should come from for flashing lights, added parking areas and the like.

"You're still talking about a lot of money," Yarbrough said. "We don't have the money to build parking lots. If the county commissioners want to pass a motion tonight (to provide the funds), we'll start tomorrow."

Chris Chappell, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, told Yarbrough the schools might need "to reassign your priorities on capital needs to meet safety needs at the schools," a senti-

ment echoed by Commissioner Grace Beasley.

"I thought we put money in the budget."

"You did, but not enough," the superintendent replied.

"It seemed adequate," Beasley replied.

Yarbrough said the system had been criticized in past years when it did change its priorities. "Are you saying it's alright to do that now?" Chappell said he meant the school board could submit revised priorities for the commissioners' concurrence.

Until the state offers its recommendations, Yarbrough said, a school employ will act as temporary crossing guard to help youngsters cross the Old Fayetteville Road, and space will be made available on at least one bus, No. 58, for students who live near the school.

"If we can't take them all the way in, we'll at least get them across the road," he said.

Commissioner Herman Love, former transportation supervisor for the schools, asked if Yarbrough knew Leland residents bought a set of flashing lights years ago that aren't in use. The lights are stored out behind the school bus garage, he said.

Yarbrough said he didn't know they were available, and added that the state still must approve their use.

County DOT Engineer Bill Benton said the state typically approves flashing lights on roads with through traffic, where motorists aren't familiar with the area.

"But the majority of traffic on that road is local. They know those schools are there. No number of

lights in the world will change that," he said.

Other partial solutions discussed were creating a single, extended school zone that includes both Leland Middle and North Brunswick High schools, lowering the overall speed limit for the road to lessen the speed reduction expected of drivers in the school zones.

"We're concerned," Yarbrough told the board. "One child out of 10,000 is not very many statistically. . . but one in terms of the love parents gave this child one is a great number. . . We are all diminished."

**Hooper Hill**  
Residents of Hooper Hill Road (S.R. 1427) in northwestern Brunswick County asked for some "straight answers" and help in getting the state to improve their road.

The 1.6-mile road, in existence about 35 years, serves 21 families and two churches. It ranks ninth on the state's priority list for road work in the county. Under the plan for the current year, King Road will be paved and several other roads stabilized.

Bill Benton, county engineer with the N.C. Department of Transportation told Willie Davis and other residents of the road that if there were funds remaining after working on the top seven roads, the state would consider tackling next No. 8-ranked McCumbee Road, less than a half-mile in length, then Hooper Hill.

Residents said they've seen their road go from high to low priority on the list from one year to the next. Meanwhile, school buses, the mail carrier and even hearses occasional-

ly get stuck in the mud and drivers unfamiliar with the road occasionally overturn their vehicles upon striking deep ruts.

The group of about 15 to 20 residents did get a quick answer to another request. Chairman Chris Chappell told them green boxes for trash collection would be moved to the road immediately.

**Detox Center**  
Commissioners received, but took no action on, a recommendation from County Manager Billy Carter to contact Southeastern Mental Health on whether the county endorses and is willing to aid financially in setting up an area detoxification center in Wilmington.

In a Nov. 4 letter Brunswick Hospital Administrator Charles Sons declined proposed participation by the hospital in development of a local alcohol detoxification program. "I have come to the conclusion that such a program operated either through a joint venture with Southeastern Mental Health or operated solely through our facility would not be a viable alternative at this point," wrote Sons, noting that the state health planning system discourages the location of detox beds at acute care hospitals.

When asked to join Southeastern in funding an area detox center in Wilmington, commissioners had said they would rather offer the program locally and possibly at a lower, more controllable cost if possible. Dasher Hospital in Southport, like the Supply hospital, has said it is not interested in such a venture.

**Other Business**  
In other business, commissioners:

- Voted to readvertise for bids for trucks scales for the landfill after receiving only two bids, omitting a requirement for cast iron construction.
- Voted to let the Brunswick County Board of Elections sell obsolete election machine parts to Cumberland County for \$900. Deputy Finance Officer Amy Walker said Cumberland is the only county in the state that uses the system the parts go with.
- Approved bid specifications for a 4x4 pickup, 4x2 pickup and a utility truck for the water department.
- Received a petition from Rev. Winston Brown, president and spokesman for the Southport Branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) asking the county that Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 20) be declared an annual holiday for county employees. The item will be on the Dec. 4 agenda.
- Heard from Revaluation Project Director Brent Weisner that valuation notices should be mailed the first week in December, as soon as all parcels of property have been visited.
- Heard Eileen Kellagher of Oak Island question a delay in letting bids for construction of 12 animal cages at the animal shelter. Told by Environmental Health Supervisor John Crowder that architectural drawings should be ready for bid by the first of 1986, she replied, "I never heard of hiring an architect for a \$10,000 to \$12,000 project. It's another way to waste money."
- After emerging from a 2½-hour closed-door session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and

an attorney/client matter, the board approved obtaining five easements for the county Phase II water transmission line as follows: Federal Paperboard Co., 4,000 feet, \$1,000; General Wood Preserving Co., a "gift" of .75 mile easement in consideration for a one-inch domestic tap from the county; E.C. Anderson, a 5,540 feet easement in exchange for five three-quarter inch domestic taps; Mary and Daniel Ward, 285 feet at Buckeye Road and U.S. 17, \$200; and Thomas H. Brown, Lanvale Road area, 535 feet, \$200.

• Delayed until the Dec. 2 meeting discussion of a system in which owners of subsurface mineral, oil and gas rights would claim those rights before Jan. 1, 1988, by recording them and paying taxes on them. Otherwise title to the subsurface claims would merge with title to the surface. In some cases the titles run parallel, but not always, County Attorney David Clegg said, and that can cause a cloud on the title or force someone to buy those rights separately.

• Directed the county attorney to begin eminent domain proceedings to take 2.5 acres of land on the west side of S.R. 1165 (Thomasboro Road) near the Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. substation for the site of the county's third convenience station.

• At Commissioner Herman Love's recommendation, appointed Alan Holden of Holden Beach to the Brunswick County Planning Board to fill the unexpired term of John F. Parker, who resigned earlier this month. Holden is chairman of the Holden Beach Planning and Zoning Board.

## Proposed Runoff Standards Prompt Action

**BY SUSAN USHER**  
Brunswick County commissioners joined the county planning board Monday night in asking the Coastal Resources Commission to delay action next month on proposed urban runoff standards.

The delay would allow time for the state to work more closely with local governments on the standards, County Planner John Harvey said in seeking the board's approval of a letter to the CRC.

LaDane Bullington, mayor of Ocean Isle Beach and a Cape Fear Council of Governments member, wrote the county on an extension of the comment period to Nov. 29.

"I think it's important we provide the CRC comment," said Harvey, roughly tracing the history of the CRC's latest effort to protect water quality. "Each time it's proposed it seems more severe. It takes more study than the state has given it at this time."

The measures would adversely affect economic development and property values, he predicted.

However, building permit officers at two local beaches said Tuesday the proposed standards would not severely limit construction, but are causing concern among property owners.

At Ocean Isle Beach, Inspector T.D. Roberson said about 1,500

estuarine lots exist on the island. Of those, an estimated six could not be built on. Another 600 could be built on only under exceptions in the standards. These allow construction of smaller single-family homes on already platted lots that could otherwise not be developed.

Sunset Beach Town Manager Wallace Martin said he knows of about eight "questionable" waterway lots on the mainland, but none on the island itself. With the exceptions, he noted, the lots can be built upon but the house size allowed might be less than the owner first intended.

Roberson said the larger concern seems to be that developers and in-

dividual property owners don't know where the regulations will stop. He said they're concerned that as the rules become more strict, the risk to property values will increase.

Ocean Isle Beach land owners have applied for minor CAMA permits to build on 450 and 500 lots. On Tuesday, Ocean Isle Developing Co. applied for 309 permits for east-end canal lots. Roberson said his interpretation is that the permits are good for three years and allow the owner to build under regulations existing at the time of issuance.

"People just don't know," said Roberson. "For \$25, they'd just rather have the insurance."



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## Democrats Get To Name Coroner

(Continued From Page 1-A)  
since the examiner is responsible for the declarations as to cause of death.

Where local physicians refuse to serve as medical examiners, the state office is obligated to provide one, even if from outside the county.

The Democratic Executive Committee gets to nominate Gilbert's successor since he was a Democrat. But it doesn't have to nominate a party member for the job; in fact, it doesn't have to nominate anyone. If no one is nominated, commissioners can appoint whomever they please to the post. Otherwise, they must accept the party's nominee, said County Attorney David Clegg.

A Republican candidate is actively seeking that appointment.

Coroner Larry Andrews, Gilbert's assistant for 13 years, said he is the most qualified candidate, but that his GOP affiliation hurts his chance of nomination.

His cause got unsolicited support Monday from the eight writers who endorsed the coroner's system. Without fail, they also supported Andrews' appointment to the job in letters he said were sealed when he received them.

Andrews is a funeral home director and chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Elections.

Drs. Michael Bauerschmidt, James Mulholland, Gene Wallin and Charles Savarese, all medical examiners, support having a coroner. Among their reasons: the large size of the county and shortage of doctors.

"Brunswick County, as you are

well aware, often times has unique needs that require deviation from the norm," noted Bauerschmidt.

Spokesman for the Calabash, Town Creek, Coastline and Waccamaw rescue units said a coroner is needed because delays might be much longer when waiting for a medical examiner to arrive on the scene.

We can't tie up our vehicles waiting for a doctor to declare a victim deceased when there are people needing our assistance to stay alive," wrote Calabash VRS Chief Cora Phipps.

Under Chapter 130A-383, in cases where the medical examiner has jurisdiction such as suspected foul play, a doctor is not required to pronounce death, only to sign the death certificate, said Larry Parker, assistant to Chief Medical Examiner Page Hudson.

"The expression of opinion that death has occurred may be made by a nurse, an emergency medical technician or any other competent person on the scene," he read. That frees the rescue squad or other party to call the medical examiner.

"They would relay the circumstances of the death to the medical examiner, who would then determine if he needed to go to the scene."

Coroner Tommy Gilbert submitted his resignation on Nov. 13, effective Monday, when the funeral director began work at a new job which he did not identify. Chairman Chris Chappell said he understood Gilbert ac-

cepted a civil service position.

The coroner is the only county official who may hold an inquest or serve warrants for arrest of the sheriff. In the event the sheriff's job is vacated, the coroner is acting sheriff until a successor is named.

Gilbert's office is the county's "cheapest," Andrews said, with a budget of \$17,500, of which \$16,150 is for contracted services and \$1,350 for a group insurance premium.

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The county pays either the coroner or medical examiner \$50 per call plus mileage, but never both.

In other business, commissioners met in executive session with animal control office employee Sharon Russ Carter to follow up on a grievance filed earlier this year, but continued the hearing until 6 p.m. Dec. 4 because of the time involved.

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## Arts Council Awards Grants

The Brunswick County Arts Council awarded grants last week to Parks and Recreation, the public schools, the Associated Artists of Southport and the Christmas presentation of the Nutcracker Ballet.

Parks and Recreation received \$2,800 and the public schools received \$1,500 for their annual efforts in promoting the arts in Brunswick County,

said Ouida Hewett, president of the arts council.

The Associated Artists of Southport received \$1,000 in support of their annual N.C. Fourth of July Festival arts program.

The council voted to give \$300 to support the presentation of the Nutcracker Ballet on Saturday, Dec. 14 in Hatch Auditorium at the N.C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell.

# Thanksgiving Dinner

Menu includes choice of turkey or ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, giblet gravy, fruit salad, whole cranberry sauce, buttered whole kernel corn, peas w/pearl onions, string beans w/mushrooms, summer squash, hot rolls.

Desserts—cherry supreme, lemon meringue pie, pumpkin pie, coconut cream pie, Jello.

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