

## Award-Winning Agency Gets New Coordinator

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

The Brunswick Interagency Project for special populations got an award and a new coordinator on the same day.

As officials of Brunswick County Schools and Brunswick Technical College were on their way to Winston-Salem on Jan. 19 to accept an award for the program, coordinator Anita White was settling into the office on

her first day on the job.

The Excellence in Education award was one of 16 given to public school systems by Governor James G. Martin in recognition of innovative programs in the arts, high technology, discipline and teaching practices.

The Interagency Project was begun here in 1983, instigated by Stephanna Tewey, then director of special education for Brunswick County Schools and now assistant superintendent, with the support of the local Advocates for Retarded Citizens group.

Participating with the school system as sponsors were Brunswick Technical College and Southeastern Mental Health. Each institution provides part of the resources, including personnel, vehicles and funds for equipment and supplies.

Interagency is housed on the original campus of BTC in Supply, where Mrs. White has her office.

"But we are finalizing architect's plans for a new building on the new campus," she said. Construction is expected to begin in a few weeks on the new facility which can serve more than the approximately 40 students, adults aged 16 and older, now involved in the program.

The 55-year-old White has worked in special education for 20 years and comes here from Beaufort, S.C., where she administered a care facility for mentally retarded adults.

With a B.A. in special education from West Virginia University, she

taught for five years, then opened an Adult Developmental Activity Program (ADAP) in Beaufort, served as program coordinator at a rehabilitation center in Honolulu, Hawaii, and returned to Beaufort to open an intermediate care facility there. "I always seem to be the first one on the scene," she said.

The project she will now direct in Brunswick County was begun to provide more appropriate education for trainable mentally handicapped adults, according to Laraine Williams, director of special education for Brunswick County schools.

"This was to give people some training for work, and help them become as independent as possible," she said. "There was no program for adults then, but the Advocates for Retarded Citizens was helpful in organizing the Interagency."

Referrals come from public schools, BTC and the mental health department, but all applications are reviewed by an admissions committee on the Brunswick Tech campus. Admitted are those with an IQ of 70 or less and a previous history that suggests they could be helped by the program.

Services are free to participants and transportation is provided by two vans and four mini-buses. The annual budget for the program is about \$67,000.

Four teachers and two aides provide instruction. Vicky Holly, who has taught in the Interagency program since its inception, said it

doesn't give specific job skills, but "skills needed to work at any job." These would include handling money, simple tools, hygiene and appearance and socialization.

"We give students a lot of socializing experiences," Holly said. "Every Friday, they eat lunch at McDonald's and go bowling in Wilmington. Also, we offer classes in photography and sewing, and have regular developmental dance classes. A Laubach tutor teaches reading, too." Advanced cosmetology students at BTC give Interagency students free services, she added.

There have been a number of success stories, according to Holly. "One 46-year-old woman who started with us two years ago, was severely physically handicapped, too, and confined to a wheel chair. Now she walks with a walker. She had only started crawling at age 38," she said.

A number of her students have come a long way, academically, Holly noted. "They're now reading and handling money."

Last summer Interagency was one of eight programs awarded a \$10,000 state grant for a work training program. Holly said six of those enrolled got jobs at The Winds on Ocean Isle Beach as a mobile cleaning crew. "They got paid minimum wage and did a good job," she said.

Usually students are referred for job training to a vocational rehabilitation program or the Job Training Partnership Act program.

"We're so excited about the pro-



ANITA WHITE is busy settling into her office on the Supply campus of Brunswick Technical College, where she will coordinate the Interagency project.

spect of the new building," Holly said. "When that's finished, we can serve larger numbers and do a better job with those we have."

## BTC Offers EMT Courses

Brunswick Technical College will offer Emergency Medical Technician courses at the Calabash Rescue Squad building and the Coastline Rescue Squad building during February.

It will meet at the Calabash Rescue Squad building 6:30-10:30 p.m. Wednesday and Friday beginning Feb. 4 and concluding April 24.

The course meeting at the Coastline Rescue Squad building begins Feb. 3 and continues through April 25. It meets from 6:30-10:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Helen Potter will be the instructor, and the registration fee is \$15. There is no fee for members of a rescue squad, fire or police department, or to senior citizens.

An ambulance attendant course will be offered from 7-10 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Town Creek Rescue Squad Building in Winnabow, beginning Feb. 5 and running through April 15.

Marie Coleman will teach the course and the registration fee is \$15, except for members of the rescue squads, fire and police departments, or senior citizens.

## Tax Counseling Offered Seniors

Senior citizens of Brunswick County needing assistance in preparing income tax forms for 1986 may get help every Tuesday at the Southport library from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m., and at the Shallotte library every Wednesday from 1-4 p.m.

In addition, service by appointment only is on Wednesday at the Brunswick County Government Center by calling 253-4441.

Citizens should take with them all data relative to income and possible deductions, as well as copies of taxes filed last year.

There is no charge for the service, provided by local citizens, trained and sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service and the American Association of Retired Persons.

## Group To Hear Pfizer Speaker

Robert Wilson of Pfizer Inc. in Southport will speak at the Feb. 3 meeting of Brunswick County Chapter 1894 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE).

The meeting will be held at 1 p.m. at the Pirate's Cove Restaurant, Ocean Drive, Yaupon Beach.

Wilson will talk on the subject of "Know Your Neighbor."

The meeting is open to the public. Membership in NARFE is open to federal retirees and federal employees with at least five years service.

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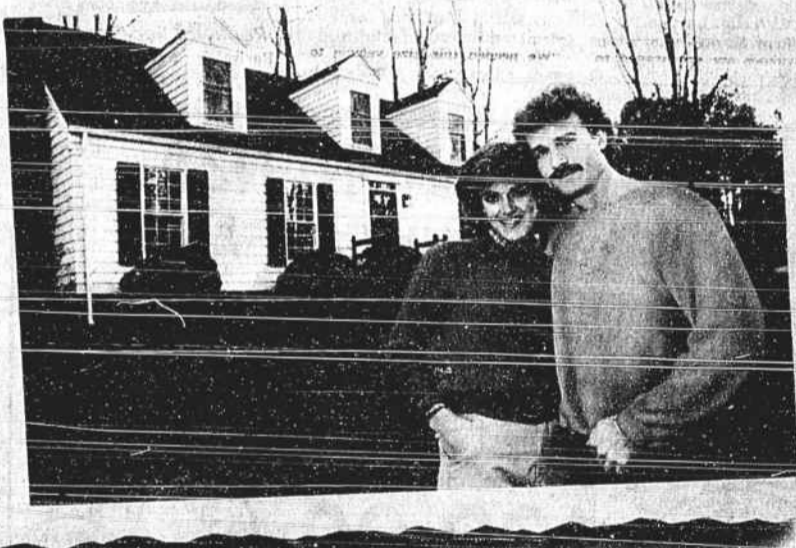
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\$50,000	\$354	\$750	\$850	\$1500
\$100,000	\$708	\$1500	\$1700	\$3000

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