

Leland Residents List Needs For County Land Use Update

BY TERRY POPE

Improved highways and more orderly growth top the list of priorities that Leland residents hope the county will address in its 1987 Land Use Plan Update.

Although only seven Leland residents attended a public hearing there Monday, the group provided the Brunswick County Planning Department with a list of 27 growth-related issues affecting the Leland area.

Planning board member Thomas Dixie said he was "very disappointed" with the turnout.

"People must have other things to do," he said. The series of hearings was advertised in local newspapers. The hearing at the Leland Community Center was the first of four to be held in the county this week by the planning department.

Glenn Harbeck, manager of planning services for Edward D. Stone Jr. and Associates of Wilmington, said the hearings are the starting point for a Land Use Plan that should be completed by September.

The updated plan is needed to "identify the growth

issues," Harbeck said. The county's population will double by the year 2006, he added, and the county must develop "policies for dealing with the specific growth problems."

The growth problems listed at the hearing Monday included a need to eliminate traffic congestion from Woodburn to Olde Towne and the four-laning of U.S. 17 throughout the county.

Residents also listed a need for countywide sewer and zoning.

"I'd just like to see the natural beauty of this county improved," said Edith Tillman.

Another resident said the land use plan should be aware of the effect that adjoining areas, such as Wilmington and Myrtle Beach, S.C., have on Brunswick County's growth.

"I feel like Wilmington is already encroaching on us because there are no standards for mobile home developments," Ms. Tillman added. She added that

there are at least 50 mobile home parks in the Leland area.

Dixie said the majority of Leland residents that spoke at a county public hearing earlier this year spoke against the need for countywide zoning. The issue was dropped by the county commissioners.

Glenn Peterson said he would like to see the plan address ways to preserve the aesthetics of certain transportation corridors, such as N.C. 133 from Leland to Southport and the Hoods Creek area. He also asked that the plan recognize the farming areas of the county and that county historic sites be protected.

Other issues that received votes of high priority included the need for the protection of estuaries (nursery areas for shellfish and marine life), specific long-range plans to address growth-related problems and regulation of billboards.

Other growth-related problems listed by the residents included:

- the need for developers to bear the county's costs

associated with development;

- the need to keep a close watch on residential density;

- a concern for the devaluation of property due to lack of regulations;

- the need for a plan for county swimming pools;

- the need to encourage higher standards to ensure higher quality development;

- the need to develop the Northwest Township District Park;

- the need to protect the Carolina bays from development getting too close (Goodman Road area);

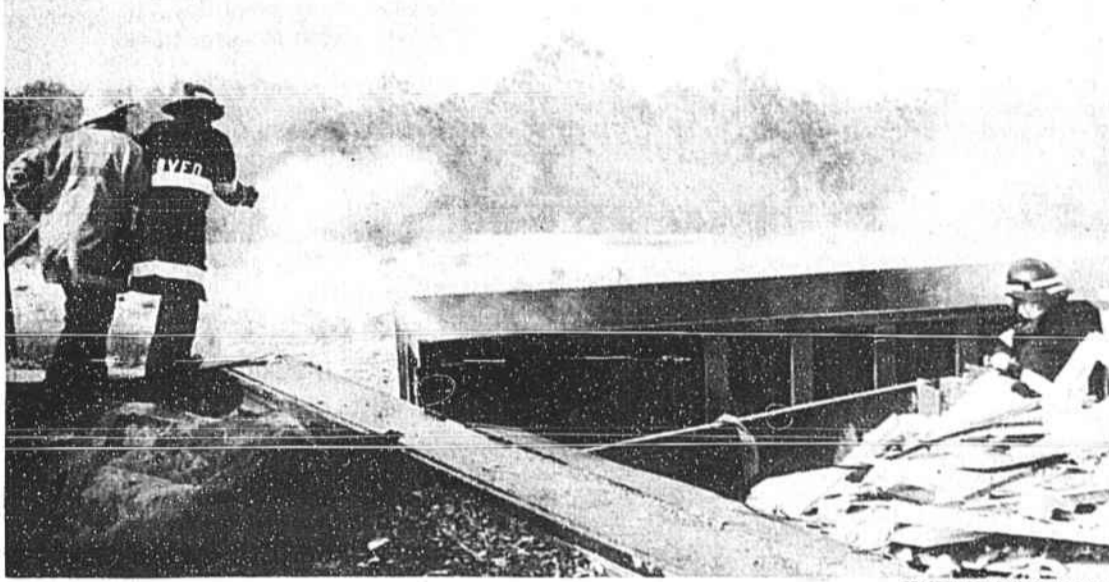
- the need to establish district offices for county services for permits, or health care;

- the need to protect natural drainage areas;

- the need to construct a boat ramp in Leland;

- the need of an ordinance to control the discharge of firearms in populated areas; and

- the need to construct bikeways or trails and other family recreational facilities.

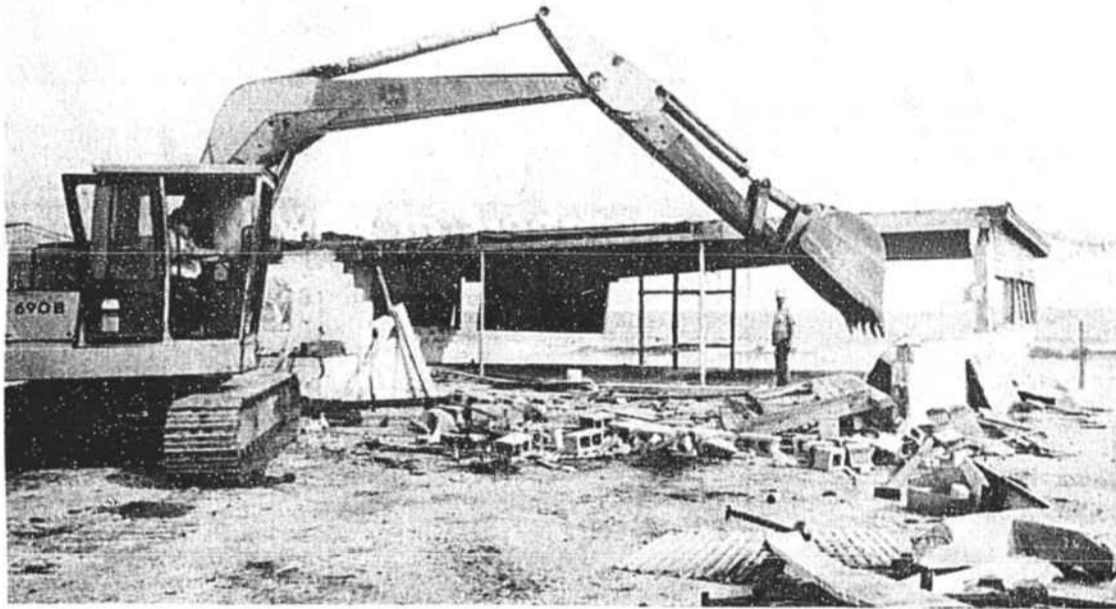


STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Dumpster Burns Again

Sunset Beach firefighters were called Thursday afternoon to put out another fire at the Sea Trail area county convenience station. Fires are started regularly in the

40-yard containers, sometimes causing structural damage to the station as well.



STAFF PHOTO BY CAROLYN SWIAT

Building Levelled

An oceanfront building at Mace's Trailer Park on Holden Beach was demolished last week. The building had been damaged by the ocean and later condemned by the town, said Building Inspector Dwight Carroll.

The owner, K.G. Mace Jr., had the building leveled and only a burning pile of debris was left Monday morning. Mrs. K.G. Mace Jr. said Tuesday that she and her husband "haven't made any plans" to rebuild on the site.

VA Approves Help For Homeless Vets

Jess Parker of the Brunswick County Veterans Service office said the Veterans Administration has approved 43 projects for homeless mentally ill veterans.

Funds for these projects come from \$5 million set aside by Congress for evaluation and treatment of that category of veterans. The first recipients

are expected to be contacted in shelters or on the street.

Projects will identify the veterans without homes who are chronically mentally ill, provide them appropriate medical and psychiatric care, and place them in community residential treatment settings.

Parker said studies indicate as many as 60 percent of homeless veterans suffer from mental illness, including chronic alcoholism or drug addiction.

The project center nearest Brunswick County is in Charleston, S.C.

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Region	Date	Place
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2	August 5-6	Kinston, Lenoir Community College
3	June 22-23	Raleigh, Athens Drive High School
3	June 25-26	Durham, Brogden Jr. High School
4	July 21-22	Carthage, South Central Regional Center
5	August 5-6	Greensboro, Brooks Education Center
6	July 29-30	Charlotte, Charlotte/Mecklenburg Ed. Ctr.
7	June 25-26	Blowing Rock, Blowing Rock Elementary
8	July 21-22	Asheville, Governor's Western Residence

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