

Anti-Dog Ordinance Raises A Few Hairs At Ocean Isle

BY TERRY POPE

Trouble, a registered German shepherd, was resting in the shade of the Ocean Isle Beach Pier Friday afternoon.

"Trouble hates to stay at home," said his owner, Anne Gilchrist of Seaside. "When I leave him at home, he takes my shoes and chews them up to let me know how upset he is."

Under a new town ordinance adopted by Ocean Isle Beach commissioners last week, Trouble and all other dogs at Ocean Isle may be seeing their last up-close view of the waves and sand—at least during peak hours of the summer season.

As of May 12, all dogs are prohibited from the beach strand from May 1 to Sept. 30 from the hours of 9 a.m. to

6 p.m., whether they are on a leash or not. The fine for allowing a dog on the strand during these hours is \$100.

The ordinance originally prohibited dogs from the strand at all times; however, commissioners adopted the 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. curfew at a special meeting Monday. Dogs must still remain on a leash after hours.

Town officials are searching for a way to post the new ordinance both in rental cottages and along the beach strand.

"As soon as we get the signs up we'll be issuing citations," said Ocean Isle Police Chief Jerry Gurganus. "We want to make sure that everybody is properly notified ahead of time."

Alberta Tatum, town clerk, said the town will repaint existing signs at public accessways along the

beach to warn visitors not to bring dogs onto the strand. She said rental agents will also help by spreading the word.

"A lot of them talk about dogs before they rent," Ms. Tatum said. "They usually ask, 'Can we have pets?' So they'll probably pass the word along to all of the renters."

Ms. Tatum said the ordinance, modeled after one which was recently adopted by Wrightsville Beach, is now in effect.

At last week's commissioners' meeting, Gurganus told the board that a woman on the strand had been "attacked" by a dog recently, but that she was not injured. The action was considered "uncharacteristic" of the dog by those who knew it, he said.

"Some people don't think it's a good place for dogs to take their morning walks," said Mayor LaDane Burlington.

When persons don't clean up after their dogs on the strand it becomes a health hazard, especially for children, she said.

Several persons with dogs on the beach strand Friday afternoon, before the ordinance was amended to allow dogs after 6 p.m., said they had not heard of the new ordinance.

"I realize they could be a nuisance to folks if their owners could not control them," said David Johnson, an Ocean Isle property owner. Johnson was exercising his dog, Nugget, on the beach strand Friday afternoon.

"We have a dog we cannot bring out here because she doesn't know how to behave," Johnson said, "so we don't bring her."

Johnson's wife, Betty Lynne, called the new ordinance "ridiculous."

"It's a vacation for them, too," she said. "I think homeowners should have the right to bring their dogs on the strand if they can keep them in control."

Johnson said that if the new dog ordinance is enforced then the town should also enforce the ordinances that prohibit alcohol and glass containers on the strand.

"When there are lots of people on the beach we just don't walk the dog," Ms. Johnson said. "Most dog



ANNE GILCHRIST, of Seaside, and Trouble, who doesn't like being left at home, were also sunning at Ocean Isle Friday.



STAFF PHOTOS BY TERRY POPE

DAVID JOHNSON, an Ocean Isle property owner, and Nugget took a walk in the surf Friday. Johnson did not know a new ordinance prohibiting dogs on the strand had been passed.

owners are responsible persons."

Under the pier Friday, Trouble went for a wade in the surf because he "likes the ocean," Ms. Gilchrist said.

"I think you should be allowed to bring your dogs out as long as you keep them on a leash," she said. "I feel like a leash law is in order."

She said the beach is a good place for dogs to exercise.

"There really are not a lot of places where you can take them to run," she added.

Holden Beach To Enter Land Trade For Beach Accessway

BY TERRY POPE

Holden Beach commissioners are expected to trade one beach accessway for another today (Thursday) to help ease property owners' concerns over the proposed Jordan Boulevard regional beach parking facility.

The deal would move what is expected to be a heavily-congested walkway to the beach strand from between two oceanfront homes to a vacant site two lots west.

Leo and Rose Cole have agreed to intervene on the part of the town to sell a 10-foot accessway easement to the Reid Grantham family.

The town will then trade beach accessways with the Granthams, allowing the family to keep the proposed easement next to their home as their own property. That property was previously donated to the town by the Cole family for use as an accessway to the beach.

The town's trade of the 10-foot easements will be a part of the purchasing contract between the Coles and the Granthams, said Rose Cole.

Relocation of the walkway was just one problem surrounding the proposed Jordan Boulevard parking lot that

Commissioner Graham King noted at a special meeting Monday morning. The meeting was recessed until today (Thursday) at 9 a.m.

King, who was out of town last Monday when the board voted to spend \$4,500 of town funds to help build restrooms for the parking facility, criticized the board for rushing into the parking lot project, which will have at least 90 parking spaces and public restrooms.

He said the town has "taken a state contract and have bent it, spindled it and mutilated it to the extent that we desire" in order to build the project at a lower cost.

King said the original state contract called for fencing the lot, lighting the lot and building a handicapped walkway, picnic tables and shelters.

Mayor John Tandy said the fence and lights were "deleted as the funds for the project deteriorated."

The town has received \$60,000 from the state to pay for 90 percent of the project. However, the bids for the project were from \$7,000 to \$8,000 above the \$67,000 budgeted for it.

"Then we can expect to have the congregating at night and the loud

noise," said King of the plan to delete the fencing. The town had originally planned to close the lot from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

King also said that according to the state contract the town would provide lifeguard services at the beach access. He questioned if the town should accept the liability involved.

Town Administrator Bob Buck said the Coastal Resources Commission agreed that a handicapped walkway cannot be built on a 10-foot easement. All services listed on the contract have been discussed with state officials "who have agreed with everything," Buck said.

"If they (handicapped) can't use the ramp then why build the restrooms for them," King said. "They can wheel around in the parking lot, but they can't go to the beach?"

Commissioner Hal Stanley said he felt "very remiss" by not having read the state contract more closely.

"To me, we have just rushed into this project," Stanley said. "And I think it is going to cause more headaches than anything we've done in a long time."

King said the town was also "ben-

ding the zoning ordinance" to allow the construction of the lot and walkway, considered as commercial usage, in a residential area (R-1). He asked if the property owners adjacent to the proposed walkway had been notified by the town.

"They were not specifically notified," Buck said.

Residents were made aware of the town's plans to build the parking facility through notice of a public hearing, Buck said.

"We have bent over backwards to benefit non-taxpayers to the detriment of our taxpayers and our property owners," King said.

He said the property adjacent to

the proposed walkway would be devalued.

"We don't have any moral obligation to our property owners?" King asked the board.

"We have moral obligations to every property owner on this island," replied Commissioner William Williamson. "I don't think anybody on this island wants to live by an accessway."

Mayor Tandy said the town has "done a terrible job with accessways" in the past.

He called on the Coles to negotiate with the Grantham family for the purchase of the accessway.

Leo Cole asked the board to con-

sider the opening of several accessways to the beach for the Jordan Boulevard parking facility.

"There are ways to take care of this," Cole said. "They don't have to just go down one accessway."

At one point in the discussion, King said, "I think there comes a time when we have to cut our losses and run."

He said if the board had not cut the fence, lights and picnic facilities from the project then it would have exceeded \$20,000 over budget.

King made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss land acquisition Monday; instead the board recessed until Thursday (today).

Sprinklers Could Come In Handy

Keep the water hoses and sprinklers out; it looks like they'll be needed.

Unless the weather pattern breaks, less than a half-inch of rainfall is expected in the area over the next few days.

"I'd love to be wrong," Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady

said Monday. "It's turning out to be a very dry month."

The forecast also calls for temperatures above normal, ranging from the mid-60s at night into the mid-80s during the day.

For the period May 12-17, Canady recorded a maximum high of 81 degrees on the 13th and a minimum

low of 57 degrees on the 17th.

An average daily high of 82 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 61 degrees for a daily average temperature of 71 degrees, very close to normal for this time of year.

"There was no (measurable) precipitation, unfortunately," he added.

Driver Charged For Leaving Scene

A Shallotte man was charged with leaving the scene of an accident Sunday after his truck collided with a car on N.C. 130 one mile west of Shallotte.

Raymond Lavance Bellamy, 20, of Shallotte, was charged with leaving the scene and with reckless driving following the 1:15 a.m. accident.

According to Trooper J.V. Dove's report, Bellamy was traveling at a high rate of speed when his 1965 Ford spun around in the road and sideswiped a 1987 Plymouth driven by Tracy Lynn Harmon, 22, of Ash. Bellamy then left the scene, Dove reported.

Ms. Harmon and a passenger in

her car, Brenda Milligan, 23, of Ash, each received minor injuries and were taken to the Brunswick Hospital in Supply. Bellamy was not injured.

Damages were listed as \$4,000 to the Harmon car and \$600 to the Bellamy truck.

In another accident early Saturday morning, a Shallotte man escaped serious injuries when his 1979 Jeep ran off the road and struck a tree and utility pole.

According to Trooper B.L. Wilkes' report, James Carson Stanley, 42,

stated he was attempting to pass another vehicle when it came into his lane, forcing his Jeep off the road.

Stanley lost control of his Jeep and struck a tree and then a utility pole, the report indicated.

The 12:15 a.m. accident occurred on RPR 1153 about 5.8 miles south of Shallotte. Stanley received minor injuries and was taken to the Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

Damages were listed as \$3,000 to the Jeep and \$250 to the utility pole. No charges were filed.

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