



## Award Winners

Among other achievements, Michael Norton (left) and Whitney King are valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of their senior class. Coverage of Awards Day at West Brunswick High is on page 10-A.

## Residents Go 'Underground' With Area Wiring Projects

A trend has developed in the South Brunswick Islands to place power lines underground. Sunset, Ocean Isle and Holden beaches all have streets now that have gone wireless to the eye. The story is on page 14-B of this issue.

## Sings At Pageant

Amanda Causey, who will reign for another year as Little Miss N.C. Fourth of July, sang at Saturday's pageant where Jennifer Wescott of Bolivia was crowned the 1987 Miss N.C. Fourth of July. The story and photo are on page 7-A.



# THE REDWICK BEACON

HOAG & SONS BOOK BINDERY  
12/31/99  
SPRINGPORT MI 49284

Twenty-fifth Year, Number 31

Carolina, Thursday, June 11, 1987

25c Per Copy

28 Pages



AS BOARD MEMBERS Paul Wayne Reeves, Bobby Ray Russ, Sarah Tripp and David Gause look on, Mayor Jerry Jones points out one of the areas, Brier-

wood Estates, where the planning board would like to see annexations occur.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

## Shallotte To Consider Annexation

BY SUSAN USHER  
At the persistent urging of the town's planning and zoning board, Shallotte aldermen are considering recommendations for squaring off the town boundaries by annexing areas on three sides.

Over the past year, the planning board has asked the aldermen in three memoranda to consider the annexations. Last Wednesday, with those recommendations in hand, aldermen asked attorney Mark Lewis what came next.

"What you need to do is nothing now," he advised, while he bones up on annexation procedures for small towns and the scope of an annexation study. Under current law, annexations typically take at least a year to complete and can take longer if property owners appeal.

"We've been at a standstill for a

year," said Mayor Pro-tem Paul Wayne Reeves, who serves in a non-voting capacity on the planning board. "Annexation is the only way for the town to grow."

"It's time to do more than look at it," he noted earlier in the meeting.

The planning board outlined a three-phase annexation program,

recommending the board take action immediately on two priorities, areas where residents or businesses now get most town services without being in town.

The first includes 17 lots in the already-annexed area of Brierwood Estates that were not included in that annexation process and lots along U.S. 17 north of town where the boundary line zig-zags along property lines.

While not in town, wrote the planning board, "It is our understanding

that all town services now run by these properties."

The second priority includes an area the planning board understands is not targeted for immediate development and would not require extensive services now, before the sewer system can be expanded. It would involve running the town limits to include an area across from Shallotte Manor on N.C. 130 west toward Whiteville and Bridges Road running back to the town limits and also to south of the Shallotte River and to U.S. 17. As proposed, the Shallotte River would serve as part of the western boundary.

The third and fourth priorities include areas along N.C. 130 towards Holden Beach and back to U.S. 17 just north of town, and farther along U.S. 17 north of town.

## Redwine's Golf Course Bill Passes Senate

The North Carolina senate voted 33-7 Monday to enact legislation introduced by Rep. E. David Redwine that would allow Brunswick County golf courses to serve beer, wine and mixed drinks.

The bill, according to Redwine, was designed to enable several county golf courses not located in "wet" areas of the county to provide alcoholic beverages to golfers. This

was seen as an amenity many golfing tourists are accustomed to. Those who supported his legislation believe the lack of alcohol as an option put county golf courses at a disadvantage in comparison with those in South Carolina.

"I think this (passage of the bill) will benefit the whole county's tourist economy," Redwine said Tuesday.

Although there are six

municipalities in Brunswick County that have voted to sell alcohol, most permanent residents live in unincorporated areas of the county, which remain dry. A referendum several years ago to allow alcohol sales countywide failed to pass.

The bill, entitled "Sports Club ABC Licenses," originally applied to facilities open either to the public or

(See REDWINE'S, Page 2-A)

## HCA's Listing Of Brunswick Hospital Causes Confusion

BY TERRY POPE

County and hospital officials are still puzzled as to why the Brunswick Hospital in Supply has been listed for "sale" by its lessee.

Brunswick Hospital authority members were to hold a special meeting Wednesday night (June 10) to discuss recent reports that Hospital Corporation of America, the firm leasing the facility, has it listed among 104 hospitals it hopes to sell before October.

The authority normally meets twice a year.

Authority attorney Mark Lewis of Shallotte said he believes the listing of the Brunswick Hospital as an owned facility is a mistake that HCA officials will want to correct. He expects HCA officials to "come forward at some point and to drop" the Brunswick Hospital from the list.

HCA officials did not brief Brunswick Hospital authority members on the proposed changes before the company listed the hospital for sale last week, he said.

According to David McFadden, HCA spokesman, the sale of 104 of HCA's hospitals is part of a restructuring plan that would transfer the hospitals to a new company owned by employees through their stock purchase plan.

Although both county and hospital authority

members disagree, McFadden said Monday the Brunswick Hospital is listed as an "owned facility."

"I've checked with two different sources," McFadden said, "that agree it is not a leased facility."

Lewis said HCA has been operating the hospital under the assumption it has a 40-year lease on the building. According to the lease agreement signed in May 1984, the hospital's 10-year lease of assets to HCA was to be extended to 40 years at the "earliest opportunity allowed by law."

"My understanding is that with HCA, in their computer and books," Lewis said, "if they have a long-term lease they consider it an owned facility."

Lewis said that in talks with the county and hospital authority in 1985, HCA agreed not to pursue a declaratory judgment in court over whether the lease was automatically extended to 40 years during an apparent 24-hour absence of legislation during the 1984 session of the N.C. General Assembly.

Hospital Authority Chairman Donald Noe said the authority has a 40-year lease agreement with HCA. Such a lease is non-transferable under Article 13 of the agreement, he said.

"They own the Brunswick Hospital from an opera-

tional standpoint," Noe said. "The county owns the building and the property."

Noe said Tuesday that he did not know if HCA's restructuring plan would allow the transfer of the lease to the other company.

"That's a very thin point," Noe said. "Regardless of any changes, it should not affect, in any way, the operations of the hospital."

Lewis said the lease agreement allows for "no assignment, period." Even with the consent of the hospital authority, Lewis said, a transfer of the lease to the other company might not be allowed under the terms.

Lewis and his associate, Michael Ramos, helped to write the lease agreement with HCA.

County attorney David Clegg said Monday the agreement is a lease, but that the length of the lease is "a whole other issue."

Clegg said the listing of the hospital as an owned facility "is an impossibility."

"We're in contact with HCA," Clegg said. "They have always been very up front with us in the past. I don't have any reason for the communication to cease."

The Brunswick Hospital is one of four in North Carolina that HCA hopes to sell in its restructuring

plan. Others listed for sale include the Orthopaedic Hospital of Charlotte (166 beds), the Davis Community Hospital in Statesville (167 beds) and the Heritage Hospital in Tarboro (127 beds).

The average size of the hospitals listed for sale is 140 beds, McFadden said, while the largest is a 467-bed facility in California.

"We hope the deal will close sometime in the third quarter, in September or October," McFadden said.

McFadden said the hospitals which are sold would "operate as usual. They would just have a different owner."

Brunswick Hospital Administrator Rodney Pulley said Tuesday that he wanted to delay statements to the press until he could get more information from HCA officials.

As far as the hospital authority is concerned, Noe said, "nothing has been released from HCA that has affected the lease of the Brunswick Hospital."

Noe said the hospital will continue to expand services and to recruit specialists.

"This is the best-equipped 60-bed hospital in the eastern United States," Noe said. "That is where the emphasis needs to be placed."