Post Office Still Nailing Down Site

Postal officials believe it will take 10 to 12 more weeks before a final site is "nailed down" on the location of the South Brunswick Branch post office.

Art Shealy, communications coordinator for the Columbia (S.C.) postal division center, said the sites under consideration exceed the three listed in a Brunswick Beacon article last week.

The South Brunswick Branch will serve residents of Ocean Isle Beach, Sunset Beach and Calabash. Once a site is chosen, it will take at least 18 months to build the 13,665-square-foot building.

The new post office would be a branch of the Shallotte station and would retain the 28459 Shallotte zip code. However, residents served by the new facility would keep their Ocean Isle Beach, Sunset Beach or Calabash mailing addresses.

In an article last week, three sites between Ocean Isle and Calabash were listed as those under consideration by the postal service's funds assessment committee. Shealy said the postal service does not comment on the location of sites or on the land owners with which the committee is negotiating.

The Beacon has learned of at least three sites under consideration—one at Gause Landing, one on N.C. 904 at Seaside and one on N.C. 179 at Sunset Beach. However, they are not the only sites under consideration, Shealy indicated.

Offers from land owners between Ocean Isle and Calabash were opened by postal officials on April 15. Unlike formal bids, offers are negotiable, Shealy said.

STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

ON LOW TIDE, the finger canals at Sunset Beach are impassable to boats. Residents are circulating a petition to ask the town to have the canals dredged at property owners' expense.

Sunset Canal Residents Hope To Dredge

BY TERRY POPE

When it's low tide at Sunset Beach the canals turn to mud.

Residents living along those canals are trying to get their water back. They are circulating a petition to ask the town to start dredging the canals in the fall.

"Response has been heavily in favor of it," said Wilson Stubbert of Sunset Beach, a property owner who has organized the effort to have the canals dredged.

Stubbert recently mailed 95 to 100 letters to property owners living on the canals. At least 51 percent of canal residents must agree to the dredging before the town can assess those property owners to pay for the project.

Stubbert said the project will cost the property owners an estimated $1,200 to $1,500 per lot.

"I've gotten 23 or 24 cards back," Stubbert said. "All but one are for it. Most are heavily for it."

An earlier estimate prepared by Wallace Martin, who was town administrator at the time, listed the cost of dredging at $1,000 per lot owner.

"So, our estimate is probably a little high," said Stubbert.

Last year, the town received a three-year permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the island's four finger canals and the bay leading to the Intracoastal Waterway.

"One year has already passed," Stubbert said. "Rather than let this thing sit any longer, we want to go ahead and get it done."

Property owners hope to present the petition to the town council at its July meeting. The town must then accept bids for the dredging. Dredge work is restricted to the period Oct. 1 to May 1.

"At low tide, there really is no water in them," Stubbert said. "After dredging, there should be six feet of water."

Canal residents must use their boats "only with the tide," he added. Only small flat-bottomed Jon boats are now able to use the canals.

Town Administrator Linda Fluegel said the town hasn't discussed the dredging project. Council members are waiting to receive the residents' petition, she said.

"I don't think they've ever been dredged," Ms. Fluegel said. "They are all filled in. You can't get a boat in them."

The town council originally set aside $15,000 in its 1987-88 budget for dredging. However, that amount was cut when the board agreed that the residents should be assessed for the entire project cost.

In the letter Stubbert sent to canal residents to explain the need for dredging, he stated that within a reasonable amount of time the town may also require that property owners bulkhead their individual lots.

"All of the lots aren't bulkheaded," he said. It will be in the property owners' best interest, however, to bulkhead the lots before they "start losing some of their bank," he added.

Calabash Tax Rate Talked

(Continued From Page 1-A)

referendum down.

Ramos said it would take "a lot of political old-time persuasion" if the referendum is passed in November.

Mayor Doug Simmons said the townspeople are listening to the wrong information regarding a referendum.

"I think if a few of them were to attend the meetings," Simmons said, "and ask some questions and get the facts instead of getting it secondhand, they may change their minds."

"All I can say is, we gave it a good shot," Weber said.

The board also learned Monday from the Army Corps of Engineers that a disposal site for the dredging of the Calabash River has been ruled unacceptable due to "risk to groundwater."

The town had gained permission from Ocean Isle Beach developer Odell Williamson to use land he owns south of the town hall as a disposal site. The Corps has recommended another 12-acre tract north of Little River, S.C., that is also owned by Williamson.

The board agreed to ask Williamson if the town can use the substitute site.

"We've got a letter saying we can't dredge the river because we don't have a town water system," Ms. Lewellyn said.

In other business Monday, the board:

•Agreed to give Ms. Thomas a five percent pay raise for the 1987-88 fiscal year. The board met in executive session to discuss personnel.

•Set office hours for the new town hall from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesday.

Redwine's Golf Course Bill Passes Senate

(Continued From Page 1-A)

to members and guests, including golf, tennis and racquet clubs, and physical fitness centers. The definition was narrowed to golf courses.

Rick Moran, manager of Carolina Shores Golf Club, said passage of the legislation will enable more tourists to come into the county.

"Brunswick County is destined to be the upper crust of the Grand Strand," he said. "There are some real nice golf courses coming on line and they promise to bring a lot of people to the county and enhance the county's image."

This was one of 3500 bills introduced in this session, speeding up General Assembly activity over the past three weeks.

Redwine said he and his colleagues are now considering a compromise proposed by Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan regarding the funding of public school construction.

"The house earlier passed an additional one-cent sales tax which would go toward construction needs," he said. "However, the senate's plan involved issuing long-term bonds to raise the money."

Jordan's compromise would be a pay-as-you-go system that would make new state appropriations of $50 million per year, require counties to spend part of their sales tax revenue on schools, and provide a one-time windfall by accelerating the payment of income taxes withheld by employers.

This plan would earmark $29 billion over ten years for school construction without new taxes.

Another proposal being studied by the legislature is a major overhaul of the state tax system. It would raise the personal income tax to seven percent, increase the corporate tax from six to seven percent, raise the exemption and standard exemptions, and abolish the business inventory and intangible taxes.

Redwine said he has also been trying to resolve the problem of the small boat harbor in Southport, consulting with the Department of Commerce, the State Ports Authority and the City of Southport. All agree the harbor should remain a recreational facility open to the general public, but the ownership is still in question.

Constituents are encouraged to contact Redwine as to their opinions on these and other legislative matters. They can call a toll-free number, 1-800-BEACH, or write Rep. E. David Redwine, 2219 Legislative Bldg., Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

Sheriff Investigates Drowning

BY SUSAN USHER

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Department is investigating the drowning Saturday night of a 34-year-old Supply man.

After an all-night search under flood lights, the body of George John Nixon was recovered about 8 a.m. Sunday approximately 25 feet from where he was fishing in Lockwood's Folly River when he went into the water.

Nixon was fishing with two other men, Johnny Walker and Jerry Benton, also of Supply, in a 20-foot skiff near the landing at Varnumtown, about one mile upriver from the Intracoastal Waterway. At about 9:15 p.m. Saturday, he "either fell out of the boat or removed himself from the boat," indicated Cecil Logan, Brunswick County Emergency Management coordinator.

Logan said he asked the sheriff's department to investigate the incident because Nixon was a certified scuba diver and an excellent swimmer. There were no visible signs of physical injuries, he added.

Detective Douglas "Sonny" Padgett, the investigating officer, said an autopsy performed Monday at Onslow Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville showed that the cause of Nixon's death was drowning.

The department is waiting now for additional test results, but at this point has no indication it was anything other than an accident.

"There's no indication at this point of foul play. As far as we can determine, it appears to have been an accident," he said.

Rescue personnel from the Coastline, Shallotte and Waccamaw volunteer squads dragged the river from 10 p.m. until the body was recovered with a shrimp net. Assisting in the search were personnel from the U.S. Coast Guard, which has jurisdiction of all navigable waters, the N.C. Wildlife Commission and the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

Near-Normal Weather Expected

Near normal weather's in the local forecast.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said temperatures should range from the mid-60s at night into the mid-80s during the daytime, with about a half-inch of rainfall expected.

For the period June 2-8 he recorded a maximum high of 90 degrees, which occurred on June 3, and a minimum low of 57 degrees, which occurred on June 6.

An average daily high of 86 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 65 degrees for a daily average temperature of 75 degrees, which he said is about normal.

He recorded .58 inch of rain.

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