

**POLICE FORCE EARNS PRAISE**

**Sunset Council Eyeing Additions, Sewer System**

Sunset Beach Council members took several steps Monday night with the town's future growth in mind.

On unanimous votes the council cleared the way for the planning board to study several areas for possible annexation and adopted a facilities plan, setting the stage for long-term financial planning for sewer and other infrastructure improvements.

The planning board will study surrounding areas such as Tabby Walk, Shoreline Woods and other subdivisions, as well as updating a study of two areas it had considered for annexation earlier—Sugar Sands I and II and Oyster Bay Colony. Working with a planning consultant, the planning board will pass its recommendations on to the council for consideration one area at a time, as suggested by Barber.

"We're going to be busy this year," he said, noting that a resolution of consideration would expire in one year's time.

A resolution of intent to annex a specific area or areas is the next step in the process. Any such resolution adopted this year can be pursued beyond that limit, attorney Michael Isenberg noted.

Along with possible expansion, sewer service is on the board's mind. With adoption of the community facilities plan, the council has made a commitment to begin next year setting aside designated funds for capital improvements such as a sewer system, town hall remodeling, new fire, police, maintenance and water system improvements.

At a two-hour workshop session

last Friday attended by Mayor Mason Barber and three council members, "All four of us came in with sewer as our No. 1 priority for the town," said Barber.

Improved water service was also a high priority, but one town officials think will be addressed by the county this year.

**Officers Praised**

Members of the council and the audience at Monday's meeting heaped praise on the Sunset Beach Police Department and other officers coming to its assistance in detaining and charging three suspects in connection with a series of 53 break-ins Jan. 25 and 27.

Officer Lisa Hoagland was on routine patrol several days after the first series of break-ins when she checked the background of an unfamiliar car. With mutual aid from two other agencies, she caught the suspects fleeing a residence. The entire department has worked on the follow-up investigation.

After council members and Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association (SBTA) President Cletus Waldmiller praised the officers' work, Macon H. McDavid echoed their comments and added a note of her own.

She thanked God that "the Sunset Bridge was not in its often configurative position of open... tied up... or broken, which allowed all of the assistance to arrive to aid her." Otherwise, she noted, "a very dangerous situation" could have resulted.

**Thanks, But No Thanks**

Mayor Barber quickly declined an offer from Waldmiller to speak at the March 30 meeting of the SBTA. Waldmiller suggested the address

would provide an opportunity for Barber to address his expressed concern regarding the "rift" in the community over the bridge to the island, the subject of a 10-year controversy in the town.

But Barber, a former SBTA president who resigned from the organization, thought otherwise. "I don't know if I'll be there or not," he said. "I don't really know what I could contribute, to tell the truth."

**Other Business**

In other business Monday council: ■Set a public hearing Monday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. on the proposed Mainland Business (MB-1) zoning of the shopping area on N.C. 904 recently annexed by the town, as recommended by the planning board.

■Amended the water ordinance to allow the levying of a 10 percent penalty on the unpaid balance of water bills not paid in full 20 days after the billing date.

■Amended the water ordinance to also allow more discretion in the choice of fire hydrants used. In the past, the ordinance specified the same brand specified in the county water ordinance. Now the ordinance provides for the hydrant to be 1) a three-way hydrant with two 2 1/2-inch pumper nozzles and 2) approved by the town's water department head. Another hydrant is available that is cheaper, with more readily available parts, the town administrator noted.

■Withdrew dedication of the last 30 feet of Stokes Drive East as requested by Scrantom. The end section of the dead-end road had been owned but not maintained by the town. ■Approved a preliminary plat for

Lots 25 through 59 in Kings Trail, as recommended by the planning board. ■Members Bud Scrantom and Julia Thomas urged the town to push for more emphasis on recycling county-wide, given the July 1 deadline for all local governments to have recycling programs in place. Mayor Barber, who said he would check on the county effort, grinned and suggested Scrantom prepare something in writing for the council to consider. ■Authorized the town administrator to readvertise sale of a trenching machine at a much lower price than the \$4,000 minimum bid previously sought. Ms. Fluegel suggested the move, "unless you want to keep it here and make a planter out of it."

■Learned that during January the town issued eight permits for single-family homes, one for a commercial building, two for docks or piers, one for an addition and four for remodeling, collecting \$1,832 in fees for improvements and construction valued at \$867,665.

■Tabled consideration of a request from Risk Management Services, the town's liability insurer, to adopt as policy coverage of defense, deductible and judgments for employees in situations where liability might arise in relation to their jobs that is not otherwise covered. The town could provide that coverage either through insurance premiums or a self-insurance fund. Council members wanted more information regarding cost, need and impact, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Gore Ed Gore wondering if such a policy might result in individuals taking less responsibility for their own behavior and not using their best judgment.

**DOT Says Seaside Junction Needs Turn Lane, Not Signal**

A center left-turn is needed at the busy intersection of N.C. 179 and N.C. 904 at Seaside, but not a traffic signal, the N.C. Department of Transportation has advised Sunset Beach town officials.

Both the town council and Sea Trail Corporation had contacted the state requesting improvements at the intersection, which is in a commercial area along the corridor between Ocean Isle and Sunset beaches.

Town Administrator Linda Fluegel said DOT officials indicated the traffic counts and accident history for the intersection do not justify installation of a signal.

She said the turn lane is to be placed on a list of recommended projects, subject to availability of state funds.

Town officials questioned the estimated \$60,000 pricetag for the project, noting that Sea Trail Corp. has offered to donate the necessary right-of-way.

Mayor Mason Barber said he would add the turn lane project to a list of several things he wants to discuss with the transportation department.

**DAMAGE OVER \$45,000**

**Sunset Fire Truck Wrecks On Way To Seaside Blaze**

A Sunset Beach fire truck responding to a house fire in Marlee Acres subdivision collided with a dump truck Tuesday afternoon on N.C. 179 at Seaside.

Damage to the fire truck is an estimated \$45,000 to \$50,000, said Cecil Logan, Brunswick County Emergency Management coordinator.

The home, owned by Jane Byrd, was a total loss, said Calabash Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jerry Prince.

"It was totally engulfed when we got there," Prince said. "It looked like it had started from a heater, that something close to a heater had caught on fire."

Ms. Byrd had left the home to buy groceries and was gone about an hour, said Prince.

Logan said the fire truck accident occurred when someone driving a van apparently pulled into the path of the truck near the intersection of N.C. 179 and N.C. 904 at Seaside. He said the van was not involved in the collision.

There were no injuries in the accident, reported Sunset Beach Police Officer Sam Grantham, who said Tuesday afternoon he is still investigating its cause.

"The driver locked the brakes up on the fire truck," Logan said.

Sunset Beach Fire Chief Greg Cain was driving the fire truck, which apparently skidded sideways

and into the path of a dump truck owned by Simmons Construction Co. of Freeland, Logan said.

"Nobody was injured, thank God," Logan said Tuesday afternoon. "Both drivers are okay."

Officer Grantham said the accident occurred just south of the N.C. 904 and N.C. 179 intersection around 3:48 p.m. He said the driver of the dump truck was Steve Simmons.

The fire truck was pulled back to the station at Sunset Beach Tuesday afternoon where firemen were busy removing equipment from it.

The ladders and equipment in the rear were heavily damaged, Logan said. The frame of the truck may also be warped.

"A new truck like that costs about \$100,000," he said.

Both Ocean Isle and Calabash Volunteer fire departments were already en route to the house fire when the wreck occurred. They continued to fight the blaze as Sunset Beach firefighters assisted by bringing a tanker to the scene.

Calabash Volunteer Rescue Squad was dispatched to the wreck, but no one was taken to the hospital, Logan said.

Prince said the Byrd residence was a wooden structure. There were no injuries in the fire and no other residences were damaged.

"They kept it under control," he said.

**Three Injured In Sunday Wreck**

A Boiling Spring Lakes couple were injured Sunday morning in a near head-on collision on U.S. 17 just south of Bolivia.

James Fredrick Gillespie, 66, and a passenger in his car, Helen Gillespie, 64, were both taken to New Hanover Regional Medical Center following the 11:55 a.m. accident.

According to the State Highway Patrol, the couple's car was struck in the left side after they swerved to avoid an approaching car that had traveled across the center line and into their lane.

State Trooper B.D. Barnhardt charged a Bolivia man, Teddy Rudolph King, 34, with careless and reckless driving after the accident.

According to Barnhardt, King's 1978 Mercury was traveling north on U.S. 17 when he crossed the center line. Gillespie ran off the road to avoid the collision, but his 1989

Chevrolet pickup truck was struck in the left side, causing the truck to skid across the road and land in a ditch, Barnhardt reported.

King received minor injuries in the accident. Damages were listed at \$1,000 to the King vehicle and \$3,000 to the Gillespie truck.

In another accident last Wednesday, a Shallotte man was seriously injured when his car hydroplaned on a wet highway and struck a tree.

Richard Channing Joyner, 20, was traveling on Village Road about three miles east of Shallotte when his car skidded off the road, reported State Trooper Jerry Dove.

Joyner reported he was traveling around 35 mph when the accident occurred around 2:45 p.m. No charges were filed in the accident.

The driver was taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply. Damage was listed at \$4,000 to the 1989 Nissan.

**IN SERVICE**

**Serving In Gulf War**

Army Staff Sgt. Grover L. Gause, a Shallotte native and 1975 graduate of West Brunswick High School, is serving in Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia.

Gause has been in the Army for 16 years. He participated in the invasion of Grenada and Operation Just Cause in Panama and has served two European tours.

Gause is with the 126th Transportation Unit, Fort Bragg. He has a wife, Deborah, and two children, Travis and Tiara.

Petty Officer Ken Adkins is serving as a machine gunner aboard the U.S.S. Mosbrugger in the Red Sea in support of Operation Desert Storm.

The ship is the flagship vessel for an aircraft carrier, and is involved in anti-aircraft defense.

Adkins is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ferguson of Pinnacle, formerly of Shallotte, and is a former West Brunswick High School student.

**Ray Enlists**

U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Raleigh has announced the enlistment of Terrence "Terry" L. Ray,



GAUSE



ADKINS



LOGAN

son of Montana Ray of Southport, in the Army Reserve's delayed entry program.

He will leave for basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., next June. Upon completion of basic training, he will go to Fort Eustis, Va., for training in his military occupational specialty as a cargo specialist.

Ray is a 1990 graduate of South Brunswick High School, where he was a linebacker on the football team. He also ran track for four years.

He presently attends Chowan College at Murfreesboro.

**Gause Trained**

Pvt. Gregory R. Gause, the son of John and Hazel Gause of Route 3, Shallotte, has completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

During the training, students received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid and Army history and traditions.

Gause is a 1989 graduate of West Brunswick High School.

**Receives Medal**

Maj. Thomas C. Horne, the son of Thomas and Gertrude Horne of Route 1, Winnabow, has been decorated with the Air Medal.

The medal is awarded for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. Horne is a student at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

The major graduated in 1971 from Bolivia High School and received a master's degree in 1987 from the University of South Florida, Tampa.

**Jet Skiers Bog Down In River**

Three South Carolina men were left a few hours for the incoming tide Tuesday evening after running their Jet Skis into mud flats and getting stuck in the Calabash River.

The unidentified men weren't injured when stranded about 100 yards west of the Calabash River bridge on N.C. 179 Tuesday around 4:30 p.m., said Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan.

Each man was riding his own Jet Ski, which is a small motorized watercraft designed for one or two people. Logan said they were up to their knees in mud with no hope of getting out before the tide came back in.

Logan used a public address system in his vehicle to communicate with the men. He said the men hollered back that their only request was for somebody to make a phone call saying they would be home a couple hours late.

"They were OK and they said they were OK," Logan said. "They knew they would have to wait on the high tide. They just decided to lay back on their Jet Skis and wait."

Logan said he expected the tide to be high enough so the men could get out of the river by 8 p.m.

He said it usually doesn't take long for the water level in the Calabash River to drop once the tide changes. "They just weren't familiar with that river," he said.

Logan said he's seen several clambers get stuck on mud flats before. But, he added, "That's the first time I think I've ever seen a Jet Ski get stuck in the mud."

**Corps Begins Lockwood Study**

Federal officials have begun a study designed to find out if navigation projects near the Lockwood Folly River have affected water flow in the river.

The results of the study should be available before the end of the year, said Mike Wutkowski, coastal engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Wilmington.

The impact study will focus on Eastern Channel, which is situated between the west end of Long Beach and Sheep Island at the mouth of the Lockwood Folly River.

Eastern Channel served as the inlet between Lockwood Folly River and the Atlantic Ocean before the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway was dredged and a new inlet was cut.

Brunswick County fishermen say the Eastern Channel has filled in with sand in recent years, and the sand has restricted water flow and

prevented bacterial pollution from escaping the river, which often is closed to shellfishing.

Wutkowski said the numerical flow study of Lockwood Folly will be done on a computer using data from maps created before and after the inland waterway was constructed.

Expected to cost \$265,000, the study is just one part of a two-prong Corps of Engineers proposal involving the Eastern Channel.

In September 1990, the U.S. House of Representatives authorized a one-time dredging of the channel, with plans to monitor water flow through the channel before and after it is dredged.

The dredging would cost approximately \$1.3 million. Congressman Charlie Rose is expected to seek funds for the project next fiscal year, according to spokesman Keith Pitts.

**Logan Recovering From Fall**

Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan returned to work Tuesday morning but only for half a day.

Logan was hospitalized last week for reconstructive surgery on his left wrist and arm which he broke in eight places after falling while on a call at Ocean Isle Beach.

Logan said a metal pin and plate had to be surgically implanted where the radius bone connects to his wrist.

"It's the hurtin'est thing I've ever had happen to me, and I've been through a heart attack before," Logan said.

A Brunswick County Sheriff's Department dispatcher radioed Logan Saturday night, Jan. 26, to report that police officers at Ocean Isle Beach had heard a horn blowing from the ocean. Logan thought it might have been a distress call from a passing ship.

Logan then drove to the east end of the island and walked beneath a house so the walls could keep the wind from blocking out the horn sound.

"The next thing I knew I had fallen off the concrete where the ocean had washed out beneath it," Logan said. "I knew then that something was wrong with my hand."

In the fall, Logan had also cut his face. After determining that the horn wasn't a distress call, but was instead a sea buoy warning ships in the fog, Logan drove himself to his home at Seaside.

His wife notified Logan's doctor in Myrtle Beach, S.C. She then drove Logan to Grand Strand General Hospital there. Surgery was performed last Wednesday.

"This wasn't a dangerous call by any means," Logan said Tuesday. "I thought I was being cautious."

Logan reflected on the kinds of dangerous calls he has answered as county EMC and said it was a freak accident to "break something when this wasn't even a dangerous situation."

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