



VFW Presents Awards

Calabash VFW Post No. 7288 and its ladies auxiliary recently presented community service awards and in some cases, checks, to (front, from left) Russell Price, Atlantic Telephone Membership Cable TV; Kay Morfit, Calabash Emergency Medical Service; Don Gates, crime prevention officer, Brunswick County Sheriff's Department; and Willie Stanley, Calabash Volunteer Fire Department, who was named firefighter of the year. Also recognized were The Brunswick Beacon and Lower Cape Fear Hospice of Brunswick County. Standing in the rear above are (from left) Howard Muth, post chaplain; Ed Wood, commander; and Florence Cook, auxiliary president.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Calabash Recycling Coordinator Asks Town To Take Over Operation

BY DOUG RUTTER

The Calabash recycling program has grown to the point that town officials need to consider taking over the operation, according to one of its volunteer coordinators.

Gere Dale, co-chairman of the recycling program, said between 500 and 600 families use the recycling trailer, where area residents can drop off aluminum cans, glass, paper products, plastics and old car batteries.

Dale said volunteers who have been helping recyclers and manning the site three mornings a week since it opened last June are starting to dry up.

Dale said he expects to be able to continue the operation, but asked the town commission last week to think about taking it over in the near future.

Long Beach and Boiling Spring Lakes are the only towns in Brunswick County that staff their recycling centers. There are a total of eight trailers in the county, and they all are funded by the county government.

Dale told Calabash Commissioners last Tuesday that the town doesn't have to take over the center right away, but he wants the board to start moving in that direction.

"I'm not going to pull out of the thing," Dale said. "I'm going to stick with it as long as necessary."

Commissioner Ed Rice asked why the Town of Sunset Beach doesn't have volunteers manning its recycling center, which is open seven days a week during daylight hours.

Dale said volunteers have to go to the Sunset Beach center just about every day to sort materials that are placed in the wrong boxes.

He also said Sunset Beach only uses the floor space of its trailer, and volunteers at Calabash fill their trailer from floor to ceiling.

Dale said Calabash's recycling center should be one part of a major waste management program.

More residents need to be educated about recycling, he said, because many of them are still throwing away items that can be recycled.

Dale said residents also should be careful to buy products in recyclable containers, and they should crush containers that aren't recyclable to save space in the landfill.

Other Business

In other business last week, commissioners:

■ Voted to purchase a portable storage building for the trash dump at a cost of \$590. It will provide shelter for employees at the site.

Commissioner Phyllis Manning said the Carolina Shores Property Owners Association Board of Directors has refused to extend the town's lease on the site, which expires Dec. 31, 1991.

■ Informally agreed on a no smoking policy in the town hall and voted to buy a cigarette butt can to be placed at the front door. Town Clerk Janet Thomas said smoke gets trapped inside town hall because there's not enough ventilation. Smokers often leave butts on the ground outside because there's nowhere to dispose of them. Rice, the only smoker on the board, jokingly suggested that if "No Smoking" signs don't work the

town can try a firing squad.

■ Heard about a proposal to erect directories around town showing where various businesses are located. Commissioner Stu Thorn said the planning board is working on the idea with William Benton, who runs a business outside the town limits. "It would be set up like a mall situation," Thorn said.

■ Heard from George Anderson, chairman of the finance committee, that requests for money for the 1991-92 fiscal year must be in by April 9. "One thing you've got to consider is the state of North Carolina is in a financial shortfall," he said. The state will probably have to reduce the amount of utilities franchise tax paid to towns, Anderson said.

TWO MORE REQUESTS PENDING

Board 'Goofed' On Sign Variance

BY DOUG RUTTER

Ocean Harbour Golf Links developer Odell Williamson must wait to erect a pair of signs promoting his course, due to a mix-up in the rules of procedure for the Calabash Board of Adjustment.

The board recently voted 4-1 to grant Williamson a variance that would allow him to put back two signs that were removed last year because they didn't conform with the town sign ordinance.

Board members and Williamson were under the impression that the variance had been granted at the March 5 meeting.

But board chairman George Anderson said last week that the variance had been denied. "I've got to admit that I goofed," Anderson said at a town board meeting last Tuesday.

In considering the case, Anderson said the board inadvertently followed a section of the proposed zoning ordinance that hasn't been adopted yet. The rule says the board

can overturn the building inspector's decision with a four-fifths vote.

But Anderson said the existing ordinance that sets up the board of adjustment requires a unanimous vote to overturn the inspector's ruling.

Four board of adjustment members voted to allow the golf course developer to erect two signs on N.C. 179 for a period of two years. They said the golf course is relatively new and needs publicity. Williamson had argued that the signs were needed to direct golfers to the course.

Anderson cast the only vote against granting the variance. He said he wasn't convinced that the lack of signs constituted an undue hardship, but said he would have granted a variance for one sign.

The board chairman said last week he has asked the building inspector to hold off on issuing permits for the signs until the matter is resolved.

Town Attorney Mike Ramos said the issue would need to be dis-

cussed at the next board of adjustment meeting. That meeting is Tuesday, March 26, at 7 p.m. in the town hall.

At that time, the board will hear a variance request from the owners of Linda and Gwyn's Boutique, located on Thomasboro Road.

Code Enforcement Officer Ed Schaack said the business owners removed two off-premises signs last year as requested by the town. The signs were located on N.C. 179 and near the intersection of Thomasboro and Persimmon roads.

Owners of the boutique have requested a variance from the sign ordinance so they can put the signs back up.

The board of adjustment has scheduled another meeting for April 17 to consider another request for a variance from the sign ordinance. It will be the fourth such request since the town started enforcing a 1982 sign ordinance last year.

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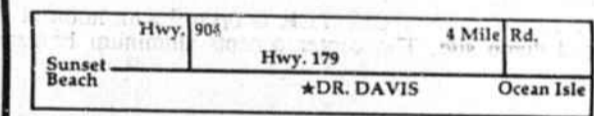
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