

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Auditorium Plans Get Nod

Brunswick Community College Trustees have approved final plans for the Odell Williamson Auditorium, subject to review by the state. Architect Ken Phelps of Boney & Associates said his could be advertised by late summer. Construction is expected to take 13 to 14 months. The facility will be the last on the campus to be built by funds from general obligation bonds approved by county voters.

BCC Will Ask County For \$603,000

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick Community College will ask for more than \$603,000 in Brunswick County tax dollars for the coming year.

Trustees approved the budget request last Wednesday at the first meeting ever held by the board at BCC's Southport campus. The request must be submitted to the county commissioners by early April.

The proposal reflects an increase of about \$77,000 over last year's county budget allocation. Figures show increases in utility costs with the opening of the Leland Industrial Training Center, anticipated repairs at the Southport campus and increased security needs.

County funds make up a small portion of BCC's budget, which is primarily funded by the state. BCC is asking the county for \$593,243 for current operating expenses and \$10,000 in capital outlay money to buy vehicles for the basic law enforcement training class.

The current expense request includes \$100,000 for repairs at the Southport campus, \$15,000 for landscaping and \$10,000 for a long-range campus land use plan. The request also include salaries for building and grounds employees and two new part-time employees. BCC is in the process of hiring a part-time evening coordinator and security person and wants to also hire a part-time switchboard operator. Both employees would work nights.

Despite an increase in enrollment, BCC could have to operate on

less money next year because of state budget cuts.

Last week Community College System President Bob Scott warned that unless state budget cuts subside and community colleges get a major infusion of new money, drastic changes could occur. Speaking to a group of state business leaders, he said classes and programs could be canceled, students turned away and training requests from businesses have to be ignored.

A legislative subcommittee on education has voted to recommend an additional \$19.2 million cut in the base budget for community colleges. This comes on top of several major cuts over the past two years, including one cut of \$11.5 million this year.

Other Business

In other business trustees: ■Subject to review by the board's attorney, approved submission of a joint request with the Waccamaw-Siouan Development Association and The Marine Crescent for an Economic Development Administration public works grant to fund an aquaculture program for the campus. President Michael Reaves said he did not anticipate problems in obtaining required matching funds.

■Heard from Reaves that BCC is considering establishing its own child care center in the future because of the importance of the service to students, but for the coming year will continue to contract out that service.

■Learned from Reaves that BCC will have an access from the Supply bypass to campus for property on the south side of the bypass. He said BCC can also seek aid from the state Department of Transportation in building the connector road.

■Heard from Dean of Students Beth McLean that 628 students were enrolled in spring quarter classes, compared to 566 at the same time last year, an 11 percent increase. She also said 122 students are enrolled in 18 BCC general education courses taught during the quarter. All of the courses qualified under a dual transcript program with UNC-Wilmington. That means students can receive transcripts for the class from both BCC and UNC-W.

Noting that BCC provided \$300,000 this year in financial aid, she said that "financial reasons" were cited by only 5 percent of the students who do not return to campus. In a recent survey, 35 percent gave personal reasons that range from pregnancy to "lazy" or "don't want to go to school right now," she said.

■Learned that it cost \$3,900 to remove a chimney at the Southport campus and \$37,860 for roofwork.

■Approved amendments to the current year's budget.

■Scheduled a retreat April 5 and 6 at the N.C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell. The agenda will include discussion of policies relating to affirmative action and employee grievance procedures, as well as long range planning.

New Ordinance Gets Final Touch From Planning Board

BY TERRY POPE

A new county subdivision ordinance will be in the hands of Brunswick County commissioners when they meet April 15.

The Brunswick County Planning Board has prepared a fifth, and perhaps final, draft of the ordinance that has been in the works for the past 10 years.

However, most of that time the revised ordinance has sat on the shelves at the Brunswick County Planning Department.

Since December 1981, commissioners have refused to deal with an ordinance which would further restrict developments in new subdivisions lying within unincorporated areas of the county or areas not affected by a town's extraterritorial zoning district.

The county's present ordinance was adopted June 22, 1980. Because of growth, the addition of a county water system and changes in sewer system needs since then, a new board of commissioners told the planning department in December to get a new ordinance ready to adopt.

At its meeting last Wednesday, the planning board put the finishing touches on a fifth draft and agreed to send copies to commissioners.

The board also asked that Planning Director John Harvey be at the April 15 commissioners' meeting to present the ordinance.

County Manager David Clegg said the new ordinance isn't going to hurt new development in Brunswick County. Area developers, he said, have always done a good job of maintaining quality growth even though the present ordinance requires very little.

The new ordinance will require new developments adjacent to county water lines to connect to the system. Major subdivisions (six or more lots) within 1,000 feet of county water lines must connect while minor subdivisions (five or less lots) within 250 feet of a water line must connect to county water.

Minimum lot sizes are also established in the new ordinance. Streets within new subdivisions must also meet N.C. Department of Transportation standards, which means all streets must have 60 feet right of ways and must be paved among other requirements.

Last Wednesday, the planning board revised a section dealing with sewer system requirements. At least 75 percent of lots within a proposed subdivision must be capable of service by a wastewater treatment sys-

tem or developers will not be allowed to file the proposed plat.

The lots that are not suitable for septic systems must bear a warning label that says the lots are not suitable for human habitation.

The warning label is designed to protect the buyer from unknowingly purchasing a lot that is not suitable for building. Such lots can be sold, but for purposes other than as homesites.

The new ordinance also contains a section regulating planned unit developments, an imaginative innovation clustering single-family units, multi-family units or office buildings over a large tract of land—a concept almost unheard of 10 years ago. The tract of land must be 10 acres or more.

Golf course developments can be considered as planned unit developments, with 10 percent of the open area reserved for recreational purposes. The tract would also have to keep 30 percent of the land for open, uncovered space.

The ordinance also limits highway accessways to major subdivisions. Too many entrances to subdivisions within one area creates traffic congestion, said Planning Director John Harvey, who used N.C. 179 south of Shallotte as an example.

INCIDENT REPORTED TO DSS

Program Targets Adult Neglect

BY TERRY POPE

Neighbors say they were angry and upset after seeing an elderly woman in a wire pen outside her Brunswick County home last week.

The woman reportedly has Alzheimer's, a disease of the central nervous system that produces premature mental deterioration. She has been known to wander from her home.

Three anonymous callers, concerned about the woman's care under her legal guardian, reported the incident to *The Brunswick Beacon* last Thursday. Their calls to the Brunswick County Department of Social Services led to an investigation of the incident.

"We did get some contact from individuals who were concerned about another individual there," said DSS Director Jamie Orrock.

Reports from concerned neighbors is one way DSS receives information that abused or neglected adults in the county may need help, said Adult Protective Services Director Brenda McMillian-Simmons. Calls are kept in confidence and the caller's name will not be released, she said.

As of Friday, Ms. McMillian-Simmons said the case reported last week had not been resolved.

"We're still in the evaluation process," said Ms. McMillian-Simmons. "We not only have to see the individuals, but we have to talk to the collaterals."

Collaterals are persons who may have reported the incident and other health care professionals who are familiar with the apparent victim and the case, she said.

Investigating such incidents is a part of Ms. McMillian-Simmons' job, a position she has held since 1984. She is the county's only so-

"It's not a poverty thing at all."

—Brenda McMillian-Simmons
Director

cial worker assigned to study reported cases of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation.

In February, there were 11 reported cases of adult abuse or neglect in Brunswick County. Of the reports her office receives, approximately 40 percent reveal actual abuse, Ms. McMillian-Simmons said.

"If we get a report alleging that a person is being mistreated, we have to initiate an investigation within 24 hours if the case is an emergency," she said. Non-emergency cases are investigated within 72 hours.

An average of four to 16 cases per month are reported to the DSS office in Bolivia. The average case takes four to five months to close, she said.

"It's not a poverty thing at all," said Ms. McMillian-Simmons. "I've seen malnutrition in people that have high incomes, and I've seen malnutrition of people that didn't have any income. A person can be disabled and not be aware of services available to them."

That can result in a person not getting the food, medicine and personal grooming care, such as bathing, they need to live healthy lives, she said.

DSS has three in-home services available for adults who need care, but persons must qualify for Medicaid first. Other personal care services are available through private

companies, but the individual must qualify for Medicare, Medicaid, have medical insurance or pay for the services.

Adults who are incompetent or not able to take care of themselves must have someone assigned to provide care for them. Petitions of incompetence are decided by the Brunswick County Clerk of Superior Court.

If an assigned guardian is accused of not providing adequate care for the patients of if the patient has no one to care for them, an adult protective services petition must be filed before a Superior Court judge. The DSS office will try to place the person in a nursing home or rest home.

"It is preferable for family members to become guardians because they are accustomed to that person's lifestyle," Ms. McMillian-Simmons said. "Sometimes, non-family members are chosen. Even though they may not be related by blood, they can be just as concerned about the person."

Problems occur in trying to locate an empty nursing home bed once a petition has been signed by a judge, said Ms. McMillian-Simmons. The aging population in Brunswick County is growing, she added.

Persons receiving help from Adult Protective Services are not always elderly. The service is for people 18 or older who are not receiving adequate family support, who live in substandard housing or lack resources to get food and medicine they need.

When a person dies in Brunswick County and no one claims the body, the Adult Protective Services office is assigned as guardian of the body. Sometimes, if no one steps forward to claim the body, it is donated to science.

CRC Delays Decision On Bulkhead Ban

The N.C. Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) made no decision last week on a proposal to amend the state's policy banning bulkheads, seawalls and other erosion-control devices that "harden" the beach.

The amendment to the six-year-old ban on hard structures was presented last Wednesday afternoon, one day before the commission gathered for a two-day meeting at Wrightsville Beach.

A committee of the coastal panel discussed the controversial proposal Thursday before deciding to study it further and bring it up again later this year.

A memo from the director of the N.C. Division of Coastal Management said several CRC members initiated the proposal. The members weren't identified in the memo.

The proposal would make it easier for towns and public agencies to get consideration for erosion-control projects designed to protect the beach.

It would change the decision criteria and procedures the commission uses when it's asked to decide

if an erosion-control structure would be allowed.

The proposal would allow hard structures on the beach if the project would not cause "significant adverse effect" or if it would provide "overriding public benefits."

The proposal suggests that erosion-control structures could be used as a last resort if beach nourishment projects and relocation don't work.

"Alternative approaches will be allowed where the applicant can show that such measures are necessary to provide adequate protection," the proposal states. "Comprehensive shoreline management shall be preferred over small scale methods."

Power Expanded

The state commission usually deals with coastal issues only, but expanded its regulatory authority last week to cover about 10,000 acres of inland creeks and streams.

The CRC voted to control activities such as dredging in inland primary nursery areas, which are designated by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

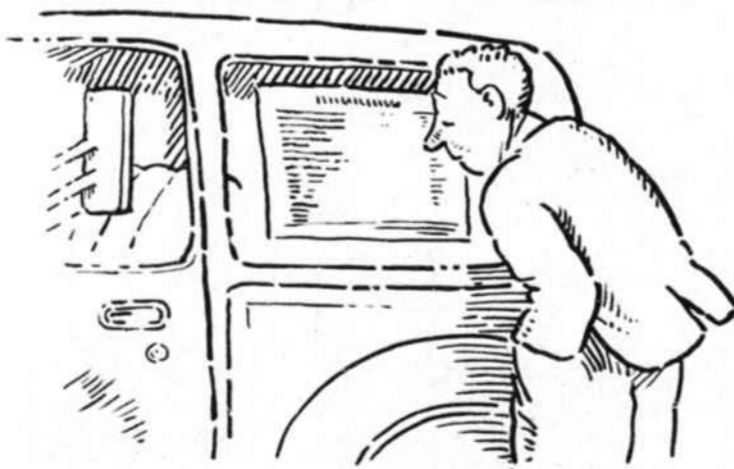
Primary nursery areas are waters where baby fish and other marine specimens spend their first growing season.

The coastal commission already restricts activities in nursery areas along the coast, which are named by the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission.

More than 30 people spoke in favor of the proposal to expand the CRC's authority at a public hearing the commission held last Thursday. Nobody spoke against it.

The state restricts dredging in primary nursery areas, but the commission adopted a rule in January to allow maintenance dredging if it's needed to maintain the traditional and established use of a channel.

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