



Enjoying Easter Holiday

Brothers Adrian (left) and Gabriel Dungan of Asheville play on Holden Beach Monday afternoon.

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Island Roads Targeted For Repaving

BY DOUG RUTTER

Two of the longest and most heavily-traveled streets at Holden Beach and Long Beach should be repaved before tourists arrive for the next major holiday weekend.

The state has hired a contractor to resurface Ocean Boulevard at Holden Beach and Beach Drive at Long Beach before Memorial Day weekend, said Buddy Hoskins, engineer with the N.C. Department of Transportation in Burgaw.

Holden Beach's main thoroughfare will be patched, leveled and given a fresh coat of asphalt from the east end to the guard house at the west end—a stretch of 6.6 miles.

Sections of the road where patching is needed have been marked with orange paint. Hoskins said the resurfacing should begin at the end of this week or early next week and take only a few days.

The work at Long Beach also should be done shortly. Beach Drive covers 7.3 miles, and the contractor also will resurface King's Lynn Drive at the west end of Long Beach.

Hoskins said the deadline for finishing repaving work on both islands is May 18, one week before

the traditional start of the summer tourist season.

In preparation for the long-awaited paving of Ocean Boulevard, Holden Beach Commissioners held a special meeting Tuesday morning to arrange for the installation of drain pipe where the boulevard intersects Shrimp Street.

The town hired J.M. Redmond of Shallotte to install an 18-inch concrete pipe under Ocean Boulevard East. A catch basin will be installed at the end of Shrimp Street to drain water to the south side of the boulevard.

The project will cost the town about \$1,940. Redmond submitted the lowest of three informal bids.

Hoskins said the work on the island roads is part of a \$1.5 million repaving contract that has been awarded to Papco Construction Company of Salisbury. The contract includes work in three counties.

Papco sub-contracted all of the resurfacing work in Brunswick County to Propst Construction of Concord, which also is paving the U.S. 17 Shallotte bypass.

Besides the island streets, Hoskins said the Department of Transportation has included 12 other local roads in the resurfacing contract.

Hickman Road, which stretches about four miles in the southwestern part of the county, will be repaved from U.S. 17 to the South Carolina state line.

In the Shallotte area, the contractor will repave the section of N.C. 130 West between U.S. 17 Business and the Shallotte bypass. Other roads to be resurfaced include Bridgers Road and Mulberry Street.

Other Brunswick County roads in the contract include Mill Branch Road from N.C. 130 West to Stout Road, Empire Road from N.C. 130 East to Mt. Pisgah Road, Maple Hill Road in the Brick Landing area and Gurganus Road between Todd Road and Pigott Road in the Shallotte Point area.

Holden Beach POA Backs Annexation Vote

BY DOUG RUTTER

The Holden Beach Property Owners Association voted Saturday to support a proposed law that would let the island's registered voters decide if the town should expand its boundaries.

The association backed a town commission request for state legislation that would prohibit annexation without the approval of the majority of the people registered to vote at Holden Beach.

About 40 of the 50 association members who attended the annual Easter weekend meeting Saturday voted to support the town board's request for a local bill.

Holden Beach Commissioner Bob Buck, who serves as executive secretary of the association, said the support may "carry some weight" with State Rep. David Redwine, who has been asked to introduce the legislation.

The Holden Beach Property Owners Association (HBPOA) represents about 800 of the town's 1,750 property owners. It mainly serves part-time residents who own about 75 percent of the property and pay most of the town taxes.

Buck said the N.C. General Assembly and N.C. League of Municipalities have traditionally opposed bills amending the state's annexation statutes. Right now, as few as three town commissioners could vote to annex property if state guidelines are followed.

Mainland annexation has been a controversial issue at Holden Beach for years and was the deciding factor in the 1989 town election, when four candidates opposed to annexation were elected.

Those four commissioners made good on their campaign promises

early last year when they voted to overturn an annexation ordinance that had been adopted by the previous town board in June 1989.

The ordinance would have brought into the town about 67 acres of property bordering the mainland causeway, effective June 1990.

Buck said a state law requiring a vote on annexation would prevent a repeat of the one-issue election two years ago. "The purpose of the resolution is to provide that would not happen again," he said.

One property owner suggested the HBPOA try to get a law that would allow non-residents to vote on annexation plans.

Commissioner Judy Bryan said the town board wanted to allow non-resident owners to vote. But the county elections supervisor told the board that only people registered to vote at Holden Beach could vote.

"We did want all of you to vote on it," Mrs. Bryan said. "It's not us. We tried. We tried to get you all to vote and we couldn't do it."

Donations Approved

The HBPOA approved donations to the local fire department and rescue squad Saturday, spending some of the \$17,000 that the group has in the bank.

Property owners agreed to contribute \$2,500 to the Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department and \$1,000 to

Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad.

The fire department had requested \$1,500 to pay for a piece of equipment that is needed for the new \$121,000 pumper truck that arrived last week. The rescue squad hadn't requested any money.

Holden Beach Building Inspector Dwight Carroll, who is a member of the HBPOA Board of Directors, said the new fire truck should help improve the fire rating on the island and save homeowners money on fire insurance premiums.

Numbers Needed

The property owners association will ask the town to purchase reflective house numbers and sell them at cost to homeowners.

Commissioner Bryan said she wants homeowners to put up numbers near the street that reflect headlights at night. The reflective numbers are needed, she said, so fire and rescue personnel can find homes easily.

"It's so hard to find your house numbers right now," Mrs. Bryan said. "You literally have to pull in the driveway and shine your headlights on them. Somebody could die because of that."

HBPOA Vice President Dave Gibson, who chaired the meeting in the absence of President Bob Linberger Saturday, said he "heard talk" that an ambulance was driving up and down a street Friday night looking for a house.

County Treats Legislators On A Busy Trip To Raleigh

Brunswick County officials carried a message to Raleigh last week while treating state legislators to locally-caught shrimp.

The shrimperoo and legislative lobby, held every other year, has become a favored event for legislators there, said County Manager David Clegg.

Clegg, along with Brunswick County Commissioners Kelly Holden and Jerry Jones, attended the lobbying session last Tuesday and Wednesday in Raleigh. New Hanover, Pender and Columbus counties also sent delegates.

It was a chance for the county to not only socialize but to bring its concerns to the N.C. General Assembly while members are actively in session, Clegg said.

"Particularly with all that has happened this week, it was good timing," Clegg added.

The State House Appropriations Committee met last week to recommend sweeping budget cuts that may affect funding for all counties for the 1991-92 fiscal year. The committee began grappling with ways to trim an estimated \$170 million from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction budget Wednesday because of state deficits.

Counties are concerned about having to pick up the tab for state-mandated programs that have been targeted for budget cuts.

Two years ago, during the last lobbying session attended by county

officials, approximately \$3,000 in county funds were spent, Clegg said. Although the bills are not in for last week's trip, he expects the trip will cost less than \$3,000.

A Wilmington seafood restaurant catered the event.

"I think it's a very positive thing," Clegg said of the lobbying effort. "The legislators get to see and hear from their people back home on these issues."

County officials are also busy preparing their local budget requests for the 1991-92 fiscal year. Budget packets have been given to department heads and are due back to the county manager's office next week.

Clegg and Finance Director Luthia Hahn will prepare this year's county budget on a new computerized system installed at the government complex in Bolivia. Budget requests from each department must be entered to see if enough funds are there.

"So much of it is like playing pin the tale on the donkey," said Clegg.

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