



STAFF PHOTO BY LYNN CARLSON

**SURFSIDE PAVILION** was torn down early this week and the concrete seawall was expected to be removed before Easter. Holden Beach will pay \$4,000 toward the demolition costs.

## Dune Repair Left To Homeowners Following Winter Storm's Erosion

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach homeowners will apparently be on their own when it comes to rebuilding oceanfront dunes that were damaged during last month's severe winter storm.

Aside from finding contractors who will do the work and help acquiring state permits, town officials indicated Tuesday it will be up to beachfront landowners to pay for dune repairs.

Most commissioners agreed at a meeting Tuesday that the town should not get involved in repairing dunes that were damaged March 13 at approximately 90 oceanfront lots.

The meeting was recessed Monday night after two hours so everyone could watch North Carolina win the NCAA basketball championship. Board members reconvened Tuesday afternoon and met for another three hours.

After recommending that the town seek bids for dune repair Monday night, Commissioner David Sandifer had a change of heart after riding along the strand Tuesday morning.

He said the town would run into too many problems if it tried to rebuild the dune and suggested it be left up to private property owners to dump sand on their dune if they choose.

Sandifer said it would be difficult to determine where the dune should be located because the high tide line reaches under houses in many cases. Also, he said it would be hard to decide where to start and stop the project.

"I still think we need to have a dune," Sandifer said. "I think we might be doing a disservice to our people rather than a service."

Commissioner Gay Atkins agreed and suggested the town make information available to homeowners in-

*"I don't see where it's our responsibility to protect people's houses...I paid for everything on my lot."*

—Commissioner Jim Fournier

terested in rebuilding their own dune. Holden Beach also should expedite the CAMA permit process as much as possible, she said.

Town Manager Gary Parker said there are about 90 lots between the east end of the island and the 900 block of Ocean Boulevard West that need dune repairs because the ocean is threatening to wash over them.

Parker had originally estimated dune repairs were needed at 50 lots. The number has nearly doubled over the past two weeks as a result of recent rides along the oceanfront.

"That figure could fluctuate," Parker cautioned at Monday's meeting. "There could be people who say they need it too and we would have to go out and look at that."

Parker said the town has \$44,000 in this year's budget for dune repair. He estimated that rebuilding the dune would cost between \$20,000 and \$40,000.

Commissioner Jim Fournier, who lives along one of the canals, said Monday that the property owners should pay for the work or the town should foot the bill and assess the lot owners once the project is completed.

"I don't see where it's our responsibility to protect people's houses," he said. "I paid for my dredging. I

paid for my seawall. I paid for everything on my lot."

"We're approaching the point we were in when we put \$360,000 in that ocean out there," Fournier said, referring to the town-funded dune project following Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

Holden Beach continued its storm recovery efforts this week, with town employees repairing beach accessways and clearing debris from the strand and sides of the roads. Parker said all or most of the debris should be removed before Easter.

"As much as we could pick up before this weekend would be a great help," Mayor Pro Tem Gil Bass said.

Said Parker: "We're going to do it as fast as we can and we're going to get it all up, but I can't tell you when."

Brunswick County Commissioners agreed Monday to help with the town's cleanup effort by providing a dump truck, driver and assistant for three days. However, the county crew left at noon Tuesday complaining about cold weather.

Holden Beach has a truck of its own. Town commissioners voted Monday to rent a third truck and driver at a cost of \$320 per day.

Surfside Pavilion and its massive seawall is being demolished this week, with the town chipping in \$4,000 for removal of the two sections of bulkhead it owns.

Holden Beach owns two 55-foot wings on either side of the pavilion. They were built several years ago to help protect the ends of Ferry Road and Holden Road from the encroaching sea.

Alan Holden, who is part owner of the pavilion, said Monday the concrete seawall would be torn down and hauled off the island this week after removal of the building and miniature golf course.

## Holden Likes Regional Sewer Plan, But Opposes Letter To Governor

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach Mayor Wally Ausley won't be signing a letter seeking state funding of a plan to form the coast's first regional sewer and stormwater management system in the South Brunswick Islands.

Despite opposition to the letter, town officials say they're interested in a regional approach to sewage treatment outlined at a March 30 meeting of elected officials from Holden Beach and five other towns.

"The whole concept is a good idea," Commissioner Jim Fournier said at Monday's town meeting. "We would get more in the long run than we ever would separately."

David Sandifer also favors the concept of forming a joint treatment system with Shallotte, Ocean Isle, Sunset Beach and Calabash. "The intent behind what is trying to be accomplished is good."

Holden Beach officials liked Fournier's suggestion that the five towns form a committee to work on the proposal. However, he said the engineers at last Tuesday's meeting should be left out for now.

"We don't need their direction on this part of it..." Fournier said. "My concern with engineers are ones who put on ties and try to sell you something, and that's what this is."

Fournier also said Varnamtown and Brunswick County need to be involved in the discussions. "They have as much responsibility in this

as we do, probably more," he said of the county.

Sandifer said county officials should be willing to help in light of the "disproportionate amount of taxes" they receive from the beaches. "If not, we should take a good, hard look at our county people," he said.

One reason the town board declined to sign the letter is because the county isn't involved. Ausley speculated that the first question from Hunt's staff would be why county commissioners hadn't signed the letter.

Also, the town board is leery of Powell Associates, the engineering firm hired by Sunset Beach and Calabash to help form a joint sewage system that conducted the March 30 meeting.

Sandifer and Fournier said the engineers appeared to be giving a sales pitch. "We were suspicious of the motive," Sandifer said.

**Petition Supports Sewer**

Holden Beach real estate developer James Hobbs is circulating a petition pushing for a sewer system on the island.

Copies of the petition can be signed at town businesses or at the town hall. By a 3-2 margin Monday, commissioners voted to allow a copy to be left at town hall.

Board members Sandifer, Gay Atkins and Gil Bass voted in favor of allowing the petition at town hall, while Fournier and Sid Swarts op-

posed the idea. "I don't think the town needs to lend its approval to that type of petition," Fournier said. "There are some assumptions that are not universally agreed upon."

"It's a simple petition," Sandifer said. "I make a motion that it's put out there. You can sign it or not sign it."

The petition urges the town board to "diligently and expeditiously pursue the design, acquisition and construction of a public sewer system to serve the needs of the Town of Holden Beach."

"Such a system is critical to the well-being of the citizens of the town and their guests and to the large number of visitors who annually frequent the beach," the petition continues.

"By installation of such a system the health of the populous served thereby and the condition of the environment will be greatly enhanced and protected."

In a related matter Monday, commissioners encouraged the town's sewer committee to get more specific information on a possible sewage district that would include the mainland.

Town officials also want more facts on how much land would be needed for a sewer system, how far the wastewater could be pumped and whether it would be best for the town or a private firm to own and operate such a facility.

## Board, Realtors Meet In Closed Session

Holden Beach Commissioners and representatives of five real estate firms met behind closed doors Tuesday to discuss fallout from a letter written by a town board member to the N.C. Real Estate Commission.

Commissioners spent about half of their two-hour executive session with officials from Hobbs Realty, Alan Holden Realty, Craig Realty, Brunswickland Realty and Coastal Development.

After the session, Mayor Wally Ausley reported that the real estate agents were upset over what they considered to be a complaint lodged against them by Commissioner Sid Swarts.

Swarts had written a letter to the N.C. Real Estate Commission seeking information on what the town could do to control overcrowding of rental units on the island.

Swarts chaired a committee that recently completed a study finding

that 517 out of 764 Holden Beach rental units advertised in brochures claim more sleeping capacity than their septic systems are designed to handle.

"The commission construed this as a complaint," Ausley said of Swarts' letter. An attorney for the real estate commission sent letters to the local firms asking for their response.

Ausley said the town will send a follow-up letter informing the real estate commission that Swarts' letter was not intended as a complaint and that he only sought information.

Also in the letter, Holden Beach will ask that the alleged complaint be removed from the files of the five firms.

Town officials refused to release to the press copies of Swarts' letter to the real estate commission or letters sent by the state commission to the local companies. Town Attorney Ken Campbell said he didn't think

the documents were public record.

Ausley said town board members also discussed a personnel matter and legal matter during their executive session.

## Shallotte Takes No Action On Request To Endorse Funding Bid

BY SUSAN USHER

Deal Shallotte out of this hand.

Town aldermen took no action Tuesday night on a request to join Sunset Beach and Calabash and possibly other local towns in asking Gov. Jim Hunt to fund a plan that would allow creation of the first regional sewerage and stormwater management system in coastal North Carolina.

Alderman Roney Cheers first proposed sending a letter of support for

the project as a neighborly gesture, so long as it would not be binding on the town. However, after hearing from Mayor Sarah Tripp and the town's consulting sewer system engineer, Finley Boney, he withdrew the motion.

"I wholeheartedly agree with what was said (at a recent meeting of the towns). I agree with the eventual need for a central sewer system," said Tripp, reflecting a general board consensus. "I think it will be

our salvation. But I also think it should be led by the county."

The letter would seek funding to plan and implement a "South Brunswick Environmental Management Program," including a southwestern Brunswick County sewage disposal plan and special funding status for a demonstration project that could be expanded to manage sewage and runoff in a large, multiple watershed area.

Boney said he thought Shallotte

could "better serve" Calabash and Sunset Beach by supporting their efforts at wastewater management rather than the regional proposal. He suggested Brunswick County take the lead in any regional wastewater and/or stormwater management program since it has jurisdiction over most of the land, and "probably most of the pollutants" involved. Boney also questioned engineers' unwillingness to estimate a project cost.

Meanwhile, Shallotte plans to continue pursuing application for a low-interest revolving state loan to expand its sewer system.

In other business, aldermen:

■ After a lengthy discussion on collecting unpaid taxes, tabled the matter until the next meeting to list all delinquent taxpayers and her recommendations for handling collection. Meanwhile staff will try again

to contact eight taxpayers who have not responded to prior notices.

To be cost effective, attorney Mark Lewis suggested the town concentrate on collecting from taxpayers who owe for multiple years or for which the 10-year statute of limitations might soon expire.

■ Extended for two more weeks pick-up of yard debris from the March storm.

■ Agreed with Alderman Morris Hall's suggestion to encourage law enforcement officers to ticket speeding log truck drivers. The planning/going board set May 4 public hearings on variances requested by Bedland Mattress Discounters, Gene Smith, and H.H. Bellamy and H.M. Brazel for Eastgate Center.

Aldermen David Gause and Wilton Harrelson were absent.

## Longshoreman Dies In Apparent Accident At Sunny Point

The apparent accidental death of a longshoreman at Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal was under investigation Tuesday night by several agencies.

Myrtle Meade, public information officer for the U.S. Army munitions terminal near Southport, said the longshoreman was fatally injured at approximately 4 p.m. Few details were available at press time.

"This is the first time I've had

anything like this," said Meade, since coming to Sunny Point in 1971.

The victim was a member of the International Longshoreman's Association and an employee of Ryan-Wash Stevedoring Co., a contractor. His name was not being released Tuesday evening pending notification of next of kin, Meade said.

The death, which appears to have been accidental, said Meade, is under investigation by the Brunswick

County Sheriff's Department and Brunswick County Coroner Greg White, and will also be investigated by the terminal's safety officer.

The fatal injury apparently occurred not on or near a loading dock or ship, but at one of the terminal's "hard stands," paved areas where containers are handled.

**Kimberly Jo's Boutique**  
Ladies' Clothing • Wolff Tanning

**In Style For Easter!**

**SPRING ARRIVALS...**  
Christina Skirts and Matching Ambition Slacks and Shorts

**SHORT SETS by**  
Peters Ashley • Village Designs • Beverly Rose

**SHIRTS by** Outback Red

**We Have Two Wolff Tanning Beds**

HOURS: Mon-Fri 8 AM until, Sat 10 until  
Other times by appointment

Located on Hwy. 179 in the Coastal Mechanical Bldg.  
OCEAN ISLE • 579-7670 or 579-6290  
"Name Brand Ladies' Fashions At Affordable Prices"

**ROBINSON'S VARIETY**  
HOLDEN BEACH CAUSEWAY • 842-4142

**2<sup>77</sup>**  
**Insulated Water Nozzle**  
All zinc body adjusts from gentle mist to full stream spray. Threaded nozzle for attachments. 74949

**3<sup>97</sup>**  
**Simple Green**  
Biodegradable and non-toxic cleaner and degreaser. 32 oz. Includes trigger sprayer. 81227

**2<sup>49</sup>**  
**2 1/2 Gal. Poly Gas Can**  
Non-rusting body with flexible spout, built-in filter and easy grip handle. Retool mowers and other gas-powered lawn tools. Red. 7061

**ACE BEST BUYS**

**5<sup>99</sup> EA**

**YOUR CHOICE**  
Spring Brace Lawn Rake or Round Point Shovel  
Choose a 54" lacquered, hardwood-handled rake or a round point shovel with tempered blade and strong northern ash handle. 70018, 74978

**EASTER FEAST**

**Easter Sunday Buffet**

11:30 AM til 8 PM  
Ham, Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Fresh Baked Bread, Assorted Desserts, Coffee or Tea

**\$7.95**

**KARAOKE**  
Friday Nights  
9 PM to 1 AM

HWY. 179 • CALABASH • 579-6228

DINING AND SPORTS LOUNGE  
ALL ABC PERMITS  
OPEN TILL 1 AM

**TRIPLE TAX-FREE NC MUNICIPAL BONDS**

**5.8%\***

Equal to taxable yield of 9.06% for NC resident.

North Carolina Municipal Bonds are exempt from Federal, state and local taxes.

You keep 100% of what you earn—and that's what counts.

For more information call:  
**919/763-1641**  
or  
**1-800-288-5055**

Frank D. Voli  
Financial Consultant

**Wheat First Securities**  
Member New York Stock Exchange and SIPC  
102 S. Second Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401

\*Rate expressed as yield to maturity as of 4/06/93. Market conditions may affect prices, yields. Subject to availability and early call for redemption. AMT may apply. Assumes 31% Federal and 7% State tax brackets.