



A Floatable Feast

Memorial Day revelers gather on a sand spit along the Intracoastal Waterway at Shallotte Inlet for a well-planned boating picnic. Partiers were prepared to enjoy volleyball, as well as barbecue served from a pig-cooker apparently ferried over on the barge at left. They were among thousands who enjoyed the holiday weekend on South Brunswick Islands beaches, waterways and golf courses.

STAFF PHOTO BY LYNN CARLSON

ELECTIONS BOARD RE-APPOINTED

Holden Budget Plan Features Tax Increase

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach property owners will pay more town taxes next January if commissioners adopt the \$1.3 million budget proposal presented last week by Town Manager Gary Parker.

Included in the tentative budget for the 1993-94 fiscal year is a plan to bump the tax rate from 15 to 16 cents per \$100 of valuation. The owner of \$150,000 home would pay \$240 in taxes, or \$15 more than this year.

"This budget is not much different than the current year budget," Parker told commissioners when he presented the new spending plan at last Wednesday's town meeting.

In his budget message, Parker pointed out that the tax rate may have to be increased to 17 cents per \$100 if the county establishes "tipping fees" for dumping trash at the county landfill.

Parker estimates the town would have to pay about \$20,000 in tipping fees, which equals about one cent on the tax rate. Tipping fees were included in the proposed county budget drafted by Interim County Manager John Harvey.

Parker has proposed no increase in the water rate for town customers. But again, he indicated the rate could be increased if the county hikes the rate that it charges Holden Beach.

For now, the \$1,285,975 town budget includes a general fund of \$934,375 and water fund of \$351,600. The general fund is balanced with a 16-cent tax rate, \$215,800 from the occupancy tax fund and \$37,000 from the water fund.

Major general fund expenses include \$241,465 for police, \$180,800 for streets and \$178,730 for administration. The police budget includes \$15,000 for two new patrol cars and \$12,000 for a four-wheel-drive truck.

The proposed budget earmarks \$40,000 for sidewalks, \$20,000 for street lights and \$5,000 for water rescue. It also includes \$65,000 for the paving of Marlin, Lumberton,

Foxes Abundant At Holden Beach

Forget about the growing number of tourists. Holden Beach officials have foxes on their mind.

An abundance of foxes have been spotted on the island this spring, prompting the town to seek help from county animal control and state wildlife officials.

Town Manager Gary Parker said Tuesday that samples taken from trapped foxes have shown no incidence of rabies. So for now, Parker said the town will let nature take its course.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will not relocate foxes or destroy them if they aren't rabid.

"They are not willing to carte blanche move the foxes off," Mayor Wally Ausley said at last Wednesday's town meeting, when the issue was discussed.

"When they have a situation like that they just leave the foxes alone," Parker said Tuesday. "At least we're relieved to hear there was no rabies found."

Foxes have been reported in the undeveloped area at the east end of the island and behind Brunswick Avenue. Parker said he hasn't heard of any confrontations between foxes and residents or their pets.

Ausley said last week that one man reported seeing 10 foxes at once near the east end of the beach. The man estimated there are 100 foxes living in the area.

"There appears to be an unlimited number of foxes on the beach," said John F. Holden, a longtime resident of the island and the town's first mayor.

Holden said one fox recently came within 10 feet of a couple walking at the east end of the strand. He said it would be bad publicity for Holden Beach if a visitor encountered a fox during tourist season.

"These foxes have destroyed the quail," Holden added. "Their delicacy is rabbits and quail."

Jim Lowell said there is a fox den near his home. "The fox is there all the time. He stands there and stares at us."

Ausley said residents and visitors should be wary of the foxes and avoid them if they display erratic behavior.

Sandpiper, Sandspur and Sand Dune streets and the resurfacing of Fayetteville Street.

Town officials expect to collect \$231,000 in occupancy tax next fiscal year. Proposed uses for the money include \$46,000 for police salaries, \$40,000 for sidewalks, \$25,000 for trash pickup and \$10,000 for the fire department.

Parker's proposed budget includes a 2.5-percent pay raise for employees. No new positions have been included in the tentative spending plan.

After receiving the budget last Wednesday, commissioners began reviewing it Friday morning and have scheduled a second public

workshop meeting today (Thursday) at 9 a.m. A public hearing is planned June 23.

Board Re-Appointed
Commissioners will keep the same board of elections for the next two years. They haven't decided if changes will be made on the planning and zoning board or board of adjustment.

Mabel Dutton, Elizabeth Dameon and Judy Holden were unanimously re-appointed to the elections board at last week's meeting. Their new terms will expire July 1, 1995.

The three-member board will oversee the election of five commissioners and a mayor this November. Town officials also are considering

holding a referendum on a technical change in the town's 35-foot building height limit.

Before July 1, commissioners will make three appointments to the planning board and one to the board of adjustment. Commissioners will make nominations June 7 and make appointments June 23.

The terms of planning board member Ted Rivenbark and alternate members Johnny Craig and Jim Lowell will expire July 1. Regular members serve for three years, and alternates serve one year.

On the board of adjustment, which handles variance requests, the seat currently occupied by Dave Gibson is the only one up for appointment this year. Gibson is eligible for re-appointment.

Other Business
In other business last week, commissioners:

■ Authorized Mayor Wally Ausley to sign a letter requesting the allocation of state funds to help develop a regional wastewater and stormwater management program in the South Brunswick Islands.

■ Set a public hearing for July 6 on a proposal to close sections of South Shore Drive and Carolina Avenue from where they end in the Wild Dunes subdivision to Ferry Road. The roads have never been opened in that area.

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Telephone Book Recycling Program Underway In County

Have an old telephone book lying around the house? More than 62 tons of telephone books were delivered to county residents this year. So why not recycle them?

The Brunswick County Recycling Program has begun Phase II of its telephone book recycling project throughout the Atlantic Telephone district. Included are all areas of the county except Leland, Southport and Oak Island, which were part of Phase I.

Beginning Tuesday, June 1 through Friday, July 2, telephone books can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Atlantic Telephone Membership business office,

the Brunswick County Government Center, the Longwood Post Office, the Ash Post Office and the town halls of Shallotte, Holden Beach, Ocean Isle Beach, Sunset Beach, Calabash and Boiling Spring Lakes.

Books should be deposited in labeled containers at each drop-off site. Front and back covers and any inserts should be removed and discarded, as they are not recyclable.

If a business or industry has a large volume of books (more than 10), special arrangements can be made for pick-up by contacting Brunswick County Recycling Coordinator Mary McCarley at 253-4488, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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