



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

REPRESENTATIVES of the South Brunswick Islands Board of Realtors meet with members of the Brunswick County Board of Health to discuss the problem of septic system overloading in rental cottages. Shown (clockwise from lower right) are Health Board Chairman Maliston Stanley and members Dr. Harry Johnson and Patricia Nutter; Peggy Stanley, Linda Bethune, Alan Holden, David Sandifer, Andy Dusenburg, Al Odom, Annette Odom and Health Director Michael Rhodes.

Filing To Open For Town Board Posts; Elections Nov. 3

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Samuel T. Herring. The mayor serves a two-year term and commissioners serve staggered four-year terms.

Sunset Beach
At Sunset Beach, the seats of longtime Mayor Mason Barber and Council members D.G. "Bud" Scrantom, Edward M. Gore and Julia Thomas are up for grabs. The mayor is elected to a two-year term; council members serve four years.

Ocean Isle Beach
Ocean Isle Beach voters will elect a mayor and two commissioners. Incumbents whose seats are to be filled are Mayor Betty Williamson and Commissioners William D. Benton and Terry Barbee.

Shalotte
In Shalotte the mayor's seat held by Sarah Tripp and the seats of Aldermen Wilton Harrelson and Paul Wayne Reeves are available. All seats are for four years.

Holden Beach
All seats on the Holden Beach governing board will be filled. They are currently held by first-term Mayor Wally Ausley and Commissioners Gay Atkins, Gil Bass, Sid Swartz, David Sandifer and Jim Fournier. All terms are for two years.

Varnamtown
A mayor and two aldermen will be elected by Varnamtown voters. The seats up for the taking are those of Mayor Judy Galloway and Aldermen George Ennis Swain and Ada McDonald. The mayor is elected to a two-year term and board members to staggered four-year terms.

Bolivia
All town officials' seats come up for election every two years in the Town of Bolivia. Incumbents are Mayor Ina Mae Mintz and Aldermen Ella Jane Wescott, Sarah E. Knox, Alice Lesh and Guy H. Wescott.

Boiling Spring Lakes
Boiling Spring Lakes voters will elect a mayor and two town commissioners. Incumbents are Mayor Steven Mark Stewart and Commissioners Tom Simmons and Billy E. Privette. Privette was appointed to serve the remainder of the term of

Southport. Mayor Norman Holden's seat and the seats filled in 1989 by Harry W. Gore (Ward II) and James Brown and William Crowe (Ward I) are up for election. Voters elect the mayor every two years, while aldermen serve four-year terms.

Caswell Beach
Two Caswell Beach commissioners' seats, those held by W.A. Boyd Jr. and Bob Terry, are up for election in November. Terms are for four years.

Yaupon Beach
Commissioners' seats held by William S. Smith, Hugh Zachary and Dorothy (Dot) Kelly will be filled by Yaupon Beach voters for four-year terms. The board chooses a mayor among its members.

Long Beach
Long Beach voters will elect a mayor and three commissioners, seats presently held by Joan Altman, mayor, and James B. Sloop, Jeffrie D. Ensminger and Danny C. Leonard. The mayor is elected every two years and, starting with this election, commissioners will serve two-year terms.

Sandy Creek
The terms of Ernest "Buddy" Grainger, who is currently mayor, Carolyn Hamilton and Donald C. Minnis end this year in Sandy Creek. Their successors will serve four-year terms; the mayor is appointed by the council from its membership.

Belville
Belville voters will elect a mayor to serve a two-year term and two commissioners who will serve four-year terms. Now in those seats are Kenneth D. Messer Sr., mayor, and Eunice I. Long and Betty Sutton.

Leland
A mayor and two council members will be chosen by Leland voters. The mayor's seat, now held by Mayor S.L. Doty, is up for election every two years, while council members serve staggered four-year terms.

Navassa
Seats now held by Mayor Mayor Louis "Bobby" Brown and Councilmen Jimmy Lewis and Roosevelt "Bebop" Toomer are up for election this year. The mayor's term is for two years, council members' four years.

Agents, Health Officials To Begin Series Of Talks On Cottage Crowding Problem

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loaded whenever a home is occupied by more than two persons per bedroom. The septic system for a typical four-bedroom house is designed to accommodate 480 gallons of outflow per day, Robinson said. The permitted occupancy is based on an estimated use of 60 gallons per person.

"That means it's not a violation if 12 people use less than 480 gallons per day, right?" Sandifer asked Robinson, who agreed. "For you to assume that nine people are overloading that system when eight people are not is a little far reached."

Sandifer said rental agencies were being singled out for enforcement of the regulations because their advertised occupancy levels make them easy targets. He said the problem is more widespread.

"I can assure you that if there is overcrowding going on in rental housing, you certainly have overcrowding in year-round homes too. But these letters are not going out to those residents. You're treating one neighbor differently than another. And that bothers me," Sandifer said.

Russ Morrison of Long Beach warned that a sudden crackdown on occupancy levels would have a serious "domino effect" throughout the county's economy. He noted that mortgage loans are typically structured around potential rental income. A reduction in allowable home occupancy

"We hear you. We have a problem. And we have a golden opportunity to do something different... If it's a sewer system we need, then how do we do it?"

—Maliston Stanley

would cause a corresponding drop in property value, he said.

"That means less property tax, which means less revenue. It will also cut tourism, which will cause us to lose sales tax," Morrison said. "This is not just going to effect the real estate agent. It's going to have a ripple effect all the way to your dining room table."

Annette Odom of Ocean Isle Beach said health officials have "changed the rules in the middle of the game" by enforcing occupancy levels that were not required when septic permits were issued. She said that nothing in the application

process informs an owner that their home's occupancy is limited to two persons per bedroom.

Acknowledging that septic overloading is a universal problem that needs to be addressed immediately, Holden urged the group to begin pressing government officials for a central sewage system. He said rental agencies need to know what the health board intends to do about occupancy requirements before next year's rental brochures are printed this fall.

"We hear you," said health board Chairman Maliston Stanley. "We have a problem. And we have a golden opportunity to do something different. We can't sit here and mandate without your input. We want this to be a team effort. If it's a sewer system we need, then how do we do it?"

The group agreed to schedule a series of weekly meetings to discuss the matter. Patricia Nutter, Dr. Harry Johnson and Stanley will represent the health board along with Rhodes and Robinson. Real estate representatives will include Holden, Sandifer, Russ Morrison, Randall Morrison, Buddy Rudd, Al and Annette Odom and Linda Bethune. Other representatives may be enlisted from the Oak Island area.

The first meeting was scheduled for Wednesday (June 23) at 6:30 p.m. in at the health board's conference room.

"I'd let you all come to my house, but my sewer capacity wouldn't handle it," said Al Odom.

Interim Schools Budget Approved Until Funding Known

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is \$2.5 million, including \$700,000 in technology equipment, \$216,000 in instructional equipment and one new school bus.

It also includes \$385,000 for renovations to a 1951 building at Union Elementary, and \$205,000 for roof repairs at Lincoln Primary, Leland Middle and Southport Elementary. Bolivia Elementary's sewer plant will be updated, some fences and carpeting will be bought, and professional and surveying fees are included for the construction projects.

Day-to-day school system expenses will be covered by an interim budget until the board of education learns how much money it will receive from the state and the county commissioners and how much teachers' pay raises will be.

On recommendation from Finance Officer Rudi Fallon, the board approved an interim op-

erations budget to pay salaries and cover "usual and ordinary expenses" until state and local school appropriations are finalized.

The school board had asked for \$9.4 million in operating funds and another \$7.8 million in capital outlay, including a \$6 million installment on construction of a new elementary school in the Leland area.

The budget proposed by acting County Manager John Harvey provided no money for growth or construction, but did include an additional \$401,000—5 percent—for continuation of existing programs.

Two weeks ago, the county commissioners scrapped plans for a new warehouse and agreed to spend the money on a fledgling \$1 million program to offer computer training in classrooms throughout the school system.

In the meantime, the school board has narrowed the gap between its original budget re-

quest and the county's proposed allocation from \$602,000 to \$364,000. Superintendent Ralph Johnston said he met with principals and came up with \$100,000 in cuts, including eliminating a planned staff retreat and the Superintendent's Academic Excellence Banquet. "I hope the business community will help us out with this," Johnston said. "I'd hate to lose this opportunity to recognize students for their achievements."

Another \$150,000 will come from the system's fund balance. Johnston said he and the principals found places to make small cuts—"not big items, just two or three or five thousand here and there."

Fallon told the board the budget is "very definitely fat-free. We've done everything we can do short of reducing staff or freezing salaries."

The school board adjourned until July 12, when it will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the central of-

Budget Plan Has No Tax Hike For New Fiscal Year

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Misery Road. The board voted unanimously Monday to use the next five year's loan reimbursements from the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority to fund the capitol improvements project.

An additional allocation of \$118,000 also was approved to pay operating expenses for the Odell Williamson Auditorium at Brunswick Community College.

In other business the board:

■ Approved the N.C. Department of Transportation's proposed sec-

ondary road construction plan that will spend \$1.2 million in Brunswick County for road improvements and about 10.8 miles of paving. Among the roads to be paved are the two miles included in Pine Burr Acres subdivision, 2.2 miles of Ellis Benton Road, 1.6 miles of McKay Road and 1.2 miles of Albright Road.

■ Heard a request from Rose Hall of Sunset Beach that the board consider adopting a county noise ordinance. She presented a petition signed by 65 supporters of the proposal. Warren said Harvey already

had been asked to "do some back-ground" on the idea.

■ Was asked by Ernest Bellamy of Supply to consider passing an ordinance to keep deer hunters away from residential areas. He said he had been awakened "at all hours of the night" by gunshots and had seen hunters within 200 yards of his home.

He said two deer had been killed on his property and a neighbor's home had been hit by gunfire from hunters. Warren asked Harvey to contact wildlife officials to discuss the problem.

Typical Summer Weather Is Ahead

Typical summer weather is expected over the next few days with low temperatures around 70 and highs in the upper 80s, according to Shalotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Canady expects about three-fourths of an inch of rain over the next week. He measured no rainfall between June 15 and 21.

The maximum high temperature during the period was 90 degrees on June 21, and the minimum nightly low was 63 degrees on the 20th.

The daily average high was 88 degrees, and the average nightly low was 67 degrees for an average daily temperature of 77 degrees, which is about normal for this time of year.

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