CUT-OFF IS NOON TODAY

Pace Of Filing Speeds Up With Approach Of Deadline

Twenty-four more candidates filed for office this past week as today's (Thursday's) noon deadline loomed, with more local races shaping up across Brunswick County.

Former Sunset Beach council member Minnie K. Hunt has filed for mayor, opposing incumbent Mason Barber, and Paul E. (Ed) Hughes has filed for town council.

At Calabash Mayor Douglas Simmons is tossing his hat into the ring for another term, taking on challenger/Commissioner George Anderson.

Roger Williams has filed for commissioner at Holden Beach, and Planning Board member Ken Proctor has filed for commissioner at Ocean Isle Beach.

As of Tuesday, according to the Brunswick County Board of Elections, candidates had filed for office in all but one town, Shallotte, where two aldermen's seats and the mayor's seat are up for election.

"It's happening this week," Mayor Sarah Tripp said when asked Tuesday about the lack of candidates. "They'll be coming in." Tripp said she plans to file for re-election.

Two candidates have also filed for seats on the governing board of Northwest, Brunswick County's newest town. They are Jay Robinson and Elsie Jane Peterson.

In Bolivia, Mayor Ina Mae Mintz and the full board of aldermen—Guy H. Wescott, Ella Jane Willetts Wescott, Sarah Knox and Alice Lesh—have filed for re-election.

Milton (Mike) Garner, Robert Cowan, Robert B. Cruse and Charles Bailey have filed for election to the Sandy Creek council, along with incumbents Donald C. Minnis and Carolyn A. Hamilton. Mayor Ernest Grainger has also filed for re-election. The town council members previously elected the mayor from among their number, but now the mayor is elected in his or her own right.

Also filing during the past week are these candidates: Linda Vereen, commissioner, Yaupon Beach; incumbent Betty J. Sutton, council, Belville; incumbent James (Jim) Brown, Ward I alderman, Southport; Elgie Jones, Leland Sanitary District; incumbent James W. (Bubba) Smith, Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District.

Previously filing as candidates are these hopefuls:

Calabash: George Anderson, mayor; Alvin L. Leisey and Theodora "Teddy" Altrueter, District 2 commissioner.

Sunset Beach: incumbent Mason Barber, mayor; Herb Klinker, Therese Regan and incumbents Edward M. Gore Sr., D.G. "Bud" Scrantom and Julia Thomas, council.

Ocean Isle Beach: incumbent Betty Williamson, mayor; incumbents Bill Benton and Terry Barbee, commissioner.

Holden Beach: incumbent Wally Ausley, mayor; Nash Greene, Larry Vogt and incumbent Sid Swarts, commissioner.

Varnamtown: incumbent Judy Galloway, mayor; Chris Lancaster, Charles McDonald and incumbents George Ennis Swain and Ada McDonald, alderman.

Boiling Spring Lakes: incumbent Mark Stewart, mayor; Raymond Hicks, commissioner.

Southport: incumbent Norman Holden, mayor; Leonard H. Moore and Phil Joyner, Ward II; and incumbent William Crowe, Ward I.

Long Beach: Rupert Riley, Johnny Vereen and incumbent Joan Altman, mayor; Frances Allen, Dave Drummond, Timothy L. Jones, and incumbents Danny Leonard and Jeffrie Ensminger, commissioner.

Yaupon Beach: Jackie Slockett, commissioner.

Caswell Beach: Robert Charles Spake and incumbents William A. Boyd Jr. and Robert (Bob) Terry, council.

South Brunswick Sanitary District: incumbent Ginger Canady.

Dosher Board of Trustees: incumbents Bill Kirby and C. William Newnam.

Sandy Creek: Franklin D. Squires and Danny Canady, council.

Belville: incumbent Kenneth D. Messer Sr., mayor.

Leland: incumbent S.L. Doty and Franky Thomas, mayor; Jimmy Cooke, Donald T. Sellers, Fred P. Seltzer III and incumbents Sadie Richburg and Lucille Blake, council.

Leland Sanitary District: Joe Gainey and incumbents Edison Moore and Julius Adams.

Navassa: incumbent Louis "Bobby" Brown, mayor.

Candidates have until noon Aug. 6 to file for office. The filing fee is $5. The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 2 elections is Oct. 11.

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Voter Challenge May Be Ahead For Sunset Beach

BY LYNN CARLSON

Some people registered to vote in Sunset Beach may soon face a challenge of their right to do so, Town Administrator Linda Fleugel told the town council Monday night.

The topic came up as council began discussion of requests that it make absentee voting possible for the first time at Sunset Beach.

"I've been contacted by a citizen who told me he plans to challenge a number of listed voters," Fleugel said. "If that happens, it's going to be embarrassing. Maybe you should not act so quickly (on absentee voting). This man is serious; he has the paperwork drawn up."

Fleugel did not name the prospective challenger.

Town Attorney Michael Isenberg agreed to meet with Brunswick County Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt to get more information about setting up the absentee balloting procedure and establishing guidelines for voter eligibility.

"It's pretty nebulous," the attorney told council. "It's where you intend your permanent residence to be. Just owning property here isn't enough."

Fleugel said such indicators as place of vehicle registration, bank accounts and church membership are sometimes used to prove eligibility to vote in a town.

Citizens Joe Bramble and Kathy Kakos said they believe absentee ballots should be available for the upcoming town election.

Bramble said, "My wife and I will be out of town. The local election is more important to us than a national one."

Kakos said she hopes the threatened challenge of some voters "will not keep you from giving us full voting privileges," adding that many Sunset Beach voters probably don't realize that absentee ballots are not currently an option.

Council agreed to Mayor Mason Barber's suggestion that it consider dividing the town into voting districts in the future. "We're growing; we need to look at it so we can assure that all areas have equal representation."

Counting Cars

N.C. Department of Transportation equipment clocked 81,147 cars crossing the Sunset Beach bridge on the first 11 days of July, Barber reported. The mayor asked DOT to conduct the traffic counts, which took place during June and July. Peak daily traffic occurred July 3, when cars crossed the one-lane pontoon bridge 8,943 times.

A Raleigh engineering firm is conducting an environmental impact study to determine the consequences of replacing the bridge with a high-rise fixed span or a different type of drawbridge.

In other business, council:

■learned that representatives from Sunset Beach will meet with Town of Shallotte officials and Atlantic Telephone's cable division to discuss improvement of service. The meeting will take place Sept. 7 at 7:30 in the Shallotte Town Hall and will be open to the public.

■reappointed Channing Coppage to a term on the planning board.

■delayed action on suggestions that unattended volleyball nets and other equipment be banned from the beach strand and that portable toilets be provided near the town gazebo during the tourist season.

Shallotte To Allow County Water In Brierwood

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shallotte officials have agreed to let the county provide water service in the unincorporated section of Brierwood Estates, where some residents are thirsting for public water.

Aldermen made the decision Tuesday night after hearing from a property owner in the area and a representative of the development company who said the owners can't justify the expense of extending water lines.

Chris Lane, an official with Brierwood Builders, said the developers would welcome county service in the "old section" of the subdivision. Some people in the neighborhood need water, and others need sewer service.

Lane said the company can't afford to run 22,121 feet of water and sewer lines to the area, which would cost about $265,000. The cost would be $177,000 to run water lines only.

"We can't even comprehend that. We don't have that kind of property to spread that cost out to have any help recouping it," Lane said. "We as the developer don't see any way we can swallow this cost."

Lane said the corporation still owns 28 of the 201 lots in the old part of Brierwood, which is outside the town limits. But the company can't raise the price of the remaining lots enough to cover the cost of water lines.

As an alternative, Scott Taylor of Shallotte Point suggested the town board grant Brunswick County permission to provide water service to the area. Taylor owns property in the old portion of Brierwood.

Based on recent conversations with Brunswick County Utilities Director Jerry Webb, Taylor said the county is willing to serve the area with the town board's permission.

"Everyone in the ETJ (extraterritorial jurisdiction) around us already has county water," Taylor told the board, which was considering providing town water to the area.

Taylor indicated that Webb told him the old part of Brierwood could be included in a county Special Assessment District (SAD) in the Shallotte Point area and water could be provided soon.

"If the county will extend the SAD that may be the easy way out," said Finley Boney, consulting engineer for the Shallotte water and sewer systems.

However, Lane said following Tuesday night's meeting that he understood county water service couldn't be provided for three or four years.

Shallotte officials are trying to come up with a policy on providing water to the extraterritorial jurisdiction, a special zoning district that extends about one mile from the town limits.

"This won't be the last time this will come up," Boney said. "A policy is needed." Aldermen David Gause and Paul Wayne Reeves were absent Tuesday night.

In other business, aldermen re-appointed Carson Durham as chairman of the town planning board through July 1995.

Child Passenger Injured In Two-Vehicle Accident

A teenager was seriously injured Wednesday, July 28, in a two-car accident that occurred at 8:30 p.m. 3.2 miles northeast of Shallotte at the intersection of Shell Point Road (S.R. 1132) and Gray Bridge Road (S.R. 1134), according to the N.C. Highway Patrol office in Wilmington.

Virginia Brantley Robertson, 78, of Shallotte, was charged with a yield violation by Trooper D.B. Harvell.

Driving a 1989 Dodge, Robertson was traveling east on Shell Point Road. She pulled out into the path of a 1984 Ford truck headed south on Gray Bridge Road and driven by James Clifford Long, 31, of Route 3, Shallotte.

After Long's truck struck the Dodge, both vehicles ran off the roadway. Neither driver was injured. However, one of two passengers in Robertson's car, 13-year-old Jody Robertson of Raleigh, was taken to Dosher Hospital with serious, non-incapacitating injuries.

Damages were estimated at $500 to the truck and $1,000 to the Dodge.

Both drivers were transported to Dosher Hospital in Southport with complaints of minor injuries following a two-car accident Friday, July 30.

The accident happened 3:30 p.m. on N.C. 130 one mile west of Holden Beach.

Sheila Holden McKinney, 20, of Shallotte was traveling east on N.C. 130 in a 1988 Honda when, according to Trooper J.H. Kerr's report, she failed to reduce speed and struck struck a 1988 Chevrolet in the rear. Driver Julie Hamilton Lee, 19, of Ocean Isle Beach, had stopped for a turning vehicle.

Damage to the Honda was estimated at $3,000 and to the Chevrolet, $2,000.

McKinney was charged with failure to reduce speed.

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