

LETTER TO INFORM, WARN PROPERTY OWNERS

Sunset Beach Okays Absentee Voting

BY LYNN CARLSON

Qualified Sunset Beach residents will be able to vote by absentee ballot in the upcoming municipal election after action by the town council in a brief special meeting Monday.

However, all property owners who receive city water will be warned in a letter from Mayor Mason Barber that if they register without being qualified, their voting rights will be challenged.

In the Nov. 2 election, a mayor and three commissioners will be chosen.

Challenging Mayor Barber is former council member Minnie Hunt. Seeking the council seats are incumbents Edward M. Gore Sr., D.G. "Bud" Scramtom and Julia Thomas, as well as Paul E. "Ed" Hughes, Herb Klinker and Therese Regan.

Several citizens who said they would be out of town on election day asked council to request absentee ballot from the Brunswick County Board of Elections, which administers Sunset Beach voting. Council members Scramtom and Cherri Cheek worked with Town Attorney Mike Isenberg on determining whether the town should do so.

Isenberg advised council earlier this month that residency criteria for voting in North Carolina are "pretty nebulous" and agreed to consult County Elections Director Lynda Britt on the requirements.

"We determined it was in the town's best interest to allow it," Scramtom said Monday. "But we want to be sure everyone who is a

resident of this area is notified. I don't want there to be any comeback to us that people didn't know."

The letter council approved to be sent to water customers advises the following rules for voter eligibility, based on the state statutes:

■ "That place shall be considered the residence of a person in which his habitation is fixed, and to which, whenever he is absent, he has the intention of returning. If you do not pay property tax to the Town of Sunset Beach or a renter who lives in Sunset Beach, you are not eligible to vote in municipal elections.

■ "A person shall not be considered to have lost his residence who leaves his home and goes into another state or county of this state, for temporary purposes only, with the intention of returning.

■ "A person shall not be considered to have gained a residence in any county of this state, into which he comes for temporary purposes only, without the intention of making such county his permanent place of abode.

■ "If a person moves to another state or county within this state, with the intention of making such state or county his permanent residence, he shall be considered to have lost his residence in the state or county from which he has removed.

■ "If a person moves to another state or county within this state, with the intention of remaining there an indefinite time and making such state or county his place of residence, he shall be considered to

have lost his place of residence in this state or the county from which he has removed, notwithstanding he may entertain an intention to return at some future time.

■ "If a person goes into another state or county, or into the District of Columbia, which there exercises the right of a citizen by voting in an election, he shall be considered to have lost his residence in this state or county.

■ "School teachers who remove to a county for the purpose of teaching in the schools of that county temporarily and with the intention of expectation of returning during vacation periods to live in the county in which their parents or other relatives reside, and who do not have the intention of becoming residents of the county to which they have moved to teach, for purposes of this registration and voting shall be considered residents of the county in which their parents or other relatives reside.

■ "If a person removes to the District of Columbia or other federal territory to engage in the government service, he shall not be considered to have lost his residence in this state during the period of such service unless he votes there, and the place at which he resided at the time of his removal shall be considered and held to be his place of residence.

■ "If a person moves to a county to engage in the service of the state government, he shall not be considered to have lost his residence in the county from which he re-

moved, unless he demonstrates a contrary intention.

■ "For the purpose of voting a spouse shall be eligible to establish a separate domicile.

■ "So long as a student intends to make his home in the community where he is physically present for the purpose of attending school while he is attending school and has no intent to return to his former home after graduation, he may claim the college community as his domicile. He need not also intend to stay in the college community beyond graduation in order to establish his domicile there.

Ocean Isle Beach earlier this month approved absentee balloting also.

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Four Injured When Driver Wrecks While Trying To Elude Patrol Car

A Castle Hayne man drove into the path of an oncoming car Friday night, Aug. 20, while trying to elude an N.C. Highway Patrol trooper near Navassa, the Patrol's Wilmington office reported.

Victor Dale Sullivan, 32, of Castle Hayne, and three others involved in the accident were transported to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington with serious, incapacitating injuries.

Sullivan was traveling east on Cedar Hill Road (S.R. 1430) near Navassa at approximately 9:15 p.m., driving a 1983 Chevrolet. He was being followed by Trooper D.A. Lewis, who was operating his blue lights and siren.

Sullivan made a right turn onto Wide Way and traveled two-tenths of a mile, made a U-turn back toward Cedar Hill Road and failed to stop before entering the roadway. His Chevrolet was struck by a 1989 Honda traveling west on Cedar Hill Road, driven by Antonial Lemarc White, 23, of Route 4, Leland.

Sullivan's car was knocked off the right shoulder of the highway and came to rest on its left side, pinning Sullivan underneath. White's car continued off the right shoulder,

truck a ditch bank and then struck Sullivan's car again.

Sullivan was charged with driving while under the influence, failure to stop for a blue light and siren, and driving while his license was revoked. Damages to the Chevrolet were estimated at \$800.

Also seriously injured were Sullivan's passenger, Joel Faulk, 29, of Wilmington; White, and White's passenger, Lillian M. Smith, 19, of Bolivia.

Two persons received slight injuries and a driver was charged with felony hit and run in another accident on Cedar Hill Rd that happened Saturday.

At approximately 12:01 p.m., James Franklin Simmons, 35, of Route 1, Holly Ridge, was traveling south on Cedar Hill Road about 2.5 miles west of Navassa in a 1982 Chevrolet when he turned right into a parking lot and driveway and made a U-turn.

He then turned right onto Cedar Hill Road, reported Trooper B.C. Jones, and struck a southbound 1984 Nissan truck operated by Frank Bishop Irving III, 35, of Winnabow.

Simmons, who fled the scene, was charged felony hit and run and driving under the influence. He was

not injured.

Irving and a passenger in his truck, Richard Ratcliff Jr., 34, of Wilmington, were transported to New Hanover Regional Medical Center with complaints of injury.

Damage was estimated at \$2,000 to the Simmons vehicle and \$3,000 to the Irving truck.

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Orientation Concludes Today At West

Orientation for incoming freshman at West Brunswick High School and their parents continues today (Thursday) at the school, starting at 7 p.m.

The ninth graders will receive their schedules, tour the school and become familiar with the rules governing behavior on campus.

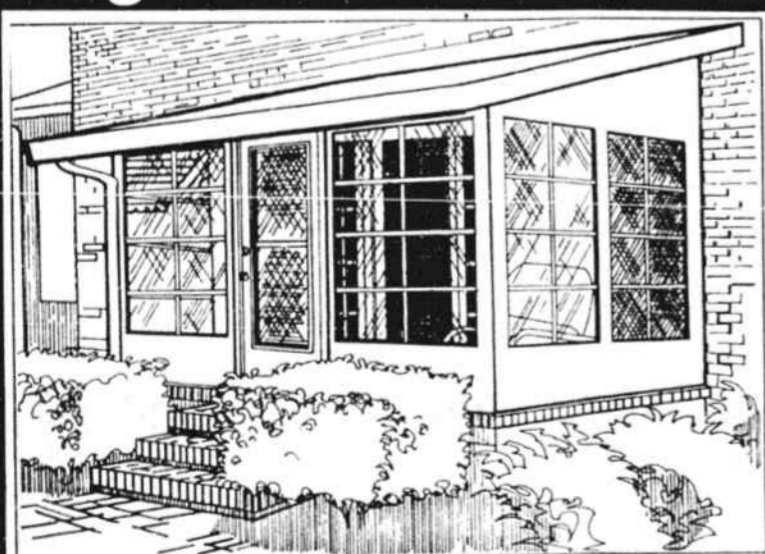
Wednesday at 7 p.m. orientation was held for students whose last names ended with the letters "A" to "J," with the balance invited to

tonight's program.

Principal Ed Lemon said the orientation includes an overview of the high school's "expanded opportunities program," as well as information on changes in the attendance and discipline policies and Choices program.

"Turn out for freshman orientation is better than for anything else we do," said Lemon. "The ninth graders are very anxious about entering high school and they also want their schedules."

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