

Aldermen Plan Meeting With Top Postal Official

Shallotte Aldermen and a top U.S. Postal Service official are expected to discuss town demands for improvements at Shallotte Post Office when they meet Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in town hall.

Todd Lee, facilities manager with the postal service in Charlotte, will meet with the town board and interested residents and merchants, said Alderman Roney Cheers.

Aldermen, as well as some postal patrons, have said they are disappointed in the service at the local office since most postal operations were moved to the new South Brunswick branch at Seaside last May.

Lee will be the latest in a long line of postal service officials who have met with the town board in the past year to discuss the need for better service and facility improvements in Shallotte.

"We've never had the chance to

talk with him," Cheers said Tuesday. "We're very anxious to meet with him and let him see for himself what our contentions are."

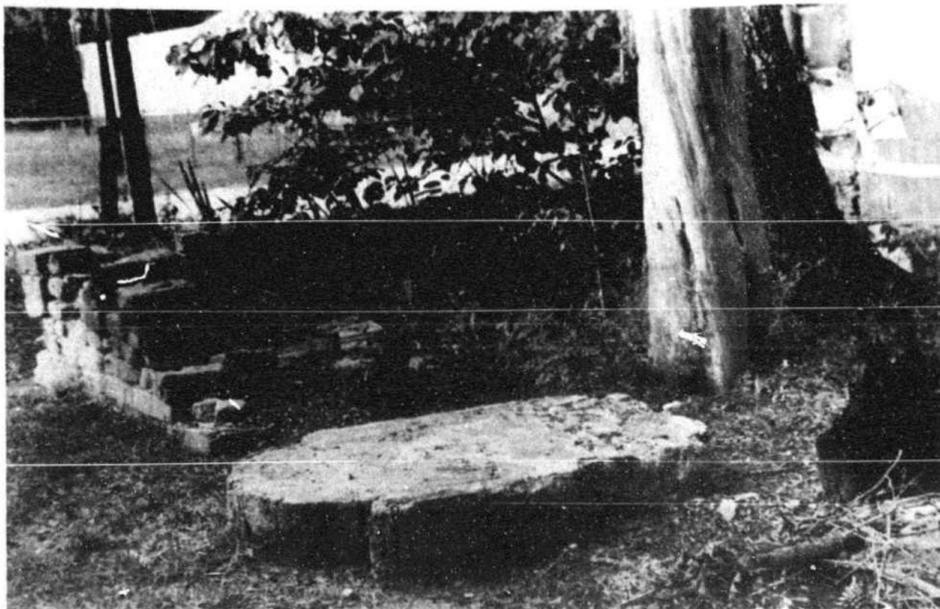
Cheers, who has led the town's year-long crusade for better postal service, is circulating a petition calling for improvements at the existing office or a new facility in Shallotte.

"I got nearly 150 signatures myself and I'm going out this afternoon to try to get a few more," Cheers said.

The former Shallotte mayor said he has no reason to expect the postal service to build a new building in Shallotte.

"Nevertheless, we will be posing questions to him about the traffic up there and various aspects of the post office," Cheers said.

"His title implies that he would be the one involved should there be a change in the fiscal plan for a new building."



THE GRAVESITE OF MARY HEMINGWAY and Joseph Hewett, an abandoned cemetery on Kinston Street in Holiday Haven subdivision near Holden Beach, is gradually disappearing because of vandalism. The double headstone has been knocked over and stones removed from the surrounding wall to border flower beds. Petitioners are concerned that these and other graves will disappear if commissioners don't enforce the law.

Towns Plan Holiday Closings; Property Owners Set Meetings

While all county offices will be closed, most local beach municipalities will open their town halls sometime over the long Labor Day holiday weekend for the convenience of non-resident property owners.

Scheduled closings/openings are as follows:

Holden Beach Town Hall.....Open Sat., 8:30 a.m.-noon
Closed Monday

Ocean Isle Beach Town Hall.....Open Monday

Sunset Beach Town Hall.....Open Monday

Calabash Town Hall.....Closed

Shallotte Town Hall.....Closed

Brunswick Schools.....Closed

Brunswick Community College.....Closed

Brunswick Government Center.....Closed

Local post offices will be closed Monday, with no rural delivery. Delivery as usual is planned Saturday and Tuesday. A spokesman said that as of Tuesday it was not certain whether mail would be put up in post office boxes for Monday.

Federal and state government offices, banks and other financial institutions will also be closed Monday.

POA Meetings

Local property owners' associations will, as usual, be taking care of business during the Labor Day holiday weekend.

On Saturday, Sept. 4, at 10 a.m. the Holden Beach Property Owners Association will meet in the town hall. On the agenda are election of directors and an update on town issues. HBPOA's board of directors will meet at 9.

The Heritage Harbor POA at Holden Beach will meet at the home of John Broadnax, 114 Lions Paw, at 2 p.m. New officers will be elected.

At Ocean Isle, the property owners' association board of directors will meet at 8:30 Saturday morning at the Museum of Coastal Carolina. No general membership meeting is scheduled.

Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association members will gather at the fire station at 10 a.m. for coffee and doughnuts. The business meeting will begin at 10:30. On the SBTA agenda are discussions of the proposed sewer system for Sunset Beach and Calabash, the island bridge and the proposed development of Bird Island, said President Cleve Waldmiller.

GOP Officers Endorse Brown, 4 Months Before Filing Time

BY LYNN CARLSON

The Brunswick County Republican Party Executive Committee has announced its endorsement of James E. Brown for sheriff, four months before filing opens in the race.

Brown is vice-chairman of the party and one of its four Executive Committee members. The others are Shirley Babson, party chair; Pat Adams, secretary; and Tom Yeagle, treasurer.

Brown was earlier endorsed by the party's previous Executive Committee, led by chairman James Payne. The current officers were elected at the party's March 6 general meeting.

"The previous one endorsed me first, and I asked the new one to, too," Brown said. "I wanted it to be 100 percent."

Brown said he plans to run "for the same reason as last time—Brunswick County needs some new law enforcement."

Brown finished first of five candidates in the 1990 GOP primary for sheriff, with nearly twice as many votes as his closest challenger. In the November 1990 general election, he received 7,010 votes to incumbent John Carr Davis's 9,621.

"I think that was a real respectable run against a popular incumbent," Brown said.

A Southport businessman, Brown said his strongest assets as a candidate are his background in military intelligence and 18 years' administrative experience as owner of an auto repair shop, a paint and body shop and an auto sales dealership.

An Army veteran and former military policeman, Brown is an honor graduate of various military training schools was "Soldier of the Year" honoree in 1973. He served in the Army from 1968-77.

Filing for sheriff will open in January for the May 1994 Republican primary.

Document, Save Old Cemeteries, Descendants Urge County Board

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over to the cemetery to see about doing something to mark their father's grave.

"There was no marker, but they knew about which one it was," he said. "The next thing they knew, they couldn't get in. Someone had put a fence up."

"That didn't upset them too much, because they thought the cemetery would surely be taken care of."

On his past visits to the cemetery, said Washley Lancaster of Supply, a descendant of William Lancaster, the last person buried in the cemetery, the wire fence was up, but he could still see the gravesites, as well as some headboards.

"It was recognizable as a cemetery," he said, noting that another family member, Chris Lancaster, had a footboard from one of the graves.

But the action taken in February to mark the graves may have been taken just in time to prevent the gravesites from disappearing into oblivion. Lot 44 had been sold to a private individual and was slated for development, said Kirby.

It is illegal in North Carolina to destroy or vandalize graves or cemeteries. However, those clearing land, digging wells or septic tanks or developing property aren't always aware of the presence of cemeteries on the land, or of the several laws protecting them.

"Development in Brunswick County is happening so fast," said Kirby. "We feel like something needs to be done quickly to prevent this from happening in other places."

While the Lancaster, Galloway and Varnam families want to protect the old cemetery at Zion Hill for personal reasons, they are also concerned that much of the county's history and heritage is in danger of being lost through the destruction—deliberate or accidental—of other cemeteries.

They are spearheading a county-wide petition drive to encourage commissioners to act quickly on a state law that requires them to see that abandoned cemeteries in the rural areas of the county are recorded with the Brunswick County Register of Deeds office.

"This is an effort to increase public awareness of the problem all across the county," said Schmidt.

Kirby said he can understand why the county hasn't acted sooner, given the large number of state laws and continuous turnover of membership on the county board. But now that they know, he's hoping they move quickly to protect old cemeteries from development and destruction.

"This is our history and heritage we're losing, and we feel all old cemeteries need to be recorded and clearly marked to protect them from destruction," reads the petition. "This would also save other families from the emotional strains of trying to protect the burial sites of loved ones and their ancestral heritage."

Representatives of the group met last month with Brunswick County Manager Wyman Yelton to discuss the project, providing a list and accompanying map of a countywide cemetery survey completed years ago by a commission headed by

Schmidt.

They found him receptive, said Schmidt.

Yelton said he has turned their request over to county attorney Michael Ramos for research because of the legal questions relating to the cemeteries.

"It's something we don't need to wait on," said Yelton. "He's preparing to take it to the commissioners, I would hope at the Sept. 7 meeting, if not the last meeting of the month. It's something we need to do a thorough job on."

Yelton said Ramos is working with Brunswick County Planning Director John Harvey on the project.

Presently, when subdivision plans are submitted to the planning department for review, cemeteries are indicated on the maps, as "outparcels," only if the developer identifies them. Otherwise the department has no way of knowing if there is a cemetery on the property or not. A countywide inventory would change that.

Andrew Robinson, environmental health supervisor with the Brunswick County Health Department, said that having a record of all cemeteries—new and old—in the county would help his department in locating well and septic tank installation sites and conducting soil evaluations for new family cemetery plots.

"We've been talking about that in the department," he said. "The abandoned cemeteries catch us by surprise. I have heard it has created problems for us in the past."

"It would definitely be a great help to us," he said.

Smoking Law Would Affect Workplaces

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would be prohibited under the state legislation.

All workplaces would have to have a written policy related to smoking and to post signs designating any smoking areas set aside within the building.

Under the proposal, an employer would have to make his or her workplace completely smoke-free, which

would be prohibited under the state legislation.

Workplace smoking areas would have to be located either outside the building or in an area served by a ventilation system "so as to provide a smoke-free environment for non smoking employees in enclosed buildings."

While enforcement of the smok-

ing rules are provided for under N.C. General Statutes, the ordinance requires that the owner, proprietor or employer of a building "make reasonable efforts to prevent smoking in non smoking areas."

If approved by the health board, the rules would become effective Jan. 1.

Tedder Manhunt Continuing Tuesday Night

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Tedder was serving a six-year sentence imposed in Brunswick County Superior Court last February after he pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the April 8, 1988 shotgun slaying of James Thomas Smith of Nakina. Smith's body was found beside N.C. 904 about a mile from the South Carolina line, not far from where it was reportedly hiding Tuesday night.

Tedder confessed to the killing after Brunswick Detective Billy

Hughes pursued new evidence that led to his arrest on a charge of murder.

Hughes, who lives not far from where the murder took place, was among the detectives involved in the search for Tedder Tuesday night.

At about 7:30 p.m., Brunswick County Sheriff John Carr Davis asked the New Hanover County Sheriff's Department to send an attack dog to aid in the search. A helicopter was sent from South

Carolina to transport the dog and its handler to the search area.

Davis had asked the N.C. Highway Patrol to assist with its local canine unit, but that request was denied.

No further details were available at press time.

Summer Weather Continues

Above-average temperatures and near-normal rainfall are anticipated for the coming week.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said the outlook calls for temperatures averaging from around 70 degrees at night to around 90 degrees during the daytime, with approximately three-fourths inch of rainfall.

For the period Aug. 24-30, he measured a high of 96 degrees on Aug. 29 and a low of 62 degrees on Aug. 24.

The daily average high of 93 degrees and nightly average low of 69 degrees created a daily average temperature of 81 degrees, about 3 degrees above normal.

Canady recorded no rainfall for the period.

Emily Spares Brunswick Coast

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who bought approximately \$40 of "D" batteries. Sunday we ran out of water, lanterns, lantern oil and batteries."

At Pelican Building Center in Shallotte, the stock of plywood and construction sheathing was depleted by mid-morning Monday and salespersons were substituting other items.

"I expected to be busy this morning, but not to the point of them buying up what we had," said Assistant Manager Jerry Jones. "But, he added, "it doesn't hurt to be prepared."

Along with individual property owners, property management businesses were buying as well. "We have so many out-of-town property owners, it is important for us to protect it for them as best we can," said Mark Saunders of Coastal Development at Holden Beach. He stockpiled plywood behind his office Monday in case the need arose to start boarding up windows.

At Holden Beach Town Hall property owners purchased a whopping 185 window decals. At \$5 apiece, the town raked in \$925. Stickers are free before June 1.

Interim Town Manager Gus Ulrich said officials started following the town's hurricane preparedness plan when the "watch" was issued Sunday.

"I think it worked very well," Ulrich said of the plan that was revised after Hurricane Hugo struck in 1989. "We never called a meeting of all the team members because it didn't seem that imminent. Everybody was ready to go. Nothing like a live drill."

Ulrich and town commissioners met at frequent intervals Monday before ultimately deciding against an evacuation around 5 p.m.

At Ocean Isle Beach, Finance Officer Daisy Ivey said the town issued a "blue million" stickers Monday; she then checked her records and amended that figure to 210 decals at \$2.50 each.

While a majority of visitors to the beach opted to remain, many called the town hall to ask advice on whether to evacuate, Ivey said.

The town's only preparation, said Building Inspector Druied Robertson, was to remove garbage cans from the eroding east end of the island. Hard hit by the March 13 storm, the east end is scheduled for dune replacement after Labor Day using Federal Emergency Management Administration funds.

Sunset Beach Town Hall employee Cookie Minton said island property owners bought 72 stickers for \$3 each, with "quite a few" out-of-towners calling to ask about weather conditions and the storm threat.

Hurricane Emily drew Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan's full attention as he and other officials waited as the storm approached the coast. A borderline Category 2 storm, it was slow to make the expected turn to the north.

Logan began his close monitoring of the storm at about 3 p.m. Sunday. With the storm's path highly uncertain Sunday night, he briefed county commissioners and Brunswick Schools Superintendent Ralph Johnston in an emergency meeting at the government center. All response teams were on standby, waiting for Emily's next move.

Based on that briefing and consultation with Board of Education Chairman Donna Baxter, Johnston canceled the start of school Monday for 8,500-plus public school students.

"What we were looking at was the storm was stalled. We didn't know what it would do," he said. With the typical confusion of the first day of school, coupled with new bus drivers, new routes and buses just out of storage, "we felt this would be the better route to take."

Schools were also closed Tuesday, but were to open Wednesday.

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