

# Six Architectural Firms Seek Leland Elementary School Job

BY SUSAN USHER

Six architects are seeking the job of designing and overseeing construction of a new elementary school for the growing Leland/North Brunswick area.

Brunswick County Board of Education members spent nearly three hours last Wednesday night hearing pitches from three Wilmington firms and firms based in Atlanta, Charlotte and Raleigh.

After reviewing the proposals, the board plans to narrow its choices to about two firms and begin contract negotiations, possibly as early as this week.

The project is on a fast track. "We're in a mode here to move," Chairman Donna Baxter told one presenter. "We're looking for an architect with a plan already approved (by state construction and insurance offices)."

"We want it to be of top quality," she added later, "but meet our pocketbook too."

The school system anticipates starting construction in the first half of 1994 and occupying the school no later than fall 1995.

Initially the board was considering building an 82,000-square-foot facility to serve 700 students, including pre-kindergartners, at an estimated cost of \$6.5 million. Last week, however, Baxter told contenders the system is shopping for a slightly smaller school—70,000 square feet to 74,000 square feet to serve 600 to 650 students in grades

kindergarten through five.

As part of consent agreement reached with the schools, Brunswick County Commissioners have allocated \$500,000 in the current local school budget for acquisition of a 40-acre site, plus engineering and architectural fees. If the two boards can agree upon a plan for financing construction of elementary school and other needed capital projects before the end of the 1993-94 fiscal year, the school board will be advanced \$365,000 with which to start construction.

The board hasn't ruled out working with its current architect, Boney Architects of Wilmington, or modifying Supply Elementary School as a prototype for the new school.

But if another company has an existing plan that can be modified to meet the needs of the school, community and site more readily or inexpensively, or can start from near-scratch and meet the same deadline, board members are interested in those alternatives as well.

Boney & Associates has handled all recent projects for the system, including renovation of South Brunswick High School, design and construction of Supply Elementary School, and current design work on classroom additions to North Brunswick and West Brunswick

high schools.

Wednesday night, school board members heard from:

■Jeff L. Jafari, Prap Group, Atlanta, Ga., a full-service engineering and architectural firm with no prior school contracts in North Carolina, approximately 50 Georgia school projects of \$4 million to \$5 million and extensive work for the U.S. military. Jafari said distance would be no problem and that the firm is prepared "to do whatever it takes" to meet the school system's schedule and budget.

■Don Lee and Jeff Yelton of Lee-Nichols Architects, Charlotte, cited Northeast Elementary School and Charlotte Country Day School projects, numerous higher education and institutional buildings such as The Friday Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Carmichael Gym at N.C. State University. The company listens to its clients, has a reputation for generating few change orders, has varied experience it can apply to schools and, said Lee, "We can meet your schedule, if anyone can."

■David Bradford of George M. Smart Architects, Raleigh, exhibited its award-winning design of the 56,000-square-foot, 450-student Vance Elementary School, Wake County. "We're very excited about

this process," said Bradford. "This is the kind of project we like to do."

■John Sawyer of John Sawyer Architects, Wilmington, showed sketches of a 750-student Main Street design with classroom wings intersecting at a core resource area anchored by a media center, with noiser areas set apart. He has built fewer schools, feels his experience with library construction would be an asset, wants to move into school construction, his firm "can be very competitive" and is strong on communication, he said. "Nobody wants this job more than we do."

■Quinn Sweeney and Herb McKim of BMS Architects of Wilmington cited the firm's experience designing 75 schools, including Heyward C. Bellamy Elementary in Wilmington, which has a cost-efficient thermal storage and heating/air cooling system. BMS isn't known for generating change orders, is interested in energy efficiency and suiting customers needs, and has staff members who live in and are familiar with the county, they said.

■Charles Boney Jr., Boney Architects, Wilmington, cited the company's three generations of school construction experience and said Supply Elementary School, "one of the finest buildings" it's done, is a known quantity and eco-

nomical. As a prototype design it could be given a new exterior, scaled down and modified to suit the Leland site for a savings in time and money.

"The biggest thing is that it (Supply Elementary) is a happy building. The children love coming to school there," said Chairman Donna Baxter.

The two existing Leland area schools that serve elementary school-age children, Lincoln Primary (grades pre-K through 3) and Leland Middle (grades 4 through 8) are at or over capacity. Designed for 720 students, Lincoln has 659 K-5 students, plus 24 pre-kindergartners on campus, said Barbara Holt, student information management system (SIMS) operator. That's down slightly from a high of 774 in 1991-92.

Leland Middle School serves 867 students this year, said SIMS operator Ruth Dees, which is down from a high of 919 in 1991-92. However, classes are being held on the stage, multipurpose rooms have been converted into classrooms and work areas, and trailers house the Chapter 1 reading and academically gifted resource rooms.

The school board plans to make both Lincoln and the new facility elementary schools serving students through fifth grade, and to make Leland Middle a "true" middle school, housing students in grades six through eight.

By the year 2000, the Brunswick County Schools project enrollment of 11,300, up from approximately 9,000 this year, with much of the that growth in the northern and western sections of the county.

## TV Summit Encourages Parent Involvement

Parents of Brunswick County students and others concerned about public education can participate in a televised summit at 2:45 p.m. Sunday in the offices of the Brunswick County Board of Education in Southport.

The event kicks off the third annual Parent Involvement Week observed by the county school system

and sponsored by the N.C. Parent Teacher Association and the state department of public instruction.

Sunday's participants will gather for a televised address by Tracy Bailey, national Teacher of the Year, and can then call in questions to her.

Call Joseph Butler at 457-5241, extension 165, or Judy Auman, 754-5088 to confirm your attendance.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED Improvement Goal Of West PTA

If you've wondered how you could help strengthen or support West Brunswick High School's academic program, now there's a way.

PTA President Moses Stanley and the school's Community Involvement Committee are inviting interested individuals to join the high school's reorganized Parent Teacher Association/Academic Boosters Club. The group will serve as a vehicle for action by area residents who are genuinely interested in the academic welfare of young people and want to become directly involved in supporting school improvement.

An organizational meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the school library.

"Graduates of West Brunswick, retired residents and parents of current students have so much to offer in terms of knowledge, expertise and time that our students can benefit from," said committee member Rita Lewis of the English Department.

How members of the group get involved with the school, she said, will be limited "only by our own ingenuity and willingness to work." Among the opportunities: serving as guest speakers for classes, helping recognize academic achievement by students, volunteering time as aides or assistants.

"Possibly the community's involvement is at an all-time low because no one asked for help," said Lewis. "We are now asking."

For those unable to attend the Oct. 12 meeting, more information is available from Stanley, 287-3554 or 287-4447, or from the school, 754-754-4338.

# Got A Minute? Take The Test.



## The Personal Touch. Easy As UCB.

**UNITED CAROLINA BANK**

Member FDIC

If you've got a minute, you've got enough time to take our Easy As UCB Loan Test. This is a great time to get a loan at United Carolina Bank. Car loans. Home improvement and equity loans. Personal loans. Big ones, small ones.

Whichever loan you want, we've made it easier at UCB with our quick and easy 8-question quiz. Just take a minute, circle the appropriate answers, and add up your score. While we don't make loans based on these scores, they're a good

<b>EXAMPLE:</b>				
<b>Dependents</b>				
One	Two	Three	Four	Five or More
2	2	2	1	2
<b>QUIZ:</b>				
<b>Dependents</b>				
One	Two	Three	Four	Five or More
2	2	2	1	1
<b>Residence</b>				
With Parents	Rent Furnished	Rent Unfurnished	Own Mortgage	Own Clear
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Years at Present Address</b>				
Under 2 yrs.	2-4 yrs.	5-8 yrs.	9-14 yrs.	15 yrs. or more
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Gross Monthly Income</b>				
\$1,000-1,500	\$1,501-2,000	\$2,001-2,700	\$2,701-3,500	Over \$3,500
3	4	5	6	7
<b>Years With Present Employer</b>				
Under 2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	4-6 yrs.	7-10 yrs.	Over 10 yrs.
1	3	4	5	6
<b>Years With Previous Employer</b>				
Under 1 yr.	1-3 yrs.	4-6 yrs.	7-10 yrs.	Over 10 yrs.
0	1	2	4	5
<b>Monthly Income Remaining (After monthly obligations)</b>				
Less than 10%	10% to 24%	25% to 32%	33% to 49%	Over 50%
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Bonus Points (Circle all that apply)</b>				
Checking Acct. with UCB	Savings Acct. with UCB	Loan at UCB	Loan at another bank	
1	1	2	1	
This test is for your information only. It does not necessarily reflect the weight we give to any factors considered in evaluating a loan request such as payment history and your ability to service your monthly obligations. Final loan approval is not guaranteed by any score on this test.				TOTAL SCORE
				15

indication of where you stand before you walk in the door. For example, a score of 15 or more means you'll probably qualify for a UCB loan. A lower score simply means we'll work a little harder to try to give you the answer you're looking for.

So take a minute, take the test, then call or visit any convenient UCB office.

**Give Yourself A  
Tax Break.  
Get A TaxSaver  
Loan Now.**

Please stop by any UCB office or call 754-4301.  
Text telephone number for the hearing impaired, 1-800-876-6545.

Equal Housing Lender  
© 1993 United Carolina Bank

Get your pool ready for winter with BioGuard.

Avoid nasty surprises next spring by winterizing with BioGuard now.

Relax. Bring your pool to BioGuard.

Complete Line Of Pool & Spa Chemicals

Dealer For Down East Spas

PROFESSIONAL POOL MAINTENANCE

Island Village Specialty Shops  
Hwy. 179, Ocean Isle Beach  
(Behind IGA Bldg.) Open Mon-Sat

579-8828

Daily Maintenance Chemicals, Accessories & Equipment