

**NO SEWER VOTE EXPECTED UNTIL '94**

**Sunset Moves To Improve Looks Of New Mainland Business Districts**

BY SUSAN USHER

Sunset Beach property owners now have the option of developing a more attractive type of mainland business area for professional offices under an ordinance adopted by town council Monday night.

The new district is one of two zoning changes made Monday that are aimed at improving both the appearance and function of mainland business areas. Both measures were adopted by unanimous vote.

"It's possible no one will choose it," said Richard Good, chairman of the town planning and zoning board. "They can do it (open a professional office) anywhere now, but they can't control what is around them."

The new mainland business-professional (MB-P) district is intended to accommodate businesses that require fewer signs, lower illumination, shorter operating hours and less in-and-out traffic and less off-street parking. It would be allowed only adjacent to access from a major thoroughfare, such as N.C. 179 out toward N.C. 904, and would have to comply with landscape and buffer requirements. Good said the new district is intended to discourage random location of such businesses in other business districts.

An area zoned MB-P would be exclusively for professional services such as ar-

chitects, accountants, doctors, lawyers, travel agents, real estate brokers and the like. Businesses that require boarding of animals, laboratories with chemical wastes or outside storage areas would not be allowed.

Council also adopted new landscape and buffer requirements that will apply to all mainland business (MB-1) establishments.

Planning Board member Mary Nell Eddy said the ordinance is intended to improve the appearance of the town's mainland business district, protect property values, minimize adverse effects of new businesses on existing businesses and public infrastructure and minimize traffic problems.

New businesses will have to have a landscape plan approved by Town Administrator Linda Fluegel before a building permit will be issued, and will be required to maintain the plantings once installed.

A minimum of 15 trees at least two inches in diameter will be required for each acre of development. A planted border consisting of at least one tree and six shrubs for every 50 feet of road frontage will be required, along with planting islands in the interior of the development.

Buffer strips will also be required to screen a business establishment or church parking lot from any dwelling in an abutting

residential district and to screen outside storage areas and trash storage areas. The buffers can be planted strips, earthen berms with planted vegetation or a six-foot high fence or wall.

The buffer may be waived if the property owner can demonstrate the protection is not needed.

**January Sewer Referendum?**

It will probably be January before Sunset Beach residents go to the polls for a sewer system financing referendum, consulting engineers Jim Billups and Joe Tombro told council members Monday.

Billups said the referendum cannot be held until 90 days after a draft 201 facilities plan is completed and a financial feasibility plan is approved. The feasibility plan most likely won't be approved by the State Treasurer's Office until the draft 201 plan is done and user and income projections can be substantiated more thoroughly, Billups said.

Original new user projections were conservatively based on 50 percent of the figures compiled from developers. Now those developers are being asked to provide letters of commitment regarding anticipated new units and to indicate their willingness to provide letters of credit for that number of users to be applied to overall system costs. "It's

going to take some time," said Billups.

In other business council:

■heard from VISTA volunteer Rick Kern of the work of the Brunswick County Literacy Council, which the town contributes to annually;

■heard a request from Kevin Smith and Alex W. Kinlaw of Greensboro to operate a business renting jet-powered, family-size inflatable boats. They propose booking rentals from a business location, parking the boats in the ocean and supervising their use from the public trust beachfront. Existing town ordinances do not allow any type of business operation along the beach. Mayor Mason Barber warned the two men, "It's up to council, but you will have a very, very difficult time..."

■approved the preliminary assessment roll for paving of Waterway Drive Extension;

■approved investment of \$175,000 in U.S. Treasury Notes at 4.75 percent interest until "we need the money or until local banks decide they do want our money," said Town Administrator Linda Fluegel, after one local savings and loan rejected an opportunity to bid on the package and others offered certificate of deposits with a lower yield.

■returned \$140.35 to the state rather than allow its use by Cape Fear Council of Governments.

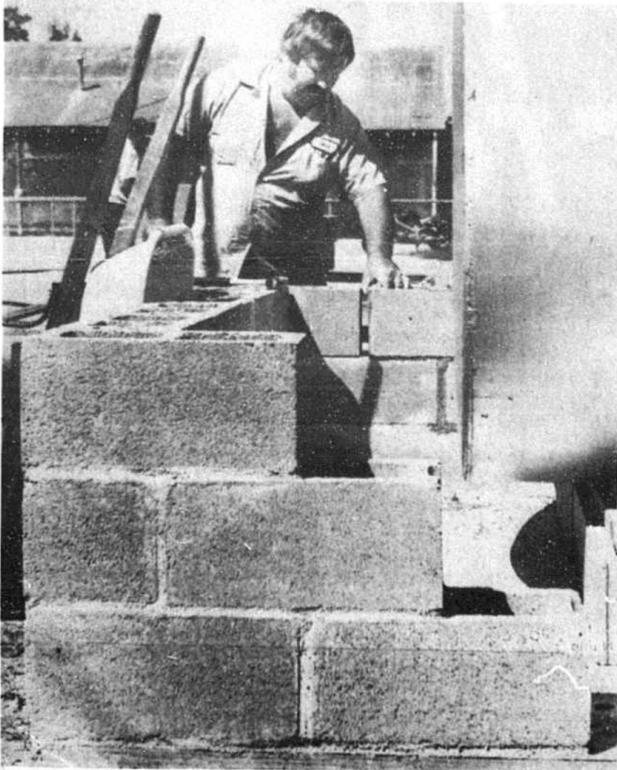
■reappointed Nivan Milligan to a three-year term on the town ABC board;

■adopted an N.C. League of Municipalities resolution supporting the state Clean Water Bond issue that will be voted on Nov. 2.

■directed Fluegel to seek bids from other firms and to renegotiate with Johnson & Renaud Architects for design of a town hall expansion project. The local firm offered \$25,000 construction liability insurance coverage, with the town asked to pay for additional coverage.

■voiced strong displeasure with the county commissioners' decision not to take over the town's elevated water tank. Fluegel said the town is looking for any alternatives its water contract with the county may allow, such as relocating the tank or taking it out of service, and then may seek a meeting with commissioners.

Board member Ed Gore said seasonal low water pressure on the island needs to be addressed and complained of the decision by a previous county board to not build a 1.5 million gallon water storage facility near Georgetown Road and N.C. 904 last year.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

**One Block At A Time**

Shallotte town employee Andy Crocker builds a cinder block retaining wall around the town gasoline tank last week. The wall will contain any accidental gas spills, and a valve will allow town employees to drain rain water.

**Questions Of Quality Put Food Service Contract In Jeopardy**

BY ERIC CARLSON

A Brunswick County commissioner said Monday he is ready to fire the company that provides lunch at the county's senior citizen centers, and other board members say they will vote along with him if things don't improve.

"I've heard four months of complaining and I for one am ready to break the contract," said Commissioner Donald Shaw. "Our senior citizens deserve better than that."

And just what is "that?" That's a question frequently asked nowadays by elderly visitors at the county's three senior centers, where a hot noon meal is the focal point of the day's activities.

The county's department of social services recently awarded its food service contract to a new supplier, Service America. The company provides about 150 hot meals a day for the senior centers at Shallotte, Southport and Leland and for the department's in-home meal program.

Service America got the contract because it offered to provide

the service for 50 cents less per meal than the previous supplier, the Brunswick County cafeteria at the government complex in Bolivia.

Within days after Service America took over, county officials began getting complaints about the quality of the food. There were reports of sour milk, overcooked vegetables and meats that center patrons claimed they were unable to identify.

"We don't like it. That's all there is to it," Vernice Stanley told the commissioners at their regular meeting Monday night. She said a woman at one of the centers took her lunch home and tried to feed it to her pets.

"They wouldn't eat it. You wouldn't eat it," Stanley said. "The senior citizens depend on that one little special lunch. We don't want sirloin or porterhouse steaks, but we deserve one decent meal a day. Our taxes helped build this county."

Commissioners Chairman Don Warren said he had heard numerous complaints about food quality since Service America took over.

"I've been to the nutrition sites

on two of the last three days," Warren said. "One day I heard a complaint about the meat. They didn't know what they were eating. Today they had baked chicken and rice and snap beans, and it looked OK. Then last week they said the milk was delivered frozen."

Warren asked County Attorney Mike Ramos about how much notice the county was required to give before terminating its contract with Service America. Ramos said the agreement called for a 60-day notice.

"That's something we'll have to talk about if it doesn't improve," Warren said.

Shaw insisted he had already heard enough complaints and was ready to terminate the contract immediately.

"The food is just not prepared

well," he said.

County Manager Wyman Yelton said he had also heard complaints since Service America got the county contract.

"People told me they did not want to eat the food because they could not identify it," Yelton said. "If they can't provide food that's good, then we're wasting our money to buy it. I can't recommend cancelling the contract tonight. But it's been a bad experience so far."

Yelton said he has asked the county's auditors to compare the Service America contract with the previous in-house arrangement to determine how much savings the county is realizing from the change. He said he also plans to make frequent unannounced visits to the nutrition sites to monitor food quality.

**Brunswick Extension Homemakers Clubs Not Just For Cooking, Sewing**

The Brunswick County Extension Homemakers will join with members all over the United States in marking the week of Oct. 10-17 as National Extension Homemakers Week.

"Although many people believe that the Homemakers spend their time cooking and sewing, that it a misconception," said spokesman Isobel Beebe. "Members of Extension Homemakers are involved in many community activities such as volunteer fire departments and rescue squads, as well as helping thrift shops which support these organizations."

"There are Homemakers who help with Turtle Watch and Adopt-a-Highway. Recycling is a serious concern of the members. Working with youth through 4-H programs also is an important emphasis."

Literacy continues to be one of the main interests of Extension Homemakers, she added. "Some members help tutor in the one-on-one program, some work with students in the primary schools, some help by providing books to new-borns."

Brunswick Extension Homemakers fielded a team in the recent Adult Spelling Bee to raise money and awareness for the Brunswick County Literacy Program.

In 1994, Extension Homemakers will mark the International Year of the Family with emphasis on promoting family values. In 1993 a study was undertaken of the television viewing habits of children; its aim was to encourage parents to be more aware of what their children are watching.

Membership in Extension Homemakers is not limited to women. There is a club called "Guys and Dolls" to which men belong. There are clubs in Boiling Spring Lakes, Shallotte, Calabash, Town Creek and Supply. The Guys and Dolls club is made up mostly of members from the Boiling Spring Lakes and

Winnabow area and meets at the extension office in Bolivia. The clubs welcome new members. For information about joining, call Julia Bailey, county extension president, at 845-2972.

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