



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Zoning Board Sworn

Members of the Brunswick County Zoning Board of Adjustment take their oath of office at a ceremony in Bolivia last week. The board is a quasi-judicial body that will be responsible for ruling on all disputes, appeals and requests for changes regarding the new Brunswick County Zoning Ordinance, scheduled to become effective Nov. 15. Members include (from left) John Butler of Leland, William Hardee of Winnabow, Dale Carter Jr. of Southport, Graham Justice of Supply and Nick Newton of Ocean Isle Beach. In its first official action, the board named Carter as its chairman.

COUNTY HELPING WITH SPRINKLER PROBLEM

BCC Accepting Auditorium Bookings Again

BY SUSAN USHER

The Odell Williamson Auditorium is open for business, nearly a year later than anticipated and with a few strings attached for the moment.

Though contractors still have a few tasks to complete, Manager Mike Sapp said Tuesday he is ready to resume booking the facility and is looking forward to getting down to business as auditorium manager after a long wait.

Approximately 700 people attended a gospel concert Saturday night, the first public performance in the 1,500-seat auditorium and the second event held there in the 11 months since Sapp arrived last November. Two more events are scheduled this week and next.

At the time Sapp started work, Brunswick Community College had expected general contractor Hatcher Construction to have the building ready within six weeks, but contractors missed that deadline and several others since. Nearly 11 months have passed since the original Oct. 25 completion date and college officials still don't know when the project will be finished.

Saturday night a Supply Volunteer Fire Department pumper truck stood by on site as a safety precaution.

Brunswick Community College obtained "temporary beneficial occupancy" of the building for the concert, with several safety-related conditions. Beneficial occupancy is allowed when a building is completed to the point that the owner can occupy it safely.

As soon as problems relating to the sprinkler system are cleared up, BCC will have full beneficial occupancy of the building, said Sapp. "We are close, we are so close, just five or six pounds less than required. I really think the system would work."

But for now, he said, "we can occupy it with the fire department truck available to boost our pressure. They (inspectors) are also requiring that we have no flammable scenery on stage, but I never have flammable scenery anyway. That's a rule of mine."

Ben DeBlois, BCC vice president for administration, said the cause of the low pressure is still being investigated. Several possibilities are being checked, including line obstruction and system design.

County engineer Robert Tucker and Fire Marshal Cecil Logan have been working with Crawford Sprinkler Co. to retest pressure at both the highway, where the county water system connects to the college, and at the auditorium, he said. They are checking for obstructions in lines between the highway and the auditorium and also plan to

check a debris screen to see if it needs cleaning.

"The county people have really been doing everything they can to get us where we need to be," said Sapp. "Without them we wouldn't be where we are now."

DeBlois said the punch list is shrinking, with mostly cosmetic work remaining.

"But those things are significant enough that we want them done before we pay the contractors the rest of what we owe," said DeBlois. "Under the contract we're paying for them."

Sapp is taking bookings for performances, conventions and other types of events. Generally 30 days' advance notice is required and bookings may be made up to a year in advance. To request copies of the auditorium fee schedule and policies or to book an event, Sapp can be reached at 754-3134.



VOTE Howard McPherson

For

Brunswick EMC's
Board of Directors
DISTRICT 6

October 9, 1993

Registration 8:00-10:30 a.m.

"I will represent District 6 and the people to the best of my ability. Your vote and support will be greatly appreciated."

Please attend the Brunswick EMC's Annual Meeting (on the campus of Brunswick Community College, Supply)

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of the members of



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7:30 p.m.

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