

BRUNSWICK COUNTY AMONG SPONSORS

Space Still Available In Sewer, Stormwater Symposium December 2-3

BY LYNN CARLSON

It's not too late to register for a symposium Dec. 2-3 in Wilmington on the issues of combining stormwater runoff control with central sewer systems, a spokesman for one of the organizers said Monday.

Brunswick County is among sponsors of the planned gathering of government officials, policy-makers, scientists, engineers and citizens to discuss a topic with possible long-range implications for local communities.

The event has been titled "Integrated Coastal Wastewater Management in North Carolina: Protecting Coastal Water Quality Through Planning for Centralized Sewers and Growth Management."

Nine Brunswick County governments, led by Sunset Beach and Calabash, original participants in the South Brunswick Water and Sewer Authority, have asked Gov. Jim Hunt's help in studying the possibility of a sewer

system which would eventually be integrated with a stormwater runoff program.

In a letter to Hunt several months ago, the boards said, "Due to the extremely fragile shellfish water resource we have, we feel that stormwater runoff control must be integrally addressed simultaneously with sanitary waste disposal for us to achieve the desired level of environmental protection."

The upcoming two-day symposium will also serve as the third meeting of the governor's newly appointed Coastal Futures Committee. The CFC has been charged by Hunt to "evaluate the state's coastal management program and offer recommendations to strengthen protection of coastal resources through administrative and legislative changes in the Coastal Area Management Act."

The CFC's final report is to be presented to the governor by September 1994. The committee, which includes

Eugene Tomlinson of Southport, chairman of the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission, says it will focus its initial efforts on the need for water quality protection through "more effective growth management."

Tomlinson also said amendments might be required to the Coastal Area Management Act to strengthen land use plans to include carrying capacities in such areas as water, sewer, public safety and roads.

The symposium will include two full days of presentations and discussions to "explore how to develop wastewater and stormwater management strategies in the context of each other so that coastal water quality is protected," its brochure states.

Scheduled presentations include:

■ "Why Traditional Strategies for Water Management are Not Working," by Dr. Richard T. Barber, Duke University Marine Laboratory and former member, N.C.

Environmental Management Commission."

■ "Legal Imperatives for Effective Integrated Coastal Wastewater Management," by Derb Carter, Southern Environmental Law Center;

■ "Elements of an Integrated Coastal Wastewater Management Strategy for Coastal North Carolina," by Dr. Dan Okun, Kenan Professor of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, UNC; and

■ "Can Engineered Stormwater Controls Achieve Enough Pollution Reduction to Maintain Coastal Water Quality Standards?" by Dr. Bill Kirby-Smith, Duke University Marine Laboratory.

Sessions begin each day at 9 a.m. at the Coastline Convention Center. The \$30 registration fee includes a catered lunch each day.

For more information or registration, call Lauren Kolodij at the N.C. Coastal Federation, 1-800-232-6210.

Property Owners' Meetings Saturday In Beach Towns

Property owner groups will meet Saturday morning at Holden Beach, Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach.

The Ocean Isle Beach Property Owners Association holds its annual general membership meeting at 9:30 a.m. at the Museum of Coastal Carolina.

The group will elect several members to the board of directors and discuss the organization's new flag, said director Ken Proctor.

The Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association will meet for refreshments at 10 a.m. at the fire station. The business meeting begins at 10:30 a.m.

The Holden Beach Property Owners Association meets at 10 a.m. at town hall. The board of directors will meet at 9 a.m.

Friday Is Deadline For Parade Entries

Church groups, civic organizations, beauty queens and others interested in entering the annual Shallotte Christmas Parade have until noon Friday to sign up at town hall.

The parade will be Saturday, Dec. 4, at 10 a.m. on Shallotte's Main Street. The registration fee is \$25 for beauty queens and \$35 for businesses. Non-profit groups may enter free.

Town hall will be closed Thursday in observance of Thanksgiving. For more information, call Phebie McLean at 754-4032.

Rosemobile To Visit Nov. 30

The mobile office of Congressman Charlie Rose, D-7th District, will return to Brunswick County to provide curbside service.

A member of Rose's staff will be available for conferences at the following post offices Tuesday, Nov. 30:

- Longwood, 9-11 a.m.
- Ash, noon-2 p.m.

If you have a problem with a federal agency or questions or opinions about federal legislation, you are invited to visit the mobile office, according to Rose spokesman Wayne Jackson.

Problems relating to Social Security benefits, disability, veterans benefits, Internal Revenue issues and federal rules are typical of the questions brought to the mobile office.

Another mobile office stop in Brunswick County has been tentatively scheduled for mid-December.

Nurseryman Sues Farmer; Says Pesticide Hurt Plants

The owner of a nursery business in Ash has filed a lawsuit claiming that pesticide used on a neighboring cornfield washed into the plant farm's irrigation system and ruined his entire crop of ornamental shrubbery.

Mitchell Williams, owner of Williams Plantworks on Route 2, is seeking more than \$20,000 in damages from Ash farmer Lyle Ray King in a complaint filed Nov. 12 in Brunswick County Superior Court.

The suit claims that on April 11, 1992, King applied "an excessive amount" of the pesticide Bicep 6L to a cornfield "immediately adjacent" to the nursery when he knew "that a large washing rain was imminent that day."

King is a licensed pesticide applicator and should have known that the pesticide would be dangerous to plant life downstream from his fields, the lawsuit claims.

On April 27, Williams alleges he "discovered that his entire crop of Red Tips and other plants were showing signs of chemical burns, discoloration, shriveling and were generally and rapidly deteriorating in quality and marketability." The suit claims that Williams contacted a state pesticide inspector to investi-



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Walking With Grandpa

Jessica Marie Hill, 5, of Staley gets a loving hand from her grandfather, Hampton Pike, as they stroll the pier at Holden Beach Sunday afternoon.

Mine Opponents Want Uses Removed From County Zones

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ically designating each as a "prohibited" use. He said the land uses proposed for the heavy manufacturing zone are not compatible with the county's current development trends, which depend heavily on a clean environment.

"We have a very rare and unusual piece of property here," Quinn said. "We want Brunswick County to remain as it is now. It shouldn't be approached as the Pittsburgh of the South."

Boiling Spring Lakes Mayor Mark Stewart was more blunt in his remarks. He charged that the planning board would be avoiding "its constitutional obligation" to promote public safety if it failed to make the proposed changes.

"Either you live up to your promise by rezoning or admit to the public that you can't fulfill your obligation to protect the health, safety and welfare of Brunswick County," Stewart said. "Otherwise, you should admit that you can't handle the pressure of the job and resign tonight."

But not all of those who voiced an

opinion did so in opposition to the proposed mine.

Patrick Newton, a member of the county health board, charged that mining opponents had falsely accused the health department of giving Martin Marietta preferential treatment in granting a septic tank permit. Health officials last week denied the allegations and provided documentation supporting their claim that the company's application was processed like any other.

"That has nothing to do with planning, mister," Snyder called out from the audience, after which Planning Board Chairman John Thompson instructed Newton to restrict his comments to the issue in question.

Newton cautioned that a total prohibition of mining would shut down numerous small existing operations that extract "fill dirt, top soil, peat and coquina" for use in construction and road building.

"Some of those borrow pits have been around here longer than anyone in this room," Newton said. "I'm sure similar operations in other counties are eagerly awaiting their prevention here."

Newton also spoke against the proposal to ban junk yards, which he described as "a type of recycling" that provides an economical alternative to purchasing new car parts.

"It's hard to imagine a more benign use of land," he said.

Quoting from the Fifth Amendment, Newton warned that denying Martin Marietta the right to mine would constitute "a taking" of its land without just compensation. He also dismissed environmental questions about the mine site as "nonsense," saying mine opponents were merely concerned "that a woodpecker might have to move to another tree."

The N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources has identified "eight rare plant species, three rare animal species, two rare natural communities and one significant natural area" at the proposed mine site, according to a letter the agency sent to Congressman Charlie Rose, who has asked

the state to deny Martin Marietta's application for a mining permit.

Louie Lewis, who operates a commercial junk yard in Supply, also spoke out against the idea of banning such operations from the county.

"We've still got some working people in Brunswick County who can't afford to buy new parts," Lewis said. "Not all of us are retired."

In his rebuttal, Quinn said he was one of Lewis's customers and assured that such existing junk yards would be "grandfathered" and allowed to continue operation. He said the proposed zoning amendments are aimed specifically at mines that use explosives and would not prohibit borrow pits and other types of surface extraction.

Quinn also dismissed Newton's claim that the county could be successfully sued for preventing Martin Marietta from mining on its property, citing recent court opinions to the contrary.

"The courts have ruled that causing a property owner to lose income due to a change in zoning does not constitute a taking of the land as long as it can be used for some other purpose," Quinn said. "A loss of value is a misfortune, but not a taking."

Thompson said after the meeting that he had heard "a lot of significant concerns" expressed about the proposed mine. But he would not voice an opinion on whether or not the board should endorse the proposed zoning amendments.

"It will be at the top of the list for discussion at our next meeting," Thompson said.

State regulators have scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m. in at the county government complex in Bolivia to receive comment on Martin Marietta's application for a mining permit.

Susanne Osborne, president of the Brunswick County Anti Mining Alliance, said last week that she expects 1,000 people to attend the hearing. The group has not gathered more than 4,000 signatures on petitions opposing the mine.

Citizens' Association Sponsors Third Annual Banquet Friday

The Brunswick County Citizens Association will sponsor its third annual Scholarship Banquet on Friday, Nov. 26, at the Brunswick County Government Complex Assembly Hall.

The program will begin at 7:30 p.m., and tickets are \$10.

Dr. George L. Saunders, whose

medical practice is in Calabash, will deliver the keynote address.

Proceeds from the annual event will assist high school students who are continuing their education to the next level.

Tickets can be purchased by contacting Thurman Gause at 579-6388.

Volunteers Sign On To Help Temporary Library

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to remain open at a temporary location, but does not have funds to lease a building or to pay for the additional staff needed to keep the facility open.

At the library board's last meeting, Friends of the Library meeting were told a supervisor could be assigned to oversee volunteers at a temporary branch if the group can arrange to set it up. At Friday's meeting, Friends leaders said they were pleased to learn that if they work out a temporary facility, that supervisor would be West Brunswick Librarian Felecia Hardy.

But first, Twomey said Friday, "what we need are ideas on how to find space and ways to raise money for rent, electricity, heat, phones and moving expenses. We're talking about a fairly sizeable sum, especially if (renovation) goes on into September."

Bechtle estimated the effort would require \$10,000. "I think we can do it for that."

Among suggestions from the audience at Friday's meeting were:

■ asking the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce to get behind the effort;

■ canvassing civic organizations, clubs and businesses;

■ organizing a large fundraising event centered around a reading by a well-known author; and

■ compiling a list of empty commercial buildings and approaching owners about renting or donating about 2,000 square feet of heated space.

"It would not be possible to stay open the same 40 to 50 hours a week we're currently open, but we would be able to give some service to the area," said Librarian Hardy. "That's what we're after."

Otherwise, she added, residents of this area would be forced to travel to Yaupon Beach or Leland to use a library while the West Brunswick branch is closed.

Many volunteers are still needed, Friends leaders say. For more information about helping, call Blanche Bechtle at 579-7826 or the West Brunswick Branch Library at 754-6578.

Congressman Supports Effort To Postpone Mining Hearing; Seeks Data From Agencies

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Service and the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission.

The Congressman's letter to Secretary Howes supports a request to delay the hearing made last week by John Snyder of the Brunswick County Anti-Mining Alliance. In it, Snyder claims that Martin Marietta has not submitted enough documentation about the project for the state to make an informed decision on the company's permit application.

"While containing hundreds of pages, these documents fail to provide adequate information by which to judge the environmental consequences of the project," Snyder's letter said. "For example, the company has not submitted detailed information about the impacts of the mine on the adjacent estuary. The company has not made an application for a permit to discharge 10 million gallons of fresh water each day into the Cape Fear River Estuary."

Rose's letter to the also notes that "the estuarine creeks next to the mine are classified as Primary Nursery Areas by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries."

Noting that Rose has requested extensive information on the mining proposal from five federal and state agencies, Snyder told Howes it would be "unrealistic" to expect the reports to be completed and sent to the Congressman by Nov. 30.

"Your department has provided inadequate time, particularly with the Thanksgiving Holiday, for us to fully prepare to be productive participants in the public hearing," Snyder wrote.

In a telephone interview Monday, Snyder said he contacted Howes' office and learned that the secretary was out of town and has not reviewed the request. So for now, he expects the meeting to be held as scheduled.

"We certainly hope that the hearing can be delayed, especially since it would not cause any great hardship to do so," Snyder said. "But if we have to have it, we'll do the best we can."

According to Gardner, no permit decisions will be made at the hearing, "but we will consider comments and information presented during and after the hearing in our review of the application by Martin Marietta."

Those wishing to speak are asked to bring written copies of their statements. Speakers will be allowed five minutes each to make their points. Gardner said comments "should be relevant to the state's Mining Act, which will be explained at the beginning of the hearing."

Anyone wishing more information should contact the N.C. Mining Program at (919) 733-7574, Gardner said.



ROSE

Near Normal Weather Due For Holiday

Near normal weather is expected for the area over the next few days.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said the forecast calls for temperatures to average from the mid-40s at night into the mid-60s during the daytime, with approximately one-half inch of rainfall.

The period of Nov. 16 through 21 was warmer and drier than average.

A daily average high of 73 degrees and a nightly average low of 53 degrees combined for a daily average temperature of 63 degrees, which Canady said was about 9 degrees above average.

He recorded no rainfall.

Canady recorded a high for the period of 83 degrees on Nov. 16 and a low of 33 degrees Nov. 21

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Established Nov. 1, 1962
Telephone 754-6890
Published Every Thursday
At 4709 Main Street
Shallotte, N.C. 28459

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY

One Year\$10.36

Six Months\$5.55

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NORTH CAROLINA

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