

# Bird Island Effort Must Maintain, Increase Momentum, SBTA Told

BY LYNN CARLSON

Bird Island Preservation Society Chairman Bill Ducker on Saturday challenged members of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association to recruit new supporters of the effort to keep the barrier island undeveloped.

"Momentum is as important now as it has ever been," Ducker said. Since Sept. 1, 1992, when 10 people formed the organization, the preservation group has grown to 1,680 families and has raised about \$39,000 toward acquisition of the island by a government agency or conservation organization.

The preservation society and SBTA are separate organizations; Ducker was reporting to SBTA's 11th annual Thanksgiving weekend membership meeting about the Bird Island effort.

Ducker said permit applications by Bird Island owner Janie Pace Price to build a bridge and causeway to the island and to develop it with single-family homes are likely to be acted upon in the coming year.

"Our momentum could have a great deal of impact over those decisions," he added. "I want you to keep it up, talk about it and encourage people to join."

In addition to the Bird Island plea, about 40 SBTA members heard reports Saturday on topics ranging from its membership to the proposed central sewer system for the island of Sunset Beach.

Secretary/Treasurer Minnie Hunt reported that 726 families are now SBTA members.

### Bridge Study Continues

President Cleve Waldmiller updated the gathering on the environmental impact statement being compiled on the effects of replacing Sunset Beach's old pontoon bridge.

SBTA led the effort which resulted in a judge's halting plans for a high-rise bridge to Sunset Beach until the environmental study is done.

Waldmiller reported that 277,000 vehicles were counted crossing the bridge this past July—87,000 of them in the first 11 days of the month.

*"Our momentum could have a great deal of impact over those decisions. . . I want you to keep it up, talk about it and encourage people to join."*

—Bill Ducker, Chairman Of Bird Island Preservation Society

Summer and fall studies have been completed to measure the heights of boats passing through the pontoon bridge, he said.

"Several sizes and styles (of bridges) are being considered" by the N.C. Department of Transportation, Waldmiller said. "The best I know, the environmental impact statement will take another year or so before it's complete."

The group encouraged Town Councilman-elect Herb Klinker, an SBTA member, to ask council to devise and publicize guidelines for citizens about how to deal with the pontoon bridge in case of an emergency.

### Sewer Program

Hunt updated the members on the proposed central sewer system to serve Sunset Beach and Calabash and on the integrated wastewater management conference set to take place in Wilmington today (Thursday) and Friday. She said several town council members and "four or five" SBTA leaders were scheduled to attend.

Hunt, who lost her bid to unseat Mayor Mason Barber in the recent election, has been critical of sewer consultants' and town council's argument that a central sewer will improve area water quality and reopen shellfish beds which have been closed because of pollution.

One audience member asked "Who's for the sewer and who's against it?"

Hunt replied, "The developers are certainly for it. Are you asking me to say that the people who'll have to pay for it are against it?"

She charged that growth projec-

tions in the towns' draft sewer feasibility study "give credence to the idea that it is a developers' system."

### Beautification Praised

Waldmiller commended the Sunset Beach Beautification Committee's Christmas decorations on the bridge and town gazebo and commended the group for producing the Sunset Beach flag.

The committee also maintains the plantings in flower barrels outside Sunset Beach businesses year-round.

### Library Service

SBTA board member Kathy Kakos asked the group's help in the Friends of the Library effort to raise money for temporary library service while the West Brunswick Branch is closed for renovation and expansion. The library is expected to close in March through summer "when our children could use the extra reading," Kakos said.

Waldmiller said the SBTA board will consider contributing to the effort to rent and staff a temporary library space.

### Spanish Classes Offered Through BCC Continuing Ed

Spanish Levels 1 and 2 will be taught by Paul Hernandez through the Continuing Education Department of Brunswick Community College.

Level 1 will begin Monday, Dec. 6, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Level 2 will begin Tuesday, Dec. 7, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Cost of each course is \$35. For more information, call Stuart or Perry at 754-6922.

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## Waccamaw Announces First Honor Roll

Waccamaw Elementary School in Ash has announced its honor roll for the first nine-week grading period, as follows:

### A HONOR ROLL

**Fourth Grade:** Akiba Griffin, Christina Reeves, Dana Leggett.

**Fifth Grade:** Shanna Simmons, Ashley Hughes, Nicholas Jones, Emily Pruitt.

**Sixth Grade:** Nicole Babson, Nicholas Tompkins.

**Seventh Grade:** Stacy Phillips, Aimee Long, Troy Simmons and Chris Russ.

**Eighth Grade:** Felicia Marlow, Sam Mintz, Raven Stocks, Amber Inman, Erica Minton, Tiffany Skaggs, Tasha Thompson, Kevin Anderson, Michael Stanley and Leigh Milligan.

### A/B HONOR ROLL

**Fourth Grade:** Breann Ward, Michael Thomas, Josh Skaggs, Gee Simmons, Whitney Little, J.J. Fowler, Rubi Romero.

**Fifth Grade:** Vicky Allred, Effrain Campos, Brandon Dyson, Cristina Faircloth, Brandon Hughes, Jordan McCumbee, Amelia McKoy, Maria Romero, Matthew Russ, Melvin Russ, Robert Stanley.

**Sixth Grade:** James Fowler, Jarrod Leggett, Tony Mintz, Jennifer McLean, Brabham (Buddy) Owens, Amanda Bland, Kevin Brown, Michael Condrey, Will Gore and Belinda Simmons.

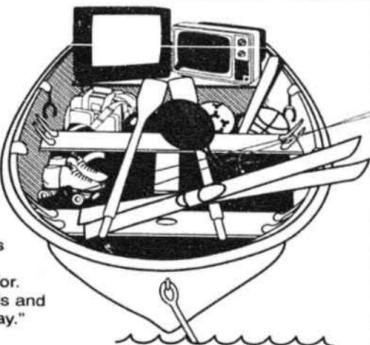
**Seventh Grade:** Christie Blackwell, Michelle Condrey, Delphia Daniels, Cedric Grant, Cody Inman, Michael Stevenson, Josh Thomas,

Chris Gore, Crystal Duncan, Raven Ferguson, Natasha King, LaVonda Marlow, Crystal McPherson, Jeremy Thomas, Christine Price.

**Eighth Grade:** Ashley Cox, Crystal Harris, Melissa Mills, Carolina Rivera, Hollie Taylor, Michelle Hughes, Terra Milliken, Jason Norris, Amanda Smith and Stephanie Todd.

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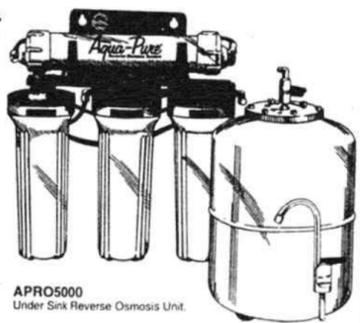
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