

# Land On Lockwood Folly Tributary Is Top Choice For New Landfill

BY ERIC CARLSON

The committee charged with selecting a location for a new county landfill will hold a public meeting Tuesday (Jan. 11) to discuss which of five sites under consideration in the Bolivia and Supply areas would be the best place for a new solid waste disposal area.

Public comments will be encouraged when the six-member Landfill Siting Study Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the public assembly building at the Brunswick County government complex in Bolivia, County Engineer Robert Tucker said Tuesday.

The committee, appointed by the county commissioners, includes one citizen representative from each voting district along with Commissioner Tom Rabon.

Last July, the group chose the five proposed sites from among 12 proposed locations in the central and eastern portions of the county.

In October, the five tracts were inspected by a task force of representatives from the state permitting agencies that will eventually be asked to approve the county's choice for a new landfill site. The task force recommendations have not been announced, Tucker said.

"We scheduled this meeting in anticipation of having their findings—and we still hope to have them before the meeting—but we've got to keep moving along with our selection process."

Brunswick County must open a new landfill by 1998. Once a location is selected, it normally takes five

years of acquisition, site preparation and construction before the new landfill could become operational.

"We need to move forward," Tucker said.

The proposed landfill site that topped the committee's list in July is a 570-acre tract bordered on the north by a tributary of the Lockwood Folly River along Gilbert Road (SR 1501) about 1.8 miles east of Antioch.

The second-rated site is a 600-acre parcel adjacent to the first, located on the opposite side of Gilbert Road and bounded on the south by Old Lennon Road (SR 1504).

Another area under consideration is a roughly 300-acre tract along U.S. 17 just north of the current landfill

site and contiguous to its border.

A fourth proposal would put the landfill on 400 acres of land near Brunswick Funeral Home, bounded by U.S. 17 on the southeast, Beaverdam Swamp to the northeast and Royal Oak Swamp to the west.

The fifth site is a 300-acre tract located north of U.S. 17, west of N.C. 211 and south of Little Macedonia Road. It is bordered on the west by the Middle River and on the south by Royal Oak Swamp.

Detailed maps of the proposed landfill sites are available for inspection at the County Engineering office at the government complex in Bolivia. Maps will also be available at the public meeting, Tucker said.

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## First In Filing

STAFF PHOTOS BY ERIC CARLSON

Four of the five announced candidates for Brunswick County Sheriff make their candidacies official Monday as filing opened for the May 3 primaries. Shown at the county board of elections office are Democrats (clockwise from top left) N.C. Highway Patrolman Jerry Dove, Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy John Marlow, the sheriff's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officer Lt. Ronald Hewett and Long Beach Police Sgt. Bill Sisk, shown with Board of Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt.

## Anti-Mine Law Approved In Divided Vote

BY ERIC CARLSON

In two split votes less than a week apart, a majority of the Brunswick County Commissioners approved an ordinance aimed at prohibiting Martin Marietta Aggregates from opening its proposed limestone mine near Southport.

At a special meeting last Wednesday (Dec. 29) and again this past Tuesday, Chairman Don Warren was joined by commissioners Wayland Vereen and Tom Rabon in enacting a law that bans the use of explosives or the removal of ground water in any mining operation within five miles of either the Brunswick Nuclear Plant or the military ammunition terminal at Sunny Point.

The law was opposed at both meetings by Commissioners Jerry Jones and Donald Shaw.

Jones said he voted against the measure because he felt state regulators would deny the company a mining permit if legitimate questions are raised about its ability to operate the mine safely.

Shaw agreed with Jones and said he felt that Martin Marietta is serious in its threat to file suit against the county to recover the \$2 million the company claims to have invested in the 1,000-acre site it purchased in a zoning district designated to allow mining.

Before the final vote Tuesday night, Warren asked the dissenting commissioners to join the majority and make the vote unanimous. In hopes of persuading Shaw, he produced a letter from the county's insurance company indicating the county and the commissioners would be covered against damages awarded in such a lawsuit.

"I have been assured that we have the right and the duty to defend ourselves against any suit seeking those

damages," Warren said. "I assure you they will pay your attorney fees, Mr. Shaw."

"I've heard some say that we ought to let the state do it," Warren said. "But don't we as commissioners have the duty and obligation, when we see that a danger does exist, to do something about it?"

Several of those who led the lengthy campaign to stop the mine made brief final statements urging the board to follow through on their previous support for the ordinance.

"Let's stop the insanity now," said Suzanne Osborne of the Brunswick Mining Awareness Committee. "It's time for the commissioners to do something for the protection of our way of life."

Joe Pasulka of Southport accused Martin Marietta of treating Brunswick County residents "with contempt" and underestimating the county's resolve to protect itself against the dangers posed by the mine.

"They thought they'd encountered a bunch of Bubbas who would roll over and play dead because they offered us 20 jobs," Pasulka said. "You were not hired just to make simple decisions. Don't let Martin Marietta intimidate the county."

Bob Quinn, leading spokesperson for the mining opposition, commended the board "for listening to all we've said and for taking the time to get to the position you are in tonight. We thank you for your patience and we applaud your decision."

After reading the ordinance a second time, Warren called for a vote. Again the board split 3-to-2. Despite the slim margin of victory, the law's passage brought the crowd of about 75 people to its feet for a standing

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## After Split Vote, Calabash Will Proceed With Sewer

BY ERIC CARLSON

Undaunted by the Farmers Home Administration's recent rejection of its \$10 million grant-and-loan application, the Calabash Board of Commissioners on Monday pushed ahead with plans to finance its proposed sewer project with revenue bonds and state and federal loans.

By a vote of 4-to-2, with commissioners Bob Noe and Teddy Al-treuter dissenting, the board agreed to allocate a preliminary design budget of \$100,000 for engineers to prepare construction drawings and to obtain regulatory approval of a sewer collection system for downtown Calabash.

The vote also established an interim budget of \$50,000 for preliminary work on a wastewater treatment plant "while additional funding is secured and the project scope is defined."

The allocations authorize the Raleigh engineering firm of Piedmont Olsen Hensley to join Powell Associates of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., in preparing the necessary designs, drawings and applications that should put Calabash in a position to accept \$3.8 million in state loans for the project this summer.

If all goes according to plan, Powell Engineer Jim Billups told the board that construction of a down-

town sewage collection system could be completed in 1994. Service could begin as early as next summer, with wastewater pumped to a South Carolina sewerage plant during the three to four years it will take for Calabash to complete its own treatment plant.

The initial funding approved Monday will allow Calabash to move ahead with the design phase of the joint sewerage project it plans to build with the town of Sunset Beach. Once final permits are approved for the project, the two

(See SEWER, Page 2-A)

## Sheriff's Race Takes Spotlight As Filing Opens

BY ERIC CARLSON

And, they're off! As the clock struck noon Monday, the first day of filing for the May 3 primary, candidates lined up at the Brunswick County Board of Elections to jump into races for sheriff, five county commissioner slots and five seats on the school board.

In late filings Tuesday, Brunswick County Clerk of Superior Court Diana Morgan officially signed up to seek re-election, while former Leland Mayor S.L. Doty entered the race for District 5 county commissioner.

Among those who entered the fray Monday, N.C. Highway Patrolman Jerry Dove, Chief Deputy John Marlow, Deputy Lt. Ronald Hewett and Long Beach Police Sgt. Bill Sisk filed for what is expected to be a hotly-contested Democratic primary race to replace retiring Sheriff John Carr Davis. Also filing late Monday was Southport businessman James Brown, who was endorsed by the local Republican Party executive committee some four months ago.

County Commissioners Chairman Don Warren and incumbent Tom Rabon made their bids for re-election official on Monday, as did school board member Thurman Gause.

Newcomers to those races include Leland convenience store owner Michael Ballard, who is seeking a District 5 seat on the board of commissioners, and Supply developer W.A. "Alfonzo"

Roach, running for the District 2 slot.

Democrat Glenda Browning of Leland will run for a District 5 seat on the board of education, along with Shalotte Democrat Olaf "Bud" Thorsen, who is seeking to represent District 1.

### Five File On Monday

If Monday was any indication, the campaign for sheriff promises to generate the most attention among the local races. As the noon hour approached, a crowd of Hewett supporters, many holding printed signs, stood in the rain outside the board of elections office to watch their candidate speak with a television interviewer.

Flanked by his wife and two children, Hewett was the first candidate to pay his filing fee, sign the necessary forms and listen as Board of Elections Supervisor Linda Britt explained the new procedures under which all candidates must prepare regular reports of their campaign contributions.

A Brunswick County native and veteran of 10 years as a sheriff's deputy, Hewett stressed the need for a stronger effort to combat drug abuse, especially among young people. He cited his achievements as the sheriff's department Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officer, for which he was named United States DARE officer of the year last July.

"As a father of two young children, I have a strong personal conviction to work energetically

to attack our county's drug problem," Hewett said. "Our children are our most precious resource. We must not lose them to the drug epidemic."

Marlow also said he sees drug-related crime as a major problem in the county and pledged to give continued support to the DARE program. In addition, he said he wants to begin a local program to help educate parents about drug awareness and ways to recognize the warning signs of drug use in children.

After 17 years in the sheriff's department and a decade as chief deputy, Marlow feels his experience in law enforcement and departmental management will make him the best qualified candidate for sheriff. If elected, he said he hopes to improve the department's in-service training by having deputies take advanced law enforcement courses at Brunswick Community College and the N.C. Justice Academy.

Trooper Jerry Dove said he was "a little apprehensive" about retiring this week after 26 years with the N.C. Highway Patrol to seek the sheriff's post. However, he feels his experience would serve him well as Brunswick County's top law enforcement officer.

After serving in the U.S. Air Force as a police canine handler, Dove worked as a police officer in his home town of North Wilkesboro for two

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