

Learning New Creations
Dennis Wilson (in photo at left) makes a bead necklace in last week's "A Very Special Art Festival" sponsored by the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department for participants in the Brunswick Community College Interagency Program. Above, staff member Joyce Munn (right) gets a lesson in gyotaku, the Japanese art of fish printing, from Frances Allen.

Two Injured In One-Car Accident Saturday Night

A driver and his passenger were seriously injured in a one-car accident on Old Georgetown Road shortly before midnight Saturday. The accident happened at approximately 11:55 p.m., 11.8 miles southwest of Shallotte. Morrow was traveling northeast on Old Georgetown Road (S.R. 1163) at a high rate of speed when his 1993 Chevrolet came out of a curve, ran off the right side of the road and struck a telephone junction box. The car overturned three times before coming to rest on its wheels. Damage to the vehicle was estimated at \$14,000.

James Scott Morrow, 35, of Lincolnton, and Melissa Morrow, 27, of Little River, S.C., were transported to The Brunswick Hospital with serious but non-incapacitating injuries, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol office in Wilmington.

Trooper C.E. Ward charged James Morrow with driving while im-

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Varnamtown Backing Continued Dredging Of Lockwood Folly Inlet

BY DOUG RUTTER

Varnamtown officials are mailing a letter to Congressman Charlie Rose this week stating the town's unwavering support for the continued maintenance dredging of Lockwood Folly Inlet.

Aldermen took the action Monday night in response to a report that the Army Corps of Engineers was told it should stop dredging the inlet due to the lack of commercial fishermen who use it for ocean access.

The Corps of Engineers district office in Wilmington has no plans to stop dredging the inlet between Holden Beach and Long Beach, spokesman Marty van Duyn said Tuesday.

Just to be safe, town officials will send a letter to Rose in support of the annual maintenance dredging of the inlet, which is used by commercial fishermen in Varnamtown.

Alderman Will Mumford drafted the letter Tuesday and said it would be mailed this week along with a list of more than 30 commercial fishermen who use the inlet at least 50 percent of the time.

Alex Kuigre, one of Varnamtown's commercial fishermen, said at Monday's town meeting that 37 commercial vessels use the inlet along with 12 party boats and more than 150 sportfishing boats docked at Holden Beach Marina.

In recent years, the Corps of Engineers has spent about \$500,000 per year to keep Lockwood Folly Inlet navigable. Last year, the corps also dredged Lockwood Folly River.

"The corps just spent all this money dredging the river so let's keep the mouth open," Mayor Pro Tem Ennis Swain said Monday.

The Corps of Engineers recently began a study on the merits of opening Eastern Channel, which was the original inlet before the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway was dredged.

Van Duyn said computer models will be used to see if opening Eastern Channel would increase water flow in the river and minimize the effects of pollution. The study should be finished by late summer or early fall.

Land Swap Possible

The town board's plans to purchase property for a boat ramp parking lot may ultimately include a land swap.

Aldermen plan to pay \$30,000 for one acre of land owned by Larry and Mary Knowles of Riegelwood.

Town officials said Monday they also are negotiating with Terrence and Sue Galloway, who own the property next door, about trading some land to "square up" the irregularly-shaped parking lot property.

"I see it as an advantage for both sides," Swain said of the trade. As proposed, the Galloways would give the town road frontage in exchange for property behind their house.

Aldermen voted Monday to transfer \$26,000 from the town's reserve fund to the community projects fund to help pay for the Knowles property.

Swain said the town already has about \$9,000 in the community projects fund. "This is needful so when the time comes to do business our mayor and clerk can carry on," he said of the additional transfer.

Varnam's Docks & Bulkheads recently completed a \$20,000 improvement project at the boat ramp at the end of Fisherman Road.

Next Project: Park

Once the boat ramp parking project is completed, town officials plan to start focusing their attention on the town park property.

Mumford said Monday he has been in contact with a Raleigh firm that can help the town decide how to best develop the 3/2-acre site. He said the plans would cost between \$100 and \$300.

Public Input Needed

Town board members want to know what residents think about water and sewer systems and other issues that will affect the future of Varnamtown.

Officials are in the beginning stages of drafting the town's first land use plan and will use questionnaires to get input from residents.

Alderman Ada McDonald, chairman of the planning board, said there hasn't been much public input so far at the board's land use plan meetings.

"I would like to see us do something to get more input from the community," McDonald said. "It is absolutely essential. We can't do a land use plan without it."

Town board members plan to hand deliver questionnaires to each of the community's 160 households this week. After filling them out, residents can drop the questionnaires in the town hall mailbox.

State law requires town to develop land use plans to help guide future development and protect and manage natural resources.

Contractor Hired To Build Holden Beach Dune

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach officials have come up with a plan they hope will provide for construction of an ocean-front sand dune on Hillside Drive without closing the street entirely.

At a special meeting last Thursday, commissioners established a "preservation zone" in the street's right of way and hired a contractor to build a berm along the entire length of the road.

"This will save Hillside as near as a human being can come to saving it," Mayor Wally Ausley said. "What we're trying to do is protect ourselves from another March 13 storm or a category 1 or 2 hurricane."

Over the last few years, the ocean has washed away most of the beachfront lots on Hillside Drive. The water comes up to the pavement in some areas during high tides.

The town has hired Wayne's Backhoe Service of Shallotte to construct a berm along the south side of the street, leaving approximately 20 feet of right of way on the north side

for vehicular traffic.

Wayne's Backhoe Service submitted the lowest of three bids on the project at \$4.74 per cubic yard. Town Manager Gus Ulrich estimates the contractor will pile between 4,000 and 5,000 cubic yards along the road.

Ulrich said the sand dune will average about four feet above the street surface, or 14 feet above sea level, and will be eight feet wide at the top and 28 feet wide at the base.

Once the dune is built, town officials plan to plant beach grass and put up sand fences in an effort to stabilize it. Ausley said dune construction is expected to take about 15 days.

The sand for the project will be removed from a dredge spoil area on the north side of island owned by Holden Beach Enterprises.

The company is donating the sand. In return, the town has agreed to have approximately 1,000 cubic yards placed on dunes that protect property owned by Holden Beach Enterprises.

Ulrich said the bid specifications

require the contractor to leave the spoil area in good condition to prevent the accumulation of water. There have been problems in the past with mosquitoes breeding in the area.

"The idea is not to have any water standing in there for breeding mosquitoes," Ausley said.

Residents and property owners who need access to Hillside Drive will have to enter and exit on Ranger Street. Barricades will be set up where Holden Road, Elizabeth Street and Bendigo Street enter Hillside.


Due to the lack of room that will be left for vehicles, parking will be prohibited on the street right of way.

In a related matter last week, commissioners approved an addition to the public nuisance ordinance that will allow the town to order cleanup of structures damaged by a storm or erosion.

For months, town officials have been trying to get a property owner to tear down a damaged bulkhead on Hillside Drive. The ordinance will permit the town to remove the structure and bill the owner.

The ordinance amendment applies to structures in danger of collapsing, structures that will likely cause personal or property damage and structures or debris located in public trust areas.

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