

# Sunset Beach Plans To Get Tough On Junked, Abandoned Vehicles

BY SUSAN USHER

Those junked cars, trailers and boats will have to go.

Sunset Beach Town Council gave the town police department and building inspector the power Monday to begin enforcing a new ordinance regulating junked, abandoned and nuisance motor vehicles.

"There's no other way to do it," town attorney Mike Isenberg advised after council members questioned the extensive, state-required notification and waiting period rules and detailed definitions. "The question is whether the town wants to get in the business."

"There's a need for it," said Mayor pro tem Ed Gore after asking numerous questions about how the ordinance would work, especially in relation to illegally parked vehicles on private property.

Rules governing junked, nuisance or abandoned vehicles apply within the town. Only those relating to junked vehicles apply in the extraterritorial area, said Isenberg.

Complaints to the town about junked vehicles in the extraterritorial area prompted the planning board and town attorney to draft the nine-page ordinance.

The new rules will be administered inside the town by the police department and in the extraterritorial area by the building inspector.

One junked motor vehicle is allowed on someone's property, but it must be concealed either under a cover or in an enclosure such as a garage.

In most cases a week's notice must be provided the owner before a vehicle is towed. A vehicle can be removed without prior notice in an emergency—if it is blocking traffic, blocking access to a home or business, damaging property, is illegally parked on a public street or roadway, or poses an immediate hazard to the public safety or welfare.

Someone can appeal to the council to overturn a declaration that a vehicle on his or her private property

is abandoned, junked or a nuisance.

A motor vehicle is any machine intended to travel over land or water by self-propulsion, or while attached to a self-propelled vehicle—including trailers and boats.

### Annexation Eyed

Only one person had questions for council Monday regarding the proposed annexation of Seaside Plaza and adjacent property at the intersection of N.C. 179 and N.C. 904.

Locke Byrd, who owns property on the south side of Beach Road opposed proposed annexation of only a portion of his land.

"I have no objection to annexation," he said. "I just wish you would take all of it."

Council members suggested Byrd petition for annexation of the balance of the property once the other becomes part of the town, rather than the town starting the lengthy annexation process over again with a new map. Council must wait 10 days to vote on the annexation. If adopted it will become effective 40 to 400 days later on a date set by the council.

"We need to make that corner a little safer," said Mayor Mason Barber in introducing the proposed expansion of the town.

Two of the four corners are already part of the town; the annexation will bring in the remaining two. The area includes a shopping center and several other businesses, plus six residential lots.

### Toilets For Beachgoers

Portable toilets will be sent to the rescue of businesses near the beach business district, whose owners have been asking the town to provide relief for them by providing restrooms for beach visitors.

It will cost the town \$303.60 per month for four portable units pumped three times a week, the number of units and/or frequency of pump-out will be adjusted as needed, council agreed.

### Budget Workshop Set

Council members will look at the possibility of a more permanent solution to the lack of public restroom facilities during a budget workshop Tuesday, April 12, at 4 p.m. at the town hall. Fluegel said Tuesday the town will look into applying for public access grants for public facilities and for helping maintain public accessways. Other possible 1994-95 projects to be discussed are expansion of the town's trial sidewalk construction program and a request from Twin Lakes property owners for assistance in hiring professional lake management.

### Other Business

In other business council: ■ adopted a resolution to the N.C. Department of Transportation supporting a sidewalk/bike path in conjunction with any new bridge to the island. The town would be expected to extend its existing path to North Shore Drive, with the state continuing it over the bridge to the mainland.

■ approved plans by the Sunset Beach Beautification Committee to host a concert by the Air Force Band again this Fourth of July holiday. Therese Regan said the concert will be held July 3 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

■ set May 2 public hearings on the proposed rezoning of lots 19-24A of the R.J. Somerset subdivision from mainland residential 2 (MR-2) to mobile home (MH-1), and the lot where the town hall is located from recreational and institutional (RI-1) to MR-2. Both changes have been recommended by the planning and zoning board.

■ transferred \$1,500 from refuse collection to drainage, to fix a problem on the west end of the island.

■ amended the sign ordinance to exempt two feet of the base of monument signs when measuring sign area, if the base contains no message.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

SUNSET BEACH TOWN COUNCIL surprised Town Administrator Linda Fluegel Monday night, honoring her long-term service to the town. On April 16, Fluegel will have been a town employee for 20 years, having begun as a part-time clerk. "You've been a right hand and anchor to every mayor you've worked with," Mayor pro tem Ed Gore said as he presented a gold bracelet with a tennis racket charm, a gift from the town council and planning and zoning board. Former Councilman Al Odom sent flowers and Mayor Mason Barber presented a plaque from the town.

# Use your vote as a weapon to fight crime!

Ronald Hewett is ready to provide the kind of professional leadership as Sheriff that Brunswick County needs and deserves.

He has been preparing himself for this job ever since he was sworn in at Holden Beach in 1983 as North Carolina's youngest police officer.

He has been a member of the Sheriff's department for almost 11 years. He knows its strengths and weaknesses and he has positive plans to improve its operation:

• **Form a county-wide Drug Task Force to coordinate efforts of all agencies to combat drug trafficking.**

Your vote for Ronald Hewett will send a warning to drug dealers to get out and stay out of Brunswick County.

• **Expand the D.A.R.E. program into the junior and senior high schools.** Ronald Hewett has been recognized as national and state D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year for his

outstanding work as Brunswick County D.A.R.E. Program Coordinator and Narcotics Investigator. He knows how important it is to protect our young people from drugs by making them aware of its dangers.

• **Make homes and streets safer.** You have a right to feel safe in your home and on the streets. Ronald Hewett, a professional, experienced law enforcement officer, is also a family man who is dedicated to making Brunswick County a safe place for his children and yours. Keeping the door of the Sheriff's department open 24-hours a day is just one of the many plans he has for making the Sheriff's

office more responsive to county citizens.

**You have a very important weapon with which to fight crime. It is your vote—make it count. Cast it for Ronald Hewett.**



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Sunday, April 10  
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All Are Welcome To This Rally

**Ronald E. HEWETT**  
**SHERIFF**

**FREE FISH FRY HOT DOGS**  
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12 Noon  
Stevens Park  
Next To Southport Elementary School  
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