



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

For The Love Of Babies

Victoria Smith, family nurse practitioner and nursing supervisor for the Brunswick County Health Department was recently honored at the state's Baby Love Conference for her "devoted and invaluable service to North Carolina mothers and babies." The department's entire Baby Love team was also recognized by the Governor's Commission on Reduction of Infant Mortality for its efforts to improve the health and well-being of local-income pregnant women and infants by increasing their access to medical care, community services and other support.

Recycling Program Expands For Ocean Isle Residents

Recycling at Ocean Isle Beach will take a twist this week, with a switch to polycarts and the addition of glass recycling.

Waste Industries will replace the compartmented dumpster beside town hall with a row of 90-gallon polycarts, each designated to receive one type of recyclable material: newspapers (loose, not in bags or tied), separated 1 and 2 plastics (milk and water jugs, soda bottles) aluminum cans, and green, brown and clear glass.

The changes increase the cost of the town's recycling program by \$2,400, to \$7,200 for the year.

Commissioner Debbie Fox said she expects the switch to make recycling easier for the public, cleaner for Waste Industries and seasonally flexible.

With the larger existing dumpster, if the contents become "contaminated" by mixing—such as placing newspapers or aluminum cans in plastic bags before putting them in the bin—Waste Industries simply dumps the load at the landfill rather than separating it, making residents' recycling efforts of no avail. With the smaller polycarts, Fox said, it will be easier for workers to sort out contaminants.

Use of polycarts will also allow Waste Industries flexibility in responding to "distinct" seasonal

changes in recycling. Aluminum leads in the summer, followed by plastics, while newspapers account for the greatest volume in winter. In a trial run, Waste Industries will place aluminum recycling polycarts at up to five accessways along the beach this summer.

Fox said she is also interested in having recycling guidelines posted on signs at the recycling site.

Carts will be emptied weekly off-season and twice-weekly during the season.

Waste Industries is "trying real hard to do what we ask them to do," she reported, noting that the company has agreed to try to return household waste polycarts to each building after dumping rather than leave them at the edge of the yard, though it isn't required in their contract.

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Varnamtown Joins Health Care Debate

BY DOUG RUTTER

Debate over President Clinton's plan to reform the nation's health care system—the subject of much politicking on Capitol Hill—has trickled down to tiny Varnamtown.

Town aldermen have decided to send letters to Congressman Charlie Rose and Senators Jesse Helms and Lauch Faircloth expressing concerns they have with the president's proposal.

Aldermen took the action at their Monday night meeting in response to a letter from Harvey R. Mathias, director of Risk Management Services with the N.C. League of Municipalities.

Mathias wrote that the league supports the president's goal of providing basic health care benefits to all Americans at a reasonable cost, but not if it will have a negative impact on local governments.

The League of Municipalities has two main concerns with the Clinton plan: health care alliances would not allow towns to self-fund health coverage and towns would be treated differently than the private sector when it comes to funding a national health care system.

"While changes are definitely needed in our national health care system, we need to be sure that local governments are not being treated unfairly," Mathias wrote in the March 17 letter.

"Unless you let your Congressman and Senators know how your municipality feels about the issue, local governments could be asked to pick up a disproportionate share of the cost," he added.

Alderman Will Mumford urged the board to follow the league's advice and notify the appropriate elected officials.

Mumford said the president's plan would require Varnamtown to provide medical insurance for its only employee, Town Clerk Luellen Norris, who works part-time.

"We don't have enough money in

our budget to provide medical insurance for Luellen," Mumford said.

Lot To Be Cleared

In business closer to home, officials say they are ready to prepare the town property on Fisherman Road for a boat ramp parking lot. The 1.68 acres was purchased from Larry Knowles of Riegelwood for \$30,000.

Mumford reported Monday night that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued a permit that will allow the town to clear and fill up to one acre of the property.

Aldermen asked Mumford to get bids for the clearing and fill work and hire the contractor that will do the work for the least amount of money.

The parking lot will serve the public ramp on Lockwood Folly River at the end of Fisherman Road. The town received \$25,000 from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission to improve the facility.

Relief On The Way

With summer's heat and humidity approaching fast, Varnamtown officials have decided to move ahead with plans to replace the air conditioning system at town hall.

Aldermen authorized the building and grounds committee Monday to get bids from Fulford Heating & Air Conditioning of Holden Beach and King's Heating & Air Conditioning of Shallotte for a new 5-ton unit.

The town board also gave committee members the authority to hire the low bidder so the package heat pump and new duct work can be installed as soon as possible.

Meeting Set April 25

The Varnamtown Planning Board will continue work on the community's first land use plan at a meeting Monday, April 25, at 7 p.m.

Alderman Ada McDonald, who chairs the planning board, said the town recently delivered questionnaires to all residents to get input on the land use plan.

The town got 71 questionnaires

back. Results of the informal survey will be discussed at the April 25 meeting.

"The biggest concern that we had from this community was doing something about the appearance," McDonald said Monday.

Most residents who responded to the questionnaire indicated they do not want public water and sewer systems in the town in the near future.

McDonald said "there were a lot of good comments about the town," including the fact that people like the peaceful and friendly atmosphere.

Upcoming Meetings

Varnamtown's finance committee will meet Monday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. in town hall to begin work on the 1994-95 budget, said committee

chairman Ennis Swain.

The board of aldermen has changed the date of next month's regular meeting from May 9 to May 10. Several board members plan to attend the North Carolina Symphony's performance at Brunswick Community College on May 9.

Other Business

In other business Monday, aldermen:

■ Agreed to renew the town hall lawn maintenance contract with Scott Varnum for another year. Varnum mows the yard twice a month and is paid \$50 per mowing.

■ Voted to sell an old door to Herbert "Midget" Varnum for \$10. Officials have several other items they are interested in selling, including another door, a toilet and ceiling fan.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

Chamber Plans Fifth Secretaries' Day Luncheon

Charlotte Weddle, a well-known humorist and speaker from Greensboro, will be the guest speaker at the fifth Secretaries' Day Luncheon Wednesday, April 27.

The annual event is sponsored by the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce and the Brunswick Community College Small Business Center.

The luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Jones/Byrd Clubhouse at Sea Trail Plantation, Sunset Beach. This year, for the first time, the event will be open to employees of non-chamber members.

Weddle will speak on the topic, "What Do You Mean I Am Empowered?"

The luncheon will also include a fashion show featuring casual and

beach attire from Island Wear House of Ocean Isle Beach.

Harmony, West Brunswick High School's show choir, will entertain with its clown theme spring show.

Door prizes will be awarded that included mini-vacations, free entertainment tickets, complimentary meals and a cash prize. Each luncheon guest will also receive a gift.

Cost per person is \$12 for chamber members and \$15 for non-members. Any employers interested in sending their secretaries or escorting them personally must make reservations with the chamber office at 754-6644 no later than Friday, April 22.

The luncheon is a means of recognizing the services of secretaries, clerical workers, receptionists and administrative assistants.

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