

MORE LETTERS

Holden Beach Board Takes Heat Over Appointments

To the editor:

The commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach called a special meeting April 15 to appoint a new mayor to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mayor Wally Ausley, to serve until the next town election in 1995. Gay Atkins, who has been serving as mayor pro tem since the last election, was appointed mayor. This action created two more appointments to be made: a new mayor pro tem and a new commissioner.

It has been a tradition here in this town for commissioners receiving the most votes in the election to be appointed mayor pro tem by the other commissioners. For example, Gay Atkins received the most votes for commissioner in last election, and was serving as mayor pro tem before her appointment as mayor.

Appointing a new mayor pro tem and a new town commissioner would have been simple if the present commissioners had let tradition and the results of the last election determine who would fill these vacancies. If tradition had prevailed, David Sandifer would have been mayor pro tem because he received more votes than any of the other present commissioners. Jeff Lee, who ran for commissioner last election and lacked only four votes for winning, should have been appointed as the new commissioner. This action would have allowed the voters of the Town of Holden Beach to determine who should serve them in Town Hall.

At the town meeting April 20, Dwight Carroll, Jim Fournier and Sid Swarts disregarded intentionally the town tradition and the vote of the homeowners. Instead, they appointed Sid Swarts mayor pro tem and appointed Marlane Thomas as commissioner.

Marlane Thomas might be well-qualified for the appointment as commissioner, but she did not run for town commissioner in the last election. In the past, these commissioners have often accused, implied, and referred to developers, real estate

brokers and rental agencies of wilfully violating town ordinances. The public should not question the appointment of Gay Atkins, a real estate broker at Coastal Development and Realty Company, as mayor; she was serving as mayor pro tem and that appointment was determined by the voters of Holden Beach in the last election.

Many questions have not been answered: Why did those three commissioners refuse to appoint David Sandifer as mayor pro tem? According to the results of the last election, he would have been the choice of the voters.

The new mayor, a real estate broker at Coastal Development and Realty Company, was appointed April 15. Five days later, April 20, those three commissioners appointed Marlane Thomas, an employee at Coastal Development and Realty Company.

Considering the distrust these three commissioners have had for developers, real estate brokers and rental agencies, one can not help but wonder what Coastal Development and Realty Company did to persuade the commissioners to ignore the votes of the residents of Holden Beach.

When government leaders in other countries ignore the vote of their people and appoint officials to accomplish their own personal and political gains, the United States government and its citizens identify such action as dictatorship.

John F. Holden
Holden Beach
The writer is a former mayor of Holden Beach.

Not The Fair Thing

To the editor:

I had hopes that the commissioners of Holden Beach, given this chance, would do the right thing, the fair thing.

It was evident at the April 20 meeting that most of the commissioners have little consideration for their voters. For if they had, a "nat-

ural progression" would have taken place in filling the recent council vacancies.

Mayor Atkins, formerly mayor pro tem, acquired the pro tem title due to a singular reason—receiving the most votes for a commissioner in the 1993 election. Thus, by following this system, naturally the candidate to move into the position of mayor pro tem would be the next highest vote-getter not in office, which would be Jeff Lee, having lost the position by only three votes.

I am saddened to say these positions were filled quite "unnaturally." The newly appointed commissioner was not on the 1993 election ballot, therefore was not voted on in an election. Our vote is supposed to be our voice. We need officials in office who will recognize and represent the voters.

Victoria M. Lee
Holden Beach
The writer is the wife of Jeff Lee.

Railroad Job?

To the editor:

I have owned a house at Holden Beach for ten years. Just recently I have had the opportunity to become a permanent resident.

Wednesday, April 20, I attended my first board of commissioners' meeting. On the agenda was the nomination and election of a new commissioner.

Jim Lowell, a prominent resident and president of the Merchants' Association, strongly recommended we follow the procedure previously used in 1991 by filling the vacancy with the candidate in the November 1993 election who missed being elected to the board by the fewest votes.

In this case it would be Jeff Lee, losing by a mere three votes. The recommendation was completely ignored by the board. Jeff Lee and Marlane Thomas (who did not run as a candidate in the November 1993 election) were nominated. The board voted quickly, and Marlane Thomas filled the vacant seat.

I have been involved in small-town politics, but I have never seen a more obvious railroad job. This was definitely a pre-planned set-up to put Marlane Thomas on the board and override the voters' choice based on the results of the last election.

Be careful who you vote onto the board of commissioners. We want representatives of the people, not a coalition who decides among themselves and presents their decision to the people.

Audrey H. Ligon
Holden Beach
Show Respect

To the editor:

Election year seems the appropriate time to make long-needed changes at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department—changes that I have hesitated to mention until they directly affected my family.

It appears that the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department cannot find the time to be escorts for funerals when needed on the busy roads in our county.

My father-in-law, Lloyd Evans, passed away in May 1993. There was supposed to be a police escort at the intersection of N.C. 130 and Civictown Road, allowing the family procession to stay together traveling to Oak Grove Baptist Church. No patrolman ever showed up.

The residents of Brunswick County don't seem to believe in showing respect to the deceased or remorse for their family. Our sheriff's department must enforce this.

People could at least pull off the road until the procession passes. Those who break in line and pull into the middle of the procession don't realize that one day it will be their funeral procession! Our sheriff's department must enforce this also.

We had a close family member pass away in June 1993. Again, the sheriff's department failed to show up. The funeral director told us this occurs on a regular basis—he calls for an escort and no one comes, leaving him to lead the procession and handle traffic.

It appears Brunswick County deputies are satisfied running up and down the road blowing sirens or sitting at convenience stores drinking coffee. They are nowhere to be found when it's time for a funeral. They all go hide!

What really brought this to mind was when our aunt passed away in Conway, S.C., in February of this year. We had police escorts from Conway to Myrtle Beach and to the church. The patrolman made people pull off the road until the procession passed. There were patrolmen at every intersection—stopped, standing outside their cars, hats over chests, showing respect to the family.

The moral of the story, and my letter, is this: If you want a proper funeral and your family and funeral procession treated with respect, don't die in Brunswick County. Go to Myrtle Beach where they treat people with respect—both the living and the dead.

Elizabeth Evans
Supply
Don't Dismiss Claims

To the editor:

I congratulate Thurman Gause for fulfilling his campaign promise to keep us informed as to what is going on behind closed doors with the Brunswick County Board of Education.

After having talked with Mr. Gause and having been present at some board meetings over the last 18 months, I don't see how any of the board members could dismiss any of Mr. Gause's claims. All a person would have to do is secure copies of board minutes from past meetings.

Donna Baxter attacks Mr. Gause for making black-and-white issues out of board concerns. However, television news footage would show

Mr. Gause making the same claims months ago regarding minority recruitment and other issues.

I realize that Superintendent Ralph Johnston is a man of truth and honesty. It is strange that such issues could have slipped his mind when he directed that there be an entire task force formed to recruit minority teachers several months ago. This task force grew out of concerns of Mr. Gause and other Brunswick County concerned citizens.

With reference to inequities, tell me where the equity is in having only two black principals out of 12? In my conversation with Mr. Gause, he assured me that while he is concerned with black students, he is equally concerned with the education of white students, as this inequity will ultimately effect all students. Additionally, he is concerned with the curriculum being offered to black and white students in Brunswick County.

With reference to equal pay for equal duty, I'm not a mathematician, but I can count. Assistant Superintendent Ralph Ward needs to look at the number of students and teachers at Shallotte Middle School. There is clearly a larger number of students at Shallotte Middle School than Lincoln Primary or South Brunswick Middle School.

Mr. Ward references the education level of the two principals at Lincoln Primary or South Brunswick Middle schools. Are they paid based on their level of certification and years of experience? If not, then why is Mrs. Robinson being held to that level of pay? If there is some common denominator that affords these people a higher level of pay, let's also apply it at the central office level.

I look forward to the state auditor's report which will most likely substantiate much of what Mr. Gause has been saying throughout his term. I believe that he has been truthful. If there is any doubt in your mind, then why has Bill Fairley, who has struggled publicly during board meetings with his colleagues, now verbally withdrawn his bid for a seat on the board?

In my mind, Mr. Gause is one board member who has done exactly what he promised to do. Good or bad, he has kept the citizens of Brunswick County informed.

Franklin Randolph
Bo Vista
Coastline Cares

To the editor:

On Saturday night, April 2, while visiting at Holden Beach, my brother-in-law became seriously ill. The rescue squad was called and transported him to The Brunswick Hospital. The next afternoon he was transferred to Duke Medical Center. Since that time has undergone surgery and is now at home recuperating nicely.

I would like to express my appreciation on behalf of Houston Hester's entire family for the quick response of Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad and the care and concern they showed. I do not know the names of the men and women who responded, but they are trained people that Holden Beach can be proud of.

Many people tend to take our rescue squads for granted and do not appreciate them until someone in our own family has an emergency. We're blessed to have people willing to give their time to organizations like this.

I'd also like to extend thanks to Jackie and Richard Crabtree, our beach neighbors for their assistance that night and for being our good neighbors for many years.

We all love Holden Beach and hope to spend a lot more time there.

Joyce C. Dowless
Elizabethtown
Who Discriminates?

To the editor:

Outlandishly drawn voting dis-

tricts contrived to guarantee the election of black candidates: Does this mean that white legislators cannot competently represent blacks?

What about the reverse? Black women have won the Miss America contest, but white women are precluded from entering the Miss Black America contest.

The National Association For The Advancement Of Colored People, and the United Negro College Fund: Are there comparable organizations for whites?

Constant harping by black leaders to end black-on-black violence. Does this mean that they condone any other violence? Why not preach against all violence?

Black history month; constant anti-semitic tirades by the Nation of Islam; an Atlanta, Ga., telephone book that lists only black-owned businesses; violence perpetrated against Korean merchants who dare to operate in black neighborhoods; not admitting Haitian AIDS carriers is racist because they happen to be black; quotas for colleges that disregard qualifications in the interest of so called diversity: These are only a few examples. The list is endless.

Two questions beg for answers: Who is really being discriminated against? Do minorities really want integration or special consideration?

John McAleer
Calabash

Many Fine People

To the editor:

Recently, our family experienced a monumental tragedy in the loss of our most precious Julie Marie Parker. In the early hours of dealing with this most painful time of our lives, we received comfort and assistance from some very fine people in the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, rescue squad and many others involved with 911. For their help and concern we are most thankful, and proud that they are there for all of us in this county.

As time passed, the out pouring of love and concern that our family received has been monumental as well. For the many friends who visited our home, sent food, flowers, and wrote us to share our grief and, most of all, remembered us in their prayers, we are very very thankful and humbled.

We are very thankful for all the young people and adults who knew our Julie and came by to share their memories of her with us. Also, the many people who have experienced similar tragedies in their lives who have written us, or visited, have made quite an impact upon our lives. Please thank Eric Carlson for his column, which showed what a fine person and responsible reporter he is.

I have lived in Brunswick County all my life and have always been appreciative of the many fine people who make this place such a great part of the world. The actions of so many of the residents of our fine county which my family and I have been able to observe in the last ten days has just reinforced our love for them. I find myself at a loss for words to express my appreciation of the love we have received.

Ricky Parker
Supply

Write Us

We welcome your letters to the editor. Letters must include your address and telephone number. (This information is for verification purposes only; we will not publish your street/mailling address or phone number.) Letters must be typed or written legibly. Address letters to:
The Brunswick Beacon
P.O. Box 2558
Shallotte NC 28459
Anonymous letters will not be published.

Short Attention-Span Column

Ever hear of the television show "Short Attention Span Theater?" Think of this as Short Attention Span Column—I have some things on my mind today, none requiring more than cursory mention. Here goes:

Sometimes when I read signs, I can't help being curious about what kind of incident might have provoked them.

In McDonalds dining room, on the staff entrance to the food prep area, it says this: "NO HIGH CHAIRS IN FRONT OF DOOR." Ouch!

In Hendersonville, there's this one in a Baptist church graveyard: "DO NOT BURY WITHOUT FIRST NOTIFYING CEMETERY COMMITTEE."

Outside Shallotte, this is painted free-hand on the side of a shed: "NO DRINKING OR CUSSING."

I once saw this one in a laundromat: "DO NOT DIE IN MACHINES."

No problem.

Which reminds me of the answering machine message I once heard when I called Mickey the Sign Man up in the mountains:

"If you're calling to order a sign, we'll get back to you. If you're calling about a sign you still owe us for, we're on our way out to your place to dig it up. If you're calling to check on a sign you ordered months ago, it's just about ready. Don't lose your temper with us; we're slow and expensive, but we're #@&* good!"

Speaking of customer service: I went to buy a roll of film and remembered while in the middle of



Lynn Carlson

the store that I needed a couple of big bags of potting soil. I looked around to see if I could find a cart and avoid going all the way back to the entrance to get one. There was an empty buggy next to an "associate" who was stocking shelves.

"Is it okay if I use this?" I asked. She let out a big sigh, looked at me as if I were a puddle of ooze and said impatiently, "Well, I reckon I could see if I can find another one somewhere else..."

I told her not to trouble herself; then I went home and wrote her boss—the big boss at corporate HQ.

I was in a drug store to buy two packages of No. 4 cone-shaped coffee filters. I found them there after having struck out at four other places. The only customer at the register, I had to wait for the clerk to finish her protracted conversation with a co-worker before she rang up my paltry \$2 purchase. She didn't acknowledge my presence before, during or after the transaction. I said "you're welcome" even though she didn't say "thank-you," hoping to make my point, or at least to pick a fight. She ignored that, too.

It affirmed my affection for mom-and-pop shops. A while back we bought a gas grill from a business owned and run by a local family. A couple of days after the purchase,

they called the office and left a message saying they'd forgotten to tell us we were entitled to a free filled gas bottle. They didn't have to make that extra effort, but they did.

With family businesses, you rarely get treated as if you're imposing when you ask to get a key made, a watch battery replaced or your car inspected. If it costs a couple of extra bucks, I think it's worth it.

There are still folks out there who care about helping. Take Edna Parodi of Calabash, a long-time first aide and water safety instructor. Edna wants to pass along an idea she heard from her daughter, Dee Parodi Dunham, an emergency medical technician in New Jersey.

Edna says it's a good idea to carry a pair of latex surgical gloves in a 35-mm film canister in your car. That way, if you happen upon an accident, you can offer your help and be protected against blood-borne diseases. She advises that you must use the black plastic canisters, not the clear ones; you don't want the latex exposed to sunlight. She says photo shops are usually happy to give away their extra canisters just to be rid of them.

There are words I'd like to be rid of, especially:

Keyboarding. This is an asinine and needless "verbing" of a perfectly good noun. What was wrong with "typing"?

This "verbing" trend is embarrassing. I once received a news release from a church saying that there would be "fellowshipping" after morning worship.

And on that note, I'll stop keyboarding for this week and go home to fellowship my loved ones.

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