

PUBLIC HEARINGS JUNE 7

Shalotte May Annex 37 Acres

BY DOUG RUTTER

The proposed annexation of approximately 37 acres of commercial and residential property into Shalotte will be the purpose of two public hearings scheduled June 7.

Aldermen will receive public comments on the possible annexation of about 15 acres of commercial land on Main Street and a 22-acre planned residential community on Pender Street.

Landowner Alvin "Buddy" Milliken Jr. has requested annexation of the Pender Street property, which is contiguous to the existing town limits.

The Shalotte Planning Board has recommended annexation of the Milliken property as well as five commercial parcels at the north end of town that are not contiguous.

Three of the parcels are owned by Jo Ann Simmons, Bobby Long, William Powell and Wallace Smith jointly own another and the fifth is owned by Dr. James Mulholland.

Long, who is handling the annexation request for all five owners, said the area includes about seven acres on the north side of the U.S. 17 Bypass.

It has been town board policy in the past not to approve non-contiguous or "satellite" annexation.

However, aldermen said last week the town needs to grow and they hope to eventually annex the one tract that separates the town and commercial land under consideration.

Taxi Cab Franchise

In addition to the annexation hearings, sched-

uled for 7:15 p.m., aldermen will hold a second public hearing on the proposed renewal of Johnny Moody's taxi cab franchise at their June 7 meeting.

There were no comments on the issue at a May 17 hearing. Officials have been reviewing the town's taxi cab franchise ordinance, but have not developed any proposed changes.

Rescue Squad Leaving?

Also June 7, aldermen will continue talking about the possible move of the Shalotte Volunteer Rescue Squad headquarters to Ocean Isle Beach.

Board members and Shalotte VRS Chief Mark Gore discussed the possible move last week, and town officials asked Gore to return to the June 7 meeting with figures showing the squad's financial needs.

Gore said Ocean Isle Beach Property Owners Association officials initiated discussion the move after the squad members asked the group to help fund a substation near Ocean Isle where an ambulance could be stationed.

The Shalotte Volunteer Rescue Squad building is located on land owned by Leonard and David Rourke, and squad members don't know how much longer they will be allowed to stay.

Gore said the lease for the property has expired and the Rourks have agreed to let the squad stay for now. However, the owners do not want a new lease because they don't want to tie up the land.

If the Rourks decide to do something else with the property, Gore said they have promised to

give the rescue squad six months to relocate. Relocation would be difficult for Shalotte VRS, which Gore says is in bad financial shape and could not afford to move.

"We don't want to move. This is centrally located to our area," Gore said last week. "If there's some way we could work it out we would love to stay here."

"We should look at this very seriously," Alderman Roney Cheers said. "It's been a fixture here for many years and it's a needed service."

"We've been here 26 years," Gore said. "There's no need to move after 26 years. But to be honest, I'd rather see us move than close our doors."

Parks And Rec Photo Contest Winners Told

Daisy Cartier of Calabash was first-place winner in the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department's recent amateur photography contest. The theme was North Carolina's coastal waters.

Forty-one color entries were submitted. Second place went to Manley Dodson of Long Beach; third place, Rich Brooks of Wilmington; and honorable mention, Marlene J. Hahn of Holden Beach.

Their photographs and all the entries will be on display June 2-22 at Franklin Square Art Gallery in Southport.

Sunset Police Nab One, Seek Another In Island Break-Ins

Sunset Beach Police have arrested a South Carolina woman and have issued a bulletin for her "armed and dangerous" boyfriend in connection with a string of break-ins at vacation homes on the island this month.

The pair is believed to have broken into at least three vacant houses and lived in each one while looking for others to burglarize, Sunset Beach Police Sgt. Lisa Massey said Tuesday.

"They would enter the attics of the homes through the service crawlspace and break through the sheet rock ceiling to get inside," Massey said. "That way they left no evidence of a break-in for anyone looking from the outside."

The thieves activities were discovered May 9, when a Florence, S.C., woman arrived for a visit to her home on 28th Street and found a car parked in her driveway, Massey said. As she unlocked the front door, the woman heard someone running out the back.

Massey said she searched the 1983 Mazda left behind in the woman's driveway and discovered papers that revealed the identity of the two suspects. She also found pawn tickets from items stolen in the break-ins.

A few days later, a maid went to check a house on 34th Street for the owners and discovered that someone had broken in and appeared to be living there. She also found what appeared to be a home-made fake shotgun, Massey said.

"He had taken the metal tube

from a floor lamp and used a piece of baseboard to carve into a stock," Massey said. "He even made a trigger-guard for it out of a piece of wire. We believe they may have been planning for her to use it in an armed robbery."

Massey and Sunset Beach Police Lt. Sam Grantham were able to trace the papers found in the vehicle to Elien Boyce Green, 23, of Florence. She has been arrested and charged with one count of second-degree burglary and three charges each of felonious breaking and entering and larceny. Other charges are pending, Massey said.

Boyce is being held in the Brunswick County Jail in lieu of a \$23,000 bond. Most of the more than \$3,000 worth of stolen property has been recovered, Massey said.

The officers have issued a bulletin on the police computer network for the arrest of Jonathan Keith Rogers, also of Florence, who may also use the names Keith Gardener or Keith Ard, Massey said. Rogers is described as a white male, 5 feet 6 inches tall, with blonde hair, blue eyes and numerous tattoos. He considered armed and dangerous and is believed to be in the possession of a blue steel semi-automatic pistol.

Anyone who has information regarding Rogers activities or whereabouts should call the Sunset Beach Police Department at (910) 579-2151 or Detective Tom Hunter of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department at 1-800-672-6379 or (910) 253-4321.

School Board Calls Closed-Door Session With Attorney

The Brunswick County Board of Education has canceled a tour of schools in the western attendance district and two meetings relating to policy changes.

Instead, the board will meet Friday, May 27, at 1:30 p.m. in the board room in Southport for an executive session on attorney/client and personnel matters, most likely stemming from an investigation into the improper sale last summer of school food service equipment to a Long Beach restaurant owner.

Policy sessions scheduled May 20 and May 26 were canceled, along with the May 27 tour of Union Elementary, Shalotte Middle and West Brunswick High schools.

The board is expected to meet Friday with Richard Schwartz, a

Raleigh attorney who specializes in school law. Along with assisting with the policy manual update, Schwartz was hired by the board as part of its investigation of an incident last summer in which school food service property was sold privately to an individual. Following the incident, one employer was reprimanded and another fired, then returned to work. A suit was brought against the restaurant owner, seeking return of the merchandise or its cash value.

Schwartz has issued a preliminary report to the board and was to make his final written report this month. Superintendent Ralph Johnston said at the board's last meeting he anticipated making the findings of that investigation public.



STAFF PHOTO BY LINDA CHEESE

Ken's Pawn Opens In New Site

A ribbon-cutting ceremony May 21 marked the grand opening of Ken's Pawn Shop in its new location at 4498 Main St., Shalotte. Pictured (from left) are Robert H. Tucker, Steve Miller, Sam Hughes, Crystal Miller, Robbie Tucker, Beulah Tucker, James Tucker, Shalotte Mayor Sarah Tripp, Bob McMillan and Ken Tucker.

Conditions Ripe For Fire; Burning Ban In Effect Here

A ban on permitted open burning went into effect in Brunswick and 39 other counties east of I-85 Monday afternoon because of hazardous forest fire conditions.

The N.C. Division of Forest Resources canceled burning permits, and all open burning regardless of whether a permit was issued. The ban does not apply to fires burning within 100 feet of an occupied home.

The division issued the ban because of dry weather conditions, low humidity and high winds forecast for the week, and because of the high number of its employees already fighting fire in this part of the state.

Nearly 150 workers are still

working the 8,647-acre Angola Bay fire on the Duplin/Fender County line, limiting the availability of personnel and equipment to fight any other major fire that might occur in the region.

Wind-blown ash from the Angola Bay fire has drifted as far southwest as Bolivia. The fire remains within containment lines; however, anticipated weather conditions make it more likely that any fires will escape control, according to the division.

Brunswick County Forest Ranger Miller Caison said forest fire activity has been "pretty slow" here, at least for the past several days, but that conditions favor wildfire.

"It's dry enough," he said Tuesday.

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