

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Retiree Questions High Tax Rate, Low Scores

To the editor:
Eric Carlson's column "Look Past The Surface Of School Funds Appeal" is must reading for every Brunswick taxpayer. I agree 100 percent with his statements.

I am a taxpayer in an area between Calabash and Sunset Beach. I am 79 and my wife is 76 and we are on a fixed income, as are most in our development. When we moved here in 1981 my neighbor and I decided to buy the empty lot between us, and it cost us \$2,500 each. In 1992 my property assessment had risen to \$13,000. In 1993 it was doubled to \$26,000.

The tax commissioners' reason was that we were living in the fastest growing area in Brunswick County (between Calabash and Sunset Beach). In our development west of N.C. 179 we have approximately 75 homeowners and only two children of school age.

That makes 74 of us that are on fixed incomes. These two children are picked up by two different buses before 7 a.m. and delivered again in the afternoon (on Wednesdays at noon).

Doubling our property assessment is our reward for being a beautiful, elderly, law-abiding, low-crime area. We do not receive one service from Brunswick County.

I estimate that 75 percent of county law enforcement costs are spent in northern Brunswick County.

In the same issue was an article that states the following:

1. Fifteen of every 100 teenage girls in Brunswick County becomes pregnant every year.

2. One in three Brunswick County children lives in a single parent home.

This is simply a disgrace. How many of these single parents are not taxpayers and receive food stamps?

One thing our schools excel in is football and basketball. The last I heard was that these great athletes only have to enroll in two academic subjects in the year that they participate in these sports.

Why does Brunswick County have the lowest SAT scores in North Carolina and the USA? Before we give them this increase let's see some improvement.

On top of this, we have already received our new tax bill, which includes the 10 cents per hundred school board increase which is still under appeal and certainly shouldn't be turned over to a lame duck board of education to be spent by a com-

Write Us

We welcome your letters to the editor. Letters must have an original signature and 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.

pletely different board of Education. I would opt for Mr. Carlson's suggestion of an audit.

Herbert A. Haseley
Calabash

Calabash Appointment Process Is Criticized

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following was addressed to Jon Sanborn, Calabash mayor pro tem. A copy was furnished for use as a letter to the editor. It has been edited.

To the editor:

I am extremely disappointed in the manner in which the vacancies on the boards of the South Brunswick Water and Sewer Authority and of the commissioners of the Town of Calabash were filled.

On the afternoon of Aug. 2, Rob Davis introduced himself and provided copies of a letter indicating his interest in the SBWSA position, and his resume, to the board of commissioners. At the conclusion of the presentation, he was told by you that the committee would consider his application and that of another interested party, Stu Thorn, and would then recommend one candidate to the full board. No such recommendation was made, the other commissioners were not given copies of Mr. Davis' letter and resume, nor was Mr. Davis invited to the Aug. 9 meeting to re-present himself.

What constitutes Mr. Thorn's qualifications, if any, for that position is not reflected in the record; all anybody knows officially is that he was formerly a commissioner who lost his bid for re-election. Mr. Thorn may well be the more qualified individual, or he may not be; the point is that there is absolutely no evidence of any attempt to determine which of the two was better equipped to serve, and that Mr. Thorn's selection was made on some other basis.

As to filling the vacancy on the board of commissioners created by the resignation of Al Leisey, a similar mockery of due process took place. I was astounded when I saw

that you hadn't bothered to open my letter, hand-delivered by me 8 days earlier on Aug. 1, until moments before a vote was to be taken, nor had the copies which I had provided been distributed to the other commissioners.

You vocally glossed over my letter and then read aloud Ray Card's one-paragraph note which had been submitted that very day. What or who prompted Mr. Card to get involved again, no one is saying, but it's not a mystery to me. This is the same Ray Card who was not elected to his first term, but was appointed to replace Ed Schaack, who became the building inspector—the same Ray Card who did not run for election. The record does not reflect what other credentials Mr. Card may possess; again, the point is that no attempt was made to ascertain which candidate was better qualified to serve as a representative of the residents of District 2, and that Mr. Card's selection was also made on other than a proper basis.

As elected officials, the mayor and commissioners are charged with the responsibility of acting at all times with the best interests of all the citizens of Calabash in mind, and it is obvious that in this instance (and in several others) you didn't even come close. The entire vacancy-filling process was a sham which took a total of about 5 minutes—less time than it usually takes one of your committee chairmen to explain why he has "nothing to report."

In fact, the vote itself may be invalid; both the taped record and the written record officially reflect a vote of 3-1 in each case, and 4 votes do not a quorum make. If that debacle represents your best efforts and judgment, then the citizens have more to be concerned about than they presently think.

Edwin R. Mugridge
Calabash

Everybody's Beach

To the editor:
The disgruntled group of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association

is now polling the membership for support in seceding from the town of Sunset Beach.

This is not about R-E-S-P-E-C-T, representation or services to the island, nor is it under the noble guise of protecting and preserving the fragile uniqueness of the island environment. This is about the arrogant selfish desire of this disgruntled group to control the access and use of the public beach.

This is not their beach. This is our beach. Those of us that own a 50-foot-wide strip of the island have no special privileges above and beyond those of other citizens. A public beach is for all to enjoy the surf, sand and the sunset.

I think those of us living in Sea Trail, Sugar Sands, Twin Lakes, Carolina Shore, Shallotte, Charlotte, Raleigh Little River and others who use and love our public beach should tell this disgruntled group of the SBTA that this is not their beach. This is our beach and we will not relinquish our right and privilege to the full use of it.

I propose that we start a campaign to save our beach. Send your cards and letters to the SBTA expressing your displeasure with their attempt to bar your full use of this public beach. In lieu of sending those cards and letters to the SBTA, send them to me at 407 Shoreline Drive W., Sunset Beach, and I will present them to the SBTA at their next public meeting.

Carl Bazemore
Sunset Beach
(More Letters, Following Page)

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When you finish reading it, try to recycle it!
THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Not Fade Away

What a drag it is to get o-o-old.

"They're playing your song, mama," Patrick laughed while Mick Jaggur sang on the radio as we motored into downtown Columbia. His friend snickered, too.

Hah! I thought. Would an old person take you two teenagers to a Rolling Stones concert just six days shy of her 40th birthday? I don't think so.

Would an old person bankroll you ponytailed, baggy-pants young'uns at \$53 each for a more spectacular show than you'd ever get from those chronically depressed musicians you guys watch on MTV? Not likely.

Would an old person let you loose in a crowd of 30,000 or more (directions to the car and cellular phone number written down in your pockets, of course) to experience the phenomenon from the vantage point of your choice? Never.

Would an old person understand your need to wander the hotel before and after the show "looking for weird people" and pretending you're there without accompanying adults? Not on your life.

Eric and I went to see the Stones five years ago in Birmingham—Alabama, not England—and it was different this time. Not the show so much; there was still the mix of new songs and familiar old ones, the lights and fireworks and gargantuan inflatables, the giant video screen, and a sound system powerful enough to make every note feel like a heart palpitation.

It wasn't that the Rolling Stones were older, either. On stage they're still ageless, potent and larger than life despite being a decade older than I am.

It was bringing along a second generation that made the difference, made me look at the scene through middle-age eyes. Glancing over the crowd before the show, I didn't see just revelers. I saw lots of balding pates, crows' feet, thick middles and wedding rings mixed in among the young and the hip.

I heard folks talking about their jobs and their kids, remembering Stones concerts from 20 years ago, and complaining about how scary it was to try to maneuver through the crush of people at the gates.

One guy was furious because his brother had gotten arrested at a Fairfield County police checkpoint. I didn't hear him say what the offense was. "Man, I had to leave him behind and sell his ticket," he lamented. "Now he's in jail and I'm here."

"I'm a lawyer," said a woman in the row in front of him. It dawned on me that this was largely a crowd of responsible adults—office workers and entrepreneurs, dentists and guidance counselors, Rotarians and bridge players, Volvo owners and mortgagees, mothers and fathers, even new grandparents.

Then the lights went down. Flames shot from the mouth of the 90-foot metal cobra on the stage. Drumbeats signaled the beginning of "Not Fade Away." For the next two hours we were just fans, dancing and applauding, singing along word for word the music that best chronicles the 30 years between our adolescence and now. Not fading away.

Patrick and his friend were at the car when we got there. Both had on their new \$25 Stones T-shirts. Both raved about the show.

Eric and I were beat and already starting to dread the early wake-up call and the drive back to Brunswick. The boys were stoked.

"When we get to the hotel, y'all can go hang out, but take your key and don't make noise coming in," I told them. "We're going to sleep."

As we sat in the traffic jam leaving the stadium, Pat said quietly to no one in particular, "This was one of the best times I've ever had." Getting old may be a drag, but it has its moments.



Lynn Carlson

ATTENTION MEN OVER 50!

National Prostate Awareness Week is September 18-24

Prostate disease is of growing concern in your age category. Consider:

- Prostate cancer has surpassed lung cancer as the leading form of cancer in men and may affect as many as 50% of all men;
- Prostate cancer has become the #2 cause of death in men;
- Most urologists recommend yearly checkups to rule out any possibility of cancer;
- Additionally, one out of every three men over the age of 50 suffer symptoms of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH), characterized by frequent nighttime urination, a weak urine stream, and/or the inability to completely empty the bladder;
- Diagnosis of both prostate cancer and BPH involve use of the American Urological Association (AUA) Symptom Score Index, a rectal exam by a physician, and a Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test.

Please take the AUA Prostate Symptom Index Test IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

SYMPTOM SCORE	SYMPTOM SEVERITY					
	1-7	8-19	20-35	Mild	Moderate	Severe
NOCTURIA Over the last month or so, how many times did you most typically get up to urinate from the time you went to bed at night until the time you got up in the morning?	0	1	2	3	4	5
INCOMPLETE EMPTYING Over the past month or so, how often have you had a sensation of not emptying your bladder completely after you finished urinating?	0	1	2	3	4	5
FREQUENCY Over the past month or so, how often have you had to urinate again less than two hours after you finished urinating?	0	1	2	3	4	5
INTERMITTENCY Over the past month or so, how often have you found that you stopped and started again several times when you urinated?	0	1	2	3	4	5
URGENCY Over the past month or so, how often have you found it difficult to postpone urination?	0	1	2	3	4	5
WEAK STREAM Over the past month or so, how often have you had a weak urinary stream?	0	1	2	3	4	5
STRAINING Over the past month or so, how often have you had to push or strain to begin urination?	0	1	2	3	4	5



TAKE THE TEST!

** If you have Moderate (total score 8-19) or Severe (total score 20-35) urinary symptoms, please contact your family doctor or local urologist to schedule a thorough examination.

From the American Urological Association (AUA) Symptom Index for BPH. 310-501-2789-35 (25) • February 1994 • Printed in U.S.A.

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