



### Counselor Opens Office

Professional counselor Nancy Wood gets help officially opening her Brunswick County office at 107 East 8th Street, Southport. Pictured (from left) are Wayne Berry, Nancy Wood, Bill Wood, Southport Mayor Norman Holden, Bob Gray and Marvin Fullwood. Wood offers private counseling for individuals, couples and adolescents.

## Waccamaw River Study Group Seeking Answers From Locals, Consultants

BY SUSAN USHER

A coalition of state agencies attempting to address concerns about the Waccamaw River Basin is hiring consultants to help with three aspects of the study, but also wants help from local residents.

The study was prompted by local residents' concerns regarding fluctuations in water level and water quality, an apparent decline in the fishery, sediment and blockages in the river, and related land use changes.

"That's all difficult to get a handle on in a basin that's 1,000 square miles in size and you're working with only a little money," said John Sutherland of the state Water Resources Division planning section.

Sutherland and Jeff Bruton want to hear from local residents with information about where problems are occurring on the river such as debris blockages and heavy sedimentation, locations of ditches that carry water out of the river basins and documentation of problems with the fishery.

Sutherland said available data from as far back as 1939 shows that water flows in the river do vary widely from year to year and month to month, but that basic records alone don't show "entirely what's happening." A hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey has been commissioned to determine if the flows fluctuate more rapidly now than in the past, and do the flows drop to lower levels than in the past. He will compare rainfall and flow data in the Waccamaw River Basin and in the Lumber River Basin.

If the flow has changed, the steering committee will propose installation of additional gauges and several water control structures to obtain a better understanding of the flow patterns and how structure might affect them.

In a second study, state university system researchers will collect and review existing fishery data taken by agencies such as the Wildlife Resources Commission, Division of Environmental Management and the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences since the 1960s, analyze it for trends in the recreational or sport fishery.

"A decline in the sport fishery was one of the big concerns expressed," said Sutherland. "None of the studies have been as large in scope to cover the entire drainage

*In Waccamaw River itself, water quality is not a problem except for concentrations of heavy metals reflected in mercury contamination of several predator species, large-mouth bass and blackfish.*

basin. If there is not enough data they will develop a system for collecting data needed to fill the gaps."

Maintaining water quality in Lake Waccamaw is another concern the state plans to address using a university researcher. Sewer lines at times have overflowed into canals on the northwest side of the lake, but that problem has been mostly fixed with routing of a line around the swamp area and away from the canals. But one pump station is still located in the area. The study will look at the broader issue of general stormwater runoff as a factor possibly contributing to a decline in water quality.

In Waccamaw River itself, water quality is not a problem except for concentrations of heavy metals reflected in mercury contamination of several predator species, large-mouth bass and blackfish. "There doesn't appear to be any real bacterial problem," he said.

Two other needed studies are pending, one by the Soil Conservation Service will address sedimentation in the river, both accumulation and bedload movement.

Using mainly data from local counties, the other will examine land use changes that have occurred in the basin over time such as conversion of lands to new uses and drainage activity.

"We don't know yet how to tackle these," Sutherland said. "We don't know yet the specific questions we want to answer. We hope to get going on them in two or three months."

The next public meeting on the study will most likely be held in late February. The study is a joint effort of the state Divisions of Environmental Management, Forest Resources, Parks and Recreation, Soil and Water Conservation and Water

Resources, and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, with support from several federal agencies.

Bruton can be contacted at 919-715-0387.

## Commissioners Told Zoning Prohibits Use Of Family's Land

BY ERIC CARLSON

They say no man is an island. But the Nichols family of Southport feels their tiny subdivision on the Cape Fear River has been turned into a useless island condemned to oblivion by the Brunswick County Zoning Ordinance.

That was the message county commissioners heard Monday night from 17 relatives who want their little piece of family land in Brunswick County's giant heavy manufacturing zone re-designated to allow residential construction.

"They told us at the planning board meeting that we were an island in 20,000 acres," said Ted Applegate, who subdivided the property in 1990 to allow family members to live together there.

"Well, we're an island that's staying. We're not moving," he said.

The land in question is a small cluster of eight lots located just off the river among large tracts controlled by the Pfizer Chemical Corporation, Brunswick Nuclear Plant, the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point, the Archer Daniels Midland Corporation and other industrial interests.

In keeping with the primary usage of property there, the entire area was zoned H-M for heavy manufacturing, County Planner Wade Horne told the commissioners Monday.

Under the H-M designation, no new homes can be built or located in the zone. Any existing residence is considered a non-conforming use of the property and cannot be expanded. If destroyed by fire or natural

disaster, the homes cannot be rebuilt.

Dawn Nichols Weikle told the board that her 82-year-old grandmother inherited the land in 1942 after promising never to sell it to anyone outside the family.

"Her dream is to have her family near her," Weikle said. "A lot of women her age are in nursing homes and she does not want to be. She won't have to with her family there."

Pietra Nichols told the commissioners that the property has been in her family since the 1920s, long before industrial users began moving into the area.

"How can we be nonconforming when we were here first?" she asked.

Lowell Nichols, a native of Southport, said he always planned to return to the family land after retiring from his civil service career.

"It has always been my intention to build a retirement home on this little piece of property. It's always been my mother's dream to have her family move home," he said. "Now you say I can't and I'm angry. Any law that deprives people of their legal and moral rights is a bad law."

Wally Nichols said the family did not realize they were in a heavy manufacturing zone until his brother applied for permits to build a home and was told he couldn't. He said the county was made aware of the Nichols' intentions several years

ago—before zoning—when the family followed the planning department's advice to subdivide the property.

Horne cautioned that for the board to create a new residential zone in the middle of a large industrial tract would constitute illegal spot zoning.

Commissioner Jerry Jones, who is also a member of the planning board, said that group learned of the Nichols' problems and voted unanimously to recommend that the commissioners rezone the property residential.

"I believe I made that motion," Jones said. "But I don't want to see us wind up in court. We've been there enough."

Horne said the planning department has asked officials in other counties about the problem.

"They suggested that we not spot zone," he said. "Our opinion is if we re-zone this property it will be spot zoning. I don't want to see us pursue that and end up in court."

Horne said the zoning law could be amended to allow some residential development in heavy manufacturing zones as "a special use" exception. He suggested that the board schedule a public hearing at which the planning staff will present alternatives for dealing with the Nichols property.

The commissioners voted unanimously to set a public hearing for Jan. 17 at 5:30 p.m.

### Timothy P. Gible, M.D.

Internal Medicine  
Board Certified

An internist specializes in all aspects of adult medical care, from a common cold, stomach or skin problems to chronic illness to intensive care. Internists provide preventive and acute care and many outpatient and inpatient medical needs. Also, they provide diagnostic services and referrals to subspecialists, if necessary.

### Susan Gible, PA-C

Physician Assistant Certified

A physician assistant provides care through assessing, diagnosing, prescribing medications and treatment, ordering diagnostic testing and offering educational needs, always under supervision of a physician.

3 Medical Center Dr.  
Supply, NC 28462  
On the Brunswick  
Hospital Campus



Office (910)754-8921  
New patients welcome  
Costwise & Medicare  
Assignment

©1994 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

A Very Special Announcement...

## Carolina Eye Associates Is Proud to Offer Fellowship Trained Specialized Eye Care in Myrtle Beach & Brunswick County



Shawn F. Riley, M.D.  
Fellowship Trained  
& Specializing In...

Glaucoma Surgery  
Laser Treatment  
of Glaucoma  
Cataract Surgery &  
Diseases of the Anterior Eye



Igor Westra, M.D.  
Fellowship Trained  
& Specializing In...

Diabetic Eye Disease  
Macular Degeneration  
Diseases & Disorders  
of the  
Retina & Vitreous

To Make An Appointment, Please Call  
**754-5434**

Brunswick Center or Toll-Free (800) 422-1564

### CAROLINA EYE ASSOCIATES

The Eye Surgery Specialists

Brunswick Hospital (910) 754-5434 or (800) 422-7564  
Myrtle Beach, 1115 48th Ave N. #121 (803) 449-6478 or (800) 758-6478  
Brunswick County, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greenville, Jacksonville, Kannapolis, Laurinburg, Lumberton, Myrtle Beach, Pinehurst, Raleigh, Sanford, Swansboro, Wilmington

*Steamer*  
Restaurant and Lounge  
E. Second Street • Ocean Isle Beach • 579-0535  
(Beside Jungle Golf)

Open 12 Noon  
Christmas Day

Join Us...

Family • Friends • Football • Fun

Local's Appreciation  
Winter Special

Our "Famous" 1/2 Pound Cheeseburger  
Complete w/Fries!

**\$1.99**

Only

(Valid 11 am-2 pm daily)  
Present Coupon Exp. 12/31/94

## New Year's Eve Party

Choose From...

•Prime Rib •Shrimp Scampi  
(Turf) OR (Surf)

Surf & Turf Combo

includes salad, vegetable, potato & dessert

Then Party To

"Carolina Gold"

•Party Favors  
•Champagne Toast

Also  
Complete Packages Available  
Including Overnight  
Accommodations

Only **\$89** per couple



Don't Forget Our Complete

Breakfast & Lunch Specials only **\$3.50**

15% off Breakfast or Lunch w/ Church Bulletin

Open 5:30 AM-Until...Everyday!

RAW BAR NIGHTLY 5-7 PM

Steamed Oysters	Crab Leg Cluster	Steamed Clams	Peel 'n Eat Shrimp	Buffalo Wings
25¢	\$2	35¢	\$3.95 1/2 lb.	15¢

Christmas Special

AYCE Spaghetti (Wed. 12.21) Only **99¢**

Wishing You



Larry Houstess



Jimmy Marshall

Brunswick Square, Hwy. 17 S., Shallotte  
754-8400

**Woodmen  
of the World**  
Life Insurance Society  
Home Office: Omaha, Nebraska