

Our Local Post Office

By Dan Law

There are many rumors running around regarding the future status of our local post offices. So I have been playing investigative reporter trying to dig up the-real story and hoped to print the facts here, but I do not feel I have the full story yet. I have interviewed postal employees and postmasters at three of the four local post offices so far. Almost everyone has declined to comment officially, and without a proper source to quote, I will not print the anonymous stories.

The only person confident to go on the record with her statement was our Atlantic Beach Postmaster, Ms. Traxler, to whom I would like to say thank you. She gave me what I consider to be the public-relations official answer. According to Ms. Traxler, the future of our local post office will be fully determined after the current postal study has been completed. This process can take up to a year to complete. She stated that the current status is business as usual. There are no current plans to reduce operations or customer services, and we can continue leasing our post office boxes with confidence.

Our local home service carriers may be transferred to work out of the post office in Morehead City, which will not change how our home mail service is handled. It will be business as usual. Part of the study will be considering whether to continue using the current building in Atlantic Beach. The property there is very valuable and could be put on the market for sale. If that happens, our Atlantic Beach office will just move to a cheaper, rented location in our local community to continue our post office mail boxes and other services currently provided.

Another postmaster provided a phone number in Charlotte, where I was supposed to be able to obtain more information regarding the future of our three island postal outlets. So far, after several calls to that office, I have only talked to an answering machine, and no one has returned my calls. I've spent hours online looking for any other official information and haven't found any list or evidence that differs from Ms. Traxler's information. There is a list on the Web that addresses some North Carolina post offices that are currently slated for closure, but our local offices are not on this list.

I have also e-mailed an inquiry to the official government oversight office, the Postal Regulatory Commission, seeking input for this article, and so far, they too have not responded. If you wish to view the information on the Web page, go to <http://prc.gov/prc-pages/default.aspx>. I will continue to investigate this issue and will submit more information as it becomes available in coming months.

Summer Travel

(Continued from 13)

there are so many wonderful sites to see, from shining sea to the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains. There are just too many historic and scenic destinations in our great state to be able to see them all in just one month. So how do you decide which ones to visit? Which sites offer both scenic views and an educational experience?

Here's one smart way to decide. By going to <http://gis.ncdcr.gov/hpoweb>, you can take your family for a hop on a virtual magic carpet ride. Fly over the state's cities and towns online; zoom down to Victorian neighborhoods, old commercial districts and textile mill villages; and stroll up and down the street.

This Web site maps the state's 2,700 listings in the National Register of Historic Places, which includes 500 historic districts and 32,000 other places that have other types of historic designations or have been recorded in historic building inventories over the past 40 years. "It may be a little bewildering at first look, because there is so much on it," says Michael T. Southern, Senior Architectural Historian/GIS Coordinator, who coordinates computer mapping for the Department of Cultural Resources' State Historical Preservation Office (HPO). Southern reports that eventually all of approximately 120,000 properties documented in the HPO's survey files will be mapped.

Ask about our Limo Rates!

Carteret Cab

Also available
7 Passenger Vans



Be a 'CC Rider'

Lennie Griffin Owner/Operator

2401 Bridges Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

252-247-4600

Serving Local Airport and RVU



WINBERRY

Farm

Growers of

Famous Bogue Sound

• WATERMELONS

• CANTALOUPE

• TOMATOES

• CORN

• Other Farm Fresh Vegetables

PRODUCE

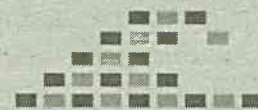
Inside

Unique Gift Shop, Jams, Pickles, Jewelry,
Handmade Handpainted Pieces

Owners: Sarah & David Winberry

1006 Cedar Point Blvd. Cedar Point, NC • 252-393-2281

1 Mile From Emerald Isle Bridge



ARTISTIC
TILE + STONE

607 Atlantic Beach Causeway
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

Phone 252-241-7579

artistictileandstonenc.com

• Crystal Coast's Largest
Selection of Tile & Stone

• Granite

• Mosaics

• Wood & Bamboo

• Expert Design Staff

• Factory Direct Pricing

• Fully Insured

SOUND Bank

Checking is Free!

with our

Green Coast Checking Account

Featuring

Online Statements

Free Debit/ATM Card

Unlimited check and ATM Transactions

Free Bill Pay

No Minimum Balance Required*

*Account must be opened with a \$100 minimum deposit.

Also ask about Senior Checking

Morehead City
727-5558

Cape Carteret
393-8460

Beaufort
728-2181



Member FDIC