

THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper In A Good Community

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 35

16 PAGES TODAY

SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA

MARCH 20, 1974

10 CENTS A COPY

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY



PRESENTING THE KEYS to 14 new cars Friday morning was Sheriff Harold Willetts, here lined up on Howe Street with the recipients. The county commissioners voted 3-2 recently to purchase the 460 cu. in. vehicles from Willetts Ford.

Sheriff: 'More Coverage For Less Money'

By BOBBY HILL

Brunswick County Sheriff's Department personnel formally received their 14 patrol cars Friday - and they're happy.

As Sheriff Harold Willetts said Tuesday of the 14 men driving the new vehicles, "They're as proud of those cars as a little girl is with a new doll baby."

Sheriff Willetts thinks the citizens of Brunswick County should be pleased with the new automobiles, too. In fact, he has a plethora of reasons why the mobile units are desirable, practical ... and, yes, necessary.

Basically, the sheriff stoutly maintains the cars will give "more coverage for less money."

Starting Monday, the sheriff's deputies went on shift work - seven days a week, 24 hours a day. With two units off each day, Willetts' schedule will have a minimum of three cars on the road at all times. From 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, two shifts will coincide to have six cars patrolling the county. The sheriff calls this "around-the-clock" coverage.

Willetts also says his men will prefer the shift work. "A man knows when he'll be home with his family,"

he said of the divided hours. Of course, all officers are subject to being called up for emergencies, he added.

The vehicles will also give increased coverage, because Willetts says the department will now begin enforcing traffic laws. "We will be enforcing moving violations ... especially reckless driving, speeding and drunk driving."

Willetts declared his men are qualified to drive the powerful vehicles with 460 cubic-inch engines at high speeds. "Some of my men are just about as capable (of driving

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Courthouse To Be Moved?

Offices At Supply Favored By Board

By BOBBY HILL

County commissioners Monday moved toward planning for a consolidated county office building - to possibly include the courthouse.

The commissioners requested a report on the matter at their April 1 meeting, and asked that consulting engineer Jerry Lewis be present.

The commissioners also suggested that Lewis obtain the services of an architectural consultant. County Manager Neil Mallory said the Raleigh engineering firm of Pierson & Whitman has these services. The firm is presently in charge of developing the county water system.

The subject was brought up when Mallory reported on contacting architectural consultants for planning the complex. Mallory said he was "unaware" the commissioners had a contract with Lewis, former county manager, to plan for the office buildings. The commissioners suggested that Lewis might sub-contract architectural services.

Chairman W.A. Kopp, Jr., said he favored planning for

the complex to allow "court-related services...to be located with the court itself at all times." He said this would increase efficiency.

Commissioner John Bray of Southport said the consolidated complex should be "designed for the courtroom with it." However, he first said he "still agrees on the location" originally planned for the various offices.

TWO LOCATIONS

When the commissioners contracted Lewis for office planning last summer, the county offices were to be divided between Southport and Supply. All court-related services were designated for Southport locations.

Bray read the list of services planned for Southport

and Supply. Of the division of services between Southport and Supply, he said, "I don't have any second thoughts about it."

Those services planned for Southport included county manager, county auditor, county commissioners, tax collector, tax supervisor, county Resources Development Commission, register of deeds and county board of education. Offices planned for Supply were county health department, social services, Farmers Home Administration, civil preparedness, Soil Conservation, ASCS, board of elections and shoreline protection.

Commissioners Vardell

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ABC Store In New Location

A new ABC store is planned for 174 N. Howe Street, according to ABC spokesman William Doshier.

The new building will be about twice the size of the

present Southport facility, Doshier said. It will measure about 80 by 50 feet, with about half the space to be used for storage.

Bids for the project will be let in about a month. Doshier said the ABC board hopes to have the store operating in about six months.

Doshier said the expansion has been made necessary by growing business, which he said has been "increasing each year."

Plans call for the facility to be served by off-street parking, Doshier said.

The store might use a self-service method, he said. He said this system has been "working good" in other North Carolina stores.

Construction of the store will be brick veneer, Doshier said.

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Annexation Request Made; 'City Service Comes First'

Southport aldermen Thursday referred a Highland Heights request for annexation to the planning and zoning board.

Mayor Eugene Tomlinson said the board is first "committed to the people of Southport for water, sewer," and other services passed in a November 6 bond issue. Newly-annexed areas can demand water and sewer within a year after becoming part of the city, he pointed out.

Residents of Highland

Heights had signed a petition requesting annexation. The subdivision is north of city limits, off Leonard Street and Park Avenue.

The planning and zoning board will hold a public hearing on the request, Tomlinson said. He said the zoning group then will make recommendations back to the aldermen.

Alderman Al Martin questioned whether the subdivision meets the 24-foot street requirement.

Planning chairman W.B.

McDougle said the Highland Heights subdivision plan had never come before his board for approval.

CITY COMES FIRST

"I would like to have some city benefits, too," said Bob Thorsen, a spectator. Thorsen said he is a resident adjacent to the area requesting annexation.

At this point, Tomlinson said Southport residents have first priority in the water and sewer project.

Tomlinson also asked Town Manager Alvin Kornegay to

obtain final water and sewer plans from Wilmington engineer Henry Von Oesen. Korengay said Von Oesen should have the plans completed by the end of this month.

McDougle also reported on four zoning changes that have been requested, and he said public hearings would be held on the matters. The planning board then will give recommendations to the requested changes, he said.

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Cupit Resigns From Doshier

Doshier Memorial Hospital administrator William F. Cupit has submitted his resignation effective this Friday.

Cupit, who has held the administrator post for eight years, said he is leaving for personal reasons. "I can walk out with my head high," said Cupit, with the hospital's financial crisis showing signs of ending.

The hospital, with a loss of \$4,000 since October of 1973, has shown a profit the past two months, Cupit said. The medical facility was in the black about \$4,000 for

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Coastal Act Amended, Greater Seaside Voice

The Coastal Management Act received tentative Senate approval Thursday.

Under a new amendment, the bill would allow all municipalities adjacent to the ocean to nominate one candidate for appointment by the governor to the 15-man coastal commission.

Senator Arthur Williamson was one of those voting favorably on the measure, which passed 37-10. Williamson represents Brunswick, Columbus and Bladen counties.

Rep. Tommy Harrelson previously had withdrawn his support for the bill. However, he spoke favorably of the measure Monday, indicating his support for giving nominations to seaside municipalities.

Although the bill had seemed doomed last week, an

amendment by Senator Phillip P. Godwin (D-Gates) sparked the favorable vote. Democratic legislators said the amendment would give control of the coastal commission to Democrats - a change from original control by Gov. James E. Holshouser, Jr.

Harrelson had previously attacked partisan opposition to the coastal legislation.

The beleaguered bill has already faced a year of public hearings, floor fights in both houses and criticism from both politicians and developers. The measure proposed to control undesirable development in ecologically sensitive coastal area in sections of 22 coastal counties. It would charge a 15-member coastal commission with implementing and enforcing the new

planning law.

The commission would designate environmentally fragile areas and approve, disapprove or modify permits for major developments within those areas. It would also instruct counties and towns to develop and implement a land-use plan within two years in the area designated critical. It would supply money and technical assistance for that planning.

Some federal money for planning assistance is reportedly no longer available - the funds having expired their eligibility during the year-long struggle, according to Harrelson.

The bill's principal sponsor, Senator William W. Staton (D-Lee) said he is "very anxious not to let politics emerge in the bill

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Leland Water Public Meeting

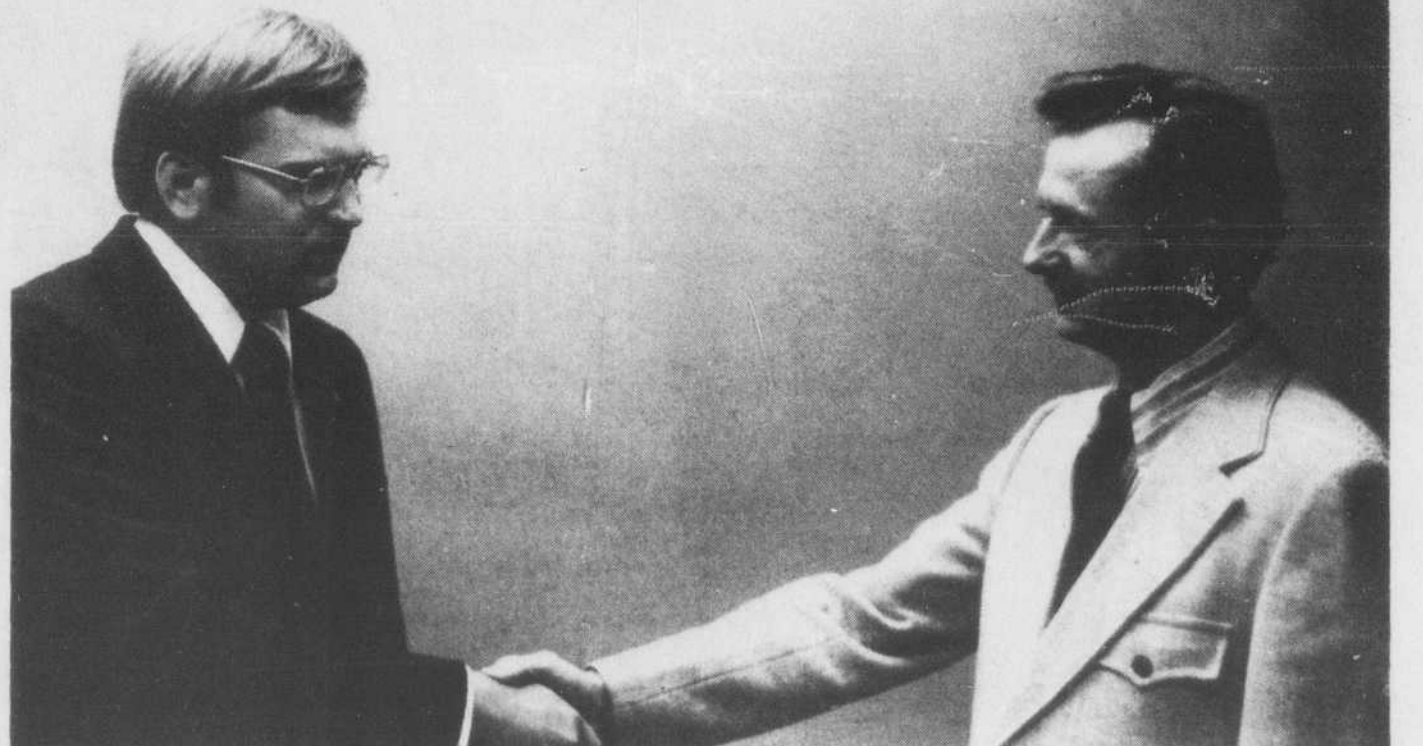
County commissioners will hold a public meeting next Wednesday at 7 p.m. at North Brunswick High School to explain the proposed water system for Leland.

The meeting will center on explanation of proposed plans for a water system in the Leland area. County Manager Neil Mallory said Tuesday. Phase II of the county water system includes plans for a system in the Leland area.

The county commissioners recently instructed engineer Troy Doby to expand Leland plans for water lines large enough for fire protection in that area.

Mallory said Doby will attend the meeting.

Doby is a member of the Pierson & Whitman engineering consultant firm of Raleigh. The company has developed plans for the county water system.



NATIONAL DIRECTOR of the Junior Chamber of Commerce for Southeastern North Carolina is Bill Ezzell (left) of the Southport

organization, being congratulated here by Mayor Eugene Tomlinson.