



Zoning, solid waste, jobs Important issues face Brunswick in '93

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

Although Brunswick County commissioners are predicting that the next two years will be rocky and discordant ones for board members, all seem to agree on the most weighty issues currently facing the county -- zoning, solid waste disposal and job growth.

The former board passed a countywide zoning ordinance last month, but new commissioners chairman Don Warren said he is certain that zoning will be discussed repeatedly by the new board.

He said the definition of "farm" was not adequately explained by the previous board, and that many county residents do not understand that a state statute exempts all farms from zoning requirements.

"We didn't do a good job clarifying to the public the farm exemption," Warren said. "That will be clarified at our next meeting."

'This county has a lot of things going against it in terms of siting a landfill. So much land is either wetlands or swamps. About one-third of the county is chopped out at the start.'

Robert Tucker
County engineer

Commissioner Donald Shaw said zoning will be the "hot topic" for the next two years.

"I don't know if (the new commissioners) are happy with it or not," said Shaw, who is serving the second half of a four-year term. "But I'll continue to support keeping it intact."

Newly elected commissioner Wayland Vereen has several times said that he believes the county should repeal the entire ordinance and start over, but commissioners Tom Rabon, Sr., and Warren both agree the ordinance simply needs to be reviewed. Commissioner Jerry Jones, who

also serves on the county planning board, indicated a willingness to listen to "legitimate complaints" about the zoning ordinance, and said he would not object to making changes in it for "legitimate reasons."

While zoning has been the most publicized issue facing the county, commissioners Vereen, Rabon and Jones agreed that a more pressing concern is solid waste disposal. The state will require the county to have another landfill in operation by 1998, and the county engineering department has already begun to look for possible locations -- not an easy task in coastal regions like Brunswick County.

"This county has a lot of things going against it in terms of siting a landfill," said county engineer Robert Tucker. "So much land is either wetlands or swamps. About one-third of the county is chopped out at the start."

Landfills are also expensive, Tucker said. See Issues, page 6



Sitting on a dolphin, watching his ship steam away, this Coast Guard line-handler is hopeful that a small boat is on its way back for him after he helped cast off during a recent visit to the Southport city pier.

Property listing changes this year

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

About 18,000 personal property tax listing forms will be mailed from the Brunswick County tax office Thursday, and property owners will have until January 31 to list their mobile homes, boats, motors, farm equipment, airplanes, mopeds and untagged motor vehicles.

Since registered motor vehicles will now be taxed separately, those who have previously listed only a registered motor vehicle will not receive a form this year, and should notify the tax office if they have acquired other taxable personal property, said tax supervisor Boyd Williamson.

The penalty for late listing will be ten percent of the total taxes due.

Personal property will be taxed at a rate of 68 cents for every \$100 of assessed property value, which is down from this year's rate of 68.5 cents per \$100 of value.

Tax bills for real estate property will be mailed in August and will be payable through January 5, 1994.

While mailing out thousands of tax bills may sound like a daunting task, Williamson said it is a small part of the entire process.

"Ninety percent of the problem is enforcement," he said. "We will be enforcing the listing of mobile homes through building permits, boats through the Department of Natural Resources and rental property through information relative to the room occupancy tax."

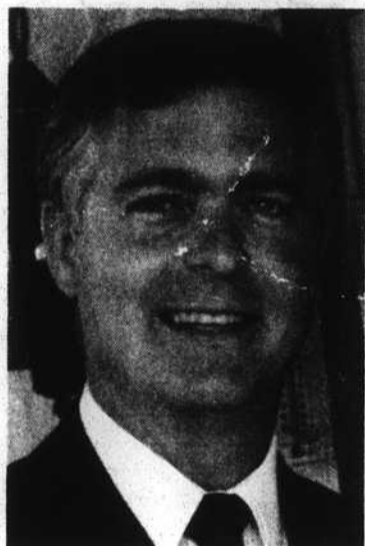
County residents over age 65 and residents who are permanently or totally disabled may qualify for tax relief on their real estate or mobile homes if they earn less than \$11,000 annually. Those who believe they may qualify should apply for relief by April 15.

The first \$12,000 will be subtracted from the total property value listed for qualified persons, which amounts to a savings of

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N.C. Attorney General

Easley swearing-in ceremony is Friday



EASLEY

Mike Easley will be sworn in as state attorney general at 11 a.m. Friday in the board of aldermen's chamber at Southport City Hall.

Easley, who resigned from his district attorney's post two years ago to run for the U. S. Senate, was elected to the top state law enforcement post in November and normally would have taken his oath of office in Raleigh, but instead chose the venue of the board chamber where -- when it was the county courtroom -- he prosecuted his first case.

The oath will be administered by Superior Court judge William Gore, a law school associate of Easley who also served alongside him as assistant district attorney.

Friends have been urged to attend the ceremony by general invitation.

Harrelson is honored by U.S. 17 dedication

Transportation Secretary Tommy Harrelson will be honored January 6 when the segment of U. S. 17 from Winnabow to the South Carolina line will be dedicated in his name.

Gov. James G. Martin will participate in the 9:30 a.m. ceremony at Town Creek Township District Park at Winnabow. In case of rain the dedication will be held at Brunswick Community College.

Harrelson, a Southport native, is an appointee of Martin. He was named deputy secretary in 1987 and secretary of transportation in 1989.

Hospital audit says operation is in the black

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

"Life is a relative animal, but the folks in Smithville Township don't know how lucky they are to have a first-rate facility like Doshier hospital," hospital administrator Edgar Haywood, III, declared Monday night after reviewing the facility's financial audit.

The audit, prepared by Brock, Padgett and Chandler, showed the hospital had a \$95,000 income from operations last year and a fund balance of over \$9 million.

However, assistant hospital administrator Jim Shoemaker stressed that the fund balance does not reflect the amount of money the hospital has to spend, but the total net assets of the facility, which includes over \$7 million in property, plant and equipment.

The audit also showed the hospital had a working capital ratio, or assets

to liabilities ratio, of 3.7 to 1. A business is considered to be in excellent financial shape if it has a working capital ratio of 2 to 1, said Wayne Berry, a certified public accountant

See Audit, page 6

'Pilot' closed

The State Port Pilot will be closed this week on New Year's Day only.

The office will reopen for business Monday at 8:30 a.m., and regular deadlines will be observed: Real estate, noon Monday; classifieds, 3 p.m. Monday; display advertising, noon Tuesday.

The staff of the Pilot wishes you a happy and safe holiday weekend.

OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast Thursday through Saturday calls for mostly cloudy skies with showers likely. Highs generally will be in the 50s and 60s, with lows in the 40s.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31	LOW
12:17 a.m.		6:30 a.m.
12:35 p.m.		6:57 p.m.
	FRIDAY, JANUARY 1	
1:12 a.m.		7:29 a.m.
1:29 p.m.		7:53 p.m.
	SATURDAY, JANUARY 2	
2:07 a.m.		8:29 a.m.
2:25 p.m.		8:49 p.m.
	SUNDAY, JANUARY 3	
3:06 a.m.		9:32 a.m.
3:22 p.m.		9:43 p.m.
	MONDAY, JANUARY 4	
4:02 a.m.		10:30 a.m.
4:21 p.m.		11:39 p.m.
	TUESDAY, JANUARY 5	
4:57 a.m.		11:25 a.m.
5:17 p.m.		11:30 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6	
5:50 a.m.		12:16 a.m.
6:11 p.m.		---- p.m.

The following adjustments should be made: Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Caswell Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.

Vehicle taxes now due with registration renewal, page 6