

# County Gives Owners First Right To Buy Back Foreclosed Property

BY SUSAN USHER

Owners who lose their real property through tax foreclosure will get first rights to buy it back from the county under a resolution approved Monday by county commissioners.

Property not repurchased by the former owner within time limits set by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners will be otherwise disposed of by the county, said County Attorney David Clegg, either through public auction or some other means provided by law.

For property that was foreclosed on before Tuesday, Aug. 6, the county is allowing the former owner up to 12 months to invoke first right of purchase. Owners of property foreclosed on by the county after Tuesday will have only 30 days in which to invoke their right of repurchase.

In either case, the party can buy back his former property by paying the county's cost and all back taxes, plus 2 percent of the assessed value of the property.

Clegg said about 40 or 50 parcels of varying assessed values would be immediately affected by the resolution adopted Monday.

Property owners already have the

ability to halt the foreclosure proceedings before court action begins by paying off the back taxes owed and publication costs immediately after receiving their notice of pending foreclosure.

The board met behind closed doors for 2½ hours to discuss litigation and land acquisition before adopting the resolution. Their meeting ended shortly before 11 p.m.

### Other Business

In other business, commissioners:

•Directed County Attorney David Clegg to draft a resolution asking the state for additional Clean Water Bond funds for eligible portions of the water system. The state legislature recently approved additional Clean Water Funds to be awarded on a competitive basis. County Manager Billy Carter said the county could possibly qualify for up to several hundred thousand dollars.

•Authorized the Brunswick County Parks & Recreation Department to advertise for 20 to 25 acres of land for the District 5 park, the idea being to give all interested property owners an opportunity to have their land con-

sidered. Jones and Attorney David Clegg were also authorized to begin routine land acquisition procedures. While Jones and Commissioner Grace Beasley will visit the sites to check their suitability for a park, the full board will review recommended properties and negotiate the purchase price on the chosen site.

•Approved construction of a parking lot for secure storage of vehicles confiscated by the sheriff's department, to be built across the driveway from the existing sheriff's department parking lot at a cost of about \$10,000. The county expects to recoup the cost of the facility in about two years, charging about \$5 per vehicle per day for storage. Presently vehicles in the county's custody are stored, for a fee, at locations throughout the county.

•Named Commissioners Jim Poole and Grace Beasley, the county manager and attorney to a committee to screen architect-planning firms for design of expanded facilities at the county complex.

•Enthusiastically endorsed a proposed county tabloid to be edited by Veterans Service Officer Jess Parker

during regular working hours for either insertion in local papers or direct mailing to the public. The estimated cost of printing is \$2,000. Commissioners said they wanted to know the cost of insertion or mailing before giving the final authority to publish the promotional piece.

•Suggested, subject to their agreeing to serve, persons from business, education, finance, the elections board, municipalities, resources development and human relations organizations for membership on a census committee. It would work with the planning department to set census areas for statistical data collection and otherwise help prepare for the 1990 census. Membership on the committee is open, County Planner John Harvey said, and others who want to participate can do so.

•Approved a water line encroachment agreement that allows the county to cross Carolina Power & Light's Sutton-Delco line at no charge.

•Approved an application to CP&L for the supply of electricity to the new water treatment plant sufficient for its full operation.

# Commissioners Put Off Decision On Support Of Treatment Center

BY SUSAN USHER

After listening for two hours to Southeastern Mental Health Center officials, Brunswick County commissioners took no action Monday night on a request for a letter of support for a proposed tri-county detoxification center.

"I need a little time to detox my brain after all I've heard," said Vice Chairman Jim Poole, adding, "I've learned a lot, but I've got a few more sources I want to check."

SEMC needs support of commissioners in the three counties it serves—Pender, Brunswick and New Hanover—before applying to the state for a certificate of need to build the proposed center. Pender County commissioners endorsed the project Monday morning; New Hanover commissioners had given their support last fall. But with two new members on board, said SEMC Director Mel Martin, New Hanover commissioners want to review their position at their Aug. 19 meeting and get reassurances of New Hanover Memorial Hospital's agreement to make a 10-year, interest-free \$500,000 loan for construction of the facility, and that the project has the support of sister counties.

Brunswick County commissioners will take up the matter again also on Aug. 19.

In addition to its annual prorated contribution of about \$100,000 for general mental health services, Southeastern will eventually ask the county to begin contributing approximately \$45,331 toward the operating cost of the center. The county's contributions represent about 24 percent of the budget, prorated on the basis of population. It will be at least two years before the center opens its doors.

Martin said the proposed 20-bed facility would be built beside the New Hanover County Health Department on South 17th Street in Wilmington. It would serve patients from the three-county area, offering a seven- to 10-day treatment program that includes individual, group and family counseling, detoxification, interven-

tion, medical referrals and after-care.

It would fill the gap in an otherwise comprehensive range of services available to alcohol and substance abusers, indicated John Webb, SEMC substance abuse program director. "We don't want to just dry them out. When their heads begin to clear, we want to break through that denial and get them into treatment," he added.

At the detox center, patients from all socioeconomic levels would be accepted, with fees charged according to their ability to pay.

Presently SEMC can place alcoholic patients in no more than eight available beds—two involuntary commitment beds in an Onslow County hospital that must also be shared with 12 other counties on a first-come, first-served basis, and six undesignated beds at New Hanover Memorial Hospital. NHHM ended its alcohol detoxification services a year ago July, but reached an agreement with SEMH to provide the six beds until the detox center can be built. Patients stay an average of 48 to 72 hours, long enough to sober up and leave. Some patients are admitted as many as eight times per year.

Most detoxification patients cannot pay and limited insurance coverage is available. The hospital has absorbed much of the cost of that service—averaging about \$300 per patient per day.

The 8,500-square-foot center would be certified by the state as a commitment facility. That would mean patients deemed of recent danger to themselves or others could be admitted against their own will, or involuntarily, for up to 10 days of treatment. Patients could also admitted voluntarily.

"There are few voluntary commitments," Webb noted.

The facility is expected to meet the needs of the area for at least 15 years.

At present, state mental health law provides for involuntary commitments, but they cannot be carried through by SEMC because of a lack of available facilities. The state has

closed the detoxification unit at Cherry Hospital at Goldsboro as part of a movement toward relocating mental health services in the local community.

Two involuntary commitment beds are available at a hospital in Onslow County, but must be shared with 12 other counties.

"We need a facility for safe withdrawal for voluntary and involuntarily committed men and women and an intense, in-house intervention program," said Webb.

No beds are available in Brunswick County for either group. Martin said past efforts to have several beds set aside at either Doshier Hospital or Brunswick Hospital for detox patients have not met with success. He described the service as undesirable and unprofitable, a service that hospitals assume from necessity rather than choice.

On rare occasions when an inmate picked up on alcohol- or drug-related charges has had a medical problem or was "too bad off" to keep in jail, Davis said the hospital has admitted a patient, with the department posting a guard at the room.

Along with a lack of hospital beds for drying out or treatment, other choices for dealing with those who drink excessively were restricted. The state has decriminalized drunkenness, which means that someone who is drunk in public cannot be routinely picked up and put in what was once called "the drunk tank," Martin said.

"We get calls for drunks and we can't do anything unless they break another law," acknowledged Sheriff John Carr Davis when questioned. "It's getting critical. People call in for something and we can't do anything."

Even when law officers obtain commitment papers, when they transport a patient and no bed is available, they are turned away.

"We've had them standing in line and nowhere to commit them," said Webb.

Commissioner Grace Beasley said she would like the idea of a satellite detox facility in Brunswick County explored because of the distance involved in seeking treatment in Wilmington and the county's growing population.

Martin suggested that even a five-bed unit would be cost prohibitive, running as high as \$300,000, while the county could "buy in" to a \$4 million operation with its annual contributions. The contributions are based on the county's population, which represents about 24 percent of the people in the catchment area, and equal about \$2 per person per year, Martin said.

About 400 to 500 of the center's monthly direct care caseload of about 2,200 are from Brunswick County. About half are seen at the Bolivia clinic, the rest in Wilmington. Other citizens are reached through indirect care, such as education and outreach services of the center.

**The Sandfiddler Limited**  
is coming into  
**The Depot!**

## Introducing Our New Line Of Homes . . .



WE DO IT ALL—LAND CLEARING, WELL, SEPTIC TANK, ELECTRICITY, AIR CONDITIONING. ALSO LOTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE. FINANCING AVAILABLE.

**EAST COAST**  
**Housing & Sales, Inc.**

HWY. 130, HOLDEN BEACH ROAD, PHONE 842-4003  
MON-SAT 9-6, SUN 1-6

## Vidalia Homes

FEATURING VINYL LAP SIDING

The 24x56, 2-full-bath model has den and living room. Luxury features include microwave, dishwasher, stereo system, patio doors, garden tub, ceiling fans and hi-gloss countertops. The 24x44 model has 2 bedrooms.

Also available in singlewides, the 14x70 model has all the options of the doublewide plus fireplace and island kitchen.

### THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL!

1986 14x70 mobile home, 2 BR, 2 baths, 891 sq. ft., vaulted ceiling, ceiling fan, furnished. Delivered and set up.

**\$13,995**  
PLUS NC SALES TAX

**Ben Franklin**

*Better quality for less*

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALE!

**6 PAIR**

**Pkg. 6 Pairs Tube Socks**

White with assorted color stripes Terry lined

Boys' Sizes 6-8 1/2

Young Men's 9-11 . . . 4.47

Men's 10-13 . . . . . 4.97

3.97

each

**Fitted School Lunch Kits**

Colorful plastic, decorated with a variety of popular characters. Comes with an 8-oz. insulated bottle.

4.77

each

---

**Old-Timer Striped Bed Pillows**

Jumbo 20x28 in. Overfilled with Polyester.

4.97

each

**12-Count #2 Lead Pencils**

Stock up for school, home or office!

88¢

pack

**Caron's Dazzleaire 4-Ply Sport Yarn**

3-oz. pull skein. Acrylic/Nylon in pastel colors.

97¢

skein

---

**Northern Paper Specials**

Both in white, colors and assorted prints

Brandy Paper Towels

58¢

roll

4-Rolls Bath Tissues

1.00

pkg.

**10-Bar Pack Hershey's Candy**

Reg. 35¢ bars

2.47

pack

---

**Pkg. of 3 Scripto Ball Point Pens**

Retractable Refillable Pens

77¢

pkg.

**Scripto Cassette Pen**

WITH Lead Refill

1.44

each

**Colgate Ultra Brite Toothpaste**

Two 8-oz. tubes in a pack

1.76

pk.

---

**Summer Clearance Continues**

**Men's LEE & LEVI JEANS**

Sizes 27-46

\$15.88

**Fall clothing arriving daily for Back-To-School shopping**

---

Kirby's

DEPARTMENT STORE  
and BEN FRANKLIN

Downtown Shallotte 754-4846