

## Sunset Beach Parking Ban Lifted

BY EDDIE SWEATT

The ban on parking at Sunset Beach was lifted Monday night when the Town Council voted 3-2 to rescind a controversial "no parking" ordinance passed this summer.

Minnie K. Hunt, who was sworn in at the meeting, made the motion to rescind the ordinance which had banned parking along the Main Street right-of-way from Mad Inlet to Canal Street, and along Sunset Boulevard from the northern town limits to the oceanfront.

The motion was seconded by Kathy Hill. After lengthy discussion, Hunt and Hill were joined by Mary Katherine Griffith in voting for the

motion. Councilmen Ed Gore and Don Safrut voted no.

Hunt said the parking ban had caused more problems than it has solved and challenged its original passage for safety reasons since there has been no serious accident involving parking on the beach in years.

Gore, who had leased two vacant lots to the town for \$1 per month to be used for parking, said the ordinance was written to strengthen security and get rid of nuisances as well as for safety.

Hunt countered by pointing out that security has not been improved by the parking ban, which, she added, has caused rather than cured

nuisances.

Arguing before and after the vote, Gore and Mayor James E. Gordon disputed Hunt's and Hill's contention that the no-parking ordinance had closed access to the beach for some people.

Gore told Hunt she was not representing the people who had just elected her to office when she voted to reinstate parking. "I believe I am," she replied.

The ban on parking has drawn fire since its passage on June 23. Petitions against the no-parking signs have drawn attention from the Department of Transportation, which was to meet with the town council on the subject today (Thurs-

day) at 10 a.m.

Mayor Gordon tried unsuccessfully to postpone the vote on parking until after the meeting with DOT.

Town Hall was packed with spectators at Monday night's meeting. A couple of times Mayor Gordon asked the audience to be quiet when the council discussed the parking issue.

New Board Organizes

Town Clerk Linda Fluegel administered the oath of office to the new councilwoman, Hunt, to Gore, who was re-elected for another term, and Mayor Gordon, who ran unopposed for the office to which he had initially been appointed. Gore was chosen by the council to be mayor (See HUNT, Page 2-A)



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

CHRISTMAS IS COMING and town employees like Larry Pigott, above, were busy Tuesday morning mounting new street decorations along the route of Saturday's holiday parade.

## Saturday's Parade To Mark Santa's Visit

Santa Claus arrives in Shallotte Saturday morning, Dec. 7, just in time for the Christmas parade, along with a levy of queens, floats, clowns and marching units.

The parade begins at 10 a.m., progressing from the intersection of U.S. 17 and N.C. 130 West, north to the United Carolina Bank main office. Town employees mounted new Christmas decorations along the parade route Tuesday, replacing the aged garlands of previous years.

Ninety-four units will participate in Saturday's parade, lining up from the south end traffic light back along Blake Street and Village Drive (N.C. 179).

To smooth traffic before and after the event, Shallotte Police Chief Don Stovall said several streets will be closed at various times Saturday.

Come Early

"If you're coming to the parade," he said, "you need to be sure and get where you're going to be by 9:45 a.m."

At 9 a.m., said Stovall, Blake Street will be closed to traffic along with Village Drive from its intersection with Blake Street to Sellers Drive. This is to accommodate the parade line-up.

At 9:45 a.m., U.S. 17 from the south end traffic signal to the Smith Avenue signal will be closed, with through traffic detoured around N.C. 130 West, Bridges Road and Shallotte Avenue to Smith Avenue. Also closed for the duration of the parade will be the outlets onto Main Street from Mulberry Street, Wall Street, Shallotte Avenue and Village Drive (N.C. 179) and the entrance to Coastal Plaza on Village Drive. The U.S. 17 entrance will remain open.

After the parade, traffic officers will regulate the flow of vehicles from parking lots and side roads back onto U.S. 17 (Main Street).

"Maybe we can get them where they're going faster," Stovall said. "We're making a special effort to keep traffic flowing."

He urged motorists to follow the officers' directions. "They've been told what to do," the chief continued.

Stovall and Brunswick County Sheriff John Carr Davis will lead the parade, with Santa Claus marking its end from atop a Shallotte fire truck.

In between will march the West, South and North Brunswick High School bands and Junior ROTC units and the Sudan Drum and Bugle Corps from Wilmington. The parade will also feature the popular Sudan Thunderbolts minicars and the Cedar Grove Choir as well as two clown groups, a saddle club, 16 commercial floats, emergency vehicles and three wheelers and minibikes.

Beauty queens will include Miss Brunswick County Belinda Jacobs, riding in Roy Simmons' Model A reproduction car; N.C. Oyster Festival Queen Tamaia Grissett and Princess Dawn Baldwin; Little Miss Brunswick County Kim Davis; Teen Miss Brunswick County Kristi Malonee; West's Miss Trojani; Little Miss Fourth of July Kelly White; Miss Calabash Rescue Squad, Little Miss Reindeer and Little Miss Fawn, and a number of visiting queens.

## AT HOLDEN BEACH

## House-Moving Moratorium Abolished

BY CAROLYN SWEATT

Holden Beach Board of Commissioners, including newly-elected members Gay Atkins and William Williamson, moved swiftly Monday night to abolish a moratorium on moving houses on the island.

On a motion by Commissioner Graham King, the unanimous vote lifts the ban imposed last spring after property owners in at least two of the island subdivisions complained that older, run-down houses were being moved into their neighborhoods, causing eyesores and depreciated property values. The older homes were moved from oceanfront lots to enable lot owners to take advantage of premium values placed on limited oceanfront property.

King explained the reasons for his motion by saying that new, stricter town ordinances now prohibit earlier situations which caused problems. "I think the safeguards are built in now. We have no further use for the moratorium," he said.

Safeguards referred to are outlined in the procedures required for moving a building on the island:

The applicant submits plans to the building inspector. These plans must be approved by both the inspector and the Board of Adjustment. A substantial performance bond (an amount equal to the estimated cost of relocation or \$25,000, whichever is greater) and a \$50 processing fee are required. Property owners within 200 feet of the affected area are notified by certified mail of the date of a public hearing before the Board of Adjustment. If the move is approved by that board, the structure must be brought up to state building codes and the entire relocation must be completed within 90 days.

Strict building code requirements would likely preclude moving older structures on the island, due to cost. Commissioner Lyn Holden pointed out that some older homes not worth remodeling will likely be "shot right off the island" after the new bridge is

opened.

This is not the case with the less than five-year-old east end oceanfront house owned by Mrs. Ralph Inman of Tabor City. She requested permission to move the erosion-threatened house last month but was unable to get a definitive answer from the board as to whether she could permanently relocate the house on a second row lot she owns. The house has been moved back from the ocean and still sits on supports, in limbo. Now that the moratorium has been lifted, the Board of Adjustment will review the request at a December 16 public hearing.

Committee Appointments

After the swearing in of newly-elected Mayor John Tandy and Commissioners Atkins and Williamson, the board approved the following committee appointments: finance, Hal Stanley; public safety, Graham King; streets and accesses, Gay Atkins; sanitation, Lyn Holden; and water and sewer, William William-

son. Atkins was named mayor pro-tem, following the tradition of delegating the position to the top vote-getter.

A request from the Brunswick County Volunteer and Information Center for a contribution was discussed and then referred to the Merchants' Association. Stanley questioned where the line should be drawn between responsibilities of government and volunteers, particularly when tax money is involved.

Committee Reports

King reported that work should begin within 10 days on the paving of Tuna Drive and the resurfacing of Rothschild Street and Brunswick Avenue.

The board will hold a special meeting today (Thursday) at 11:30 a.m. to meet with representatives of DOT concerning the prohibition of vehicle parking along Ocean Boulevard East and West.

Building Inspector Dwight Carroll (See HOLDEN BEACH, Page 2-A)

## Commissioners Appoint White As Coroner

BY SUSAN USHER

It took only one polling of the Brunswick County Democratic Executive Committee Monday night to nominate Greg White for county coroner.

County commissioners voted unanimously later Monday to appoint White to the position that has been vacant since Nov. 16, when the resignation of Tommy Gilbert of Southport became effective.

Gilbert's four-year term does not expire until December 1988, but the position may be abolished during the 1986 term of the N.C. General Assembly. County commissioners said Monday night that Rep. David Redwine has said he is willing to introduce the necessary bill if asked to do so.

Commissioners have said they plan to discuss whether to abolish the position during budget deliberations next spring. If abolished, the county would rely entirely upon the medical examiner's system favored by 96 of the state's 100 counties.

White, 24, of Route 2, Supply, is an emergency medical technician (EMT) with a degree in mortuary science. A member of the Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad, he is employed by Brunswick Funeral Service of Shallotte.

He received 45 votes to 29 cast for Pam Bellamy Gurganus and 4 1/2 for Dr. Charles Savarese.

The executive committee is comprised of the chairman and vice chairman of each precinct, party officers and the president of the Democratic Women. Two precincts, Southport 1 and Waccamaw, were not represented Monday night.

Gurganus, also an EMT with the Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad and a registered nurse, ran unsuccessfully for the coroner's position last year. She lost to the incumbent, Gilbert, by 357 votes.

Brunswick County has had a dual system, with both a coroner and five medical examiners on call.

Savarese, a medical examiner since 1979, had earlier written a letter to the county commissioners supporting the coroner's system and the appointment if Assistant Coroner Larry Andrews to the post.

Andrews had sought the job, but was not considered because he is a Republican.

Savarese told committee members he had talked with State Chief Medical Examiner Page Hudson, who he said favors Brunswick County moving to the medical examiner's seat.

He said he was running for coroner



GREG WHITE  
New Coroner

with the idea of the position being abolished when the 1985-86 budget is approved.

"They had decided not to leave it vacant," he told The Beacon. "That's why I decided to run, to make the transition to medical examiner orderly."

"Hopefully, we will join with the legislature to do away with it," he told The Beacon.

Chris Chappell, chairman of the

county board of commissioners, earlier Monday told The Beacon he would motion to do away with the coroner's position if Savarese were nominated, but for quite different reasons.

He and other commissioners said Monday they had been told that Savarese planned to take the position in name only, appointing Andrews his deputy and directing calls to him.

"If Savarese is nominated I will make a motion at our next meeting that the coroner's position be done away with," Chappell said. "And you can quote me."

Savarese had predicted immediately before the voting that the rumor would undoubtedly hurt him in Monday night's election. He said Gilbert had been the only applicant for deputy coroner as of Monday night.

A disappointed Gurganus raised the question of sexism in Monday's voting. She told The Beacon after the election that six precinct chairmen had told her they could not vote for her because she was a woman.

"A showing at the polls means nothing to the party," she said.

She asked to be quoted as saying, "Oscar Wilde said there were two disasters in life. One is not getting what you want and the other is that you get it."

## Ocean Isle Builders Object To House Size Restrictions

BY SUSAN USHER

Ocean Isle Beach builders balked Monday morning at proposed zoning amendments that would restrict the square footage of future homes constructed on the island.

Builder Tom Pope contended limiting house sizes would discourage development and lower property values.

"What you have here is completely unworkable," said Tripp Sloane. "I don't think the town should get into the business of telling a man how many square feet he can build his house. People aren't going to put up with that."

"When a man pays \$50,000 to \$100,000 for a lot, he should have a little freedom in what he builds."

Zoning changes are needed, said Mayor LaDane Bullington, to limit density in single-family neighborhoods.

"Rentals are big business at Ocean Isle Beach, so house sizes have been increasing steadily," she said.

When the town sewer system goes into operation, said the mayor, health department regulations that limit the number of bedrooms in a single-family home will no longer apply.

"It's time we limit ourselves," she

said.

With the construction of "barracks-type" single-family houses by multiple-family owners, she said, "We're getting a lot of density in the single-family zones. That is not what I think we want to encourage."

Density, she continued, is a major concern of developer Odell Williamson, who controls or owns most of the undeveloped land on the island: "He is not concerned about these amendments devaluing property. He is concerned about creating density that would lower property values."

Monday's hearing was held jointly

by the town's planning board and board of commissioners, but two out of three commissioners present, Debbie Fox and Betty Williamson, were among the builders who questioned the proposed amendments. In all, 10 builders or developers attended the hearing.

Commissioners Connor Cox and Marvin Stanley, who will leave office this month, were absent. Virginia Gibson sat alone at the commissioners' table, with planning board members Terry Barbee, Bill Bullington and Pat Hostetler at a table to one side.

The town planning board will

renew its discussion again on Monday, Dec. 9, at 9:30 a.m. at the town hall and is expected to present its recommendation at the town council's Dec. 10 meeting.

The amendments, if adopted exactly as written, would:

•On lots where the rear yard borders the water, extend the rear yard setback from 25 feet to 30 feet from mean high water mark. Excluded would be lots on Canals 14, 17, 19, 21 and 23.

•Require that structures in the R-1 single-family district contain at least 1,200 square feet on their first floor, the area to include porches and

decks.

•Require that the floor space of all structures contain no more than one-third the lot area; and

•Require that exterior walls of all dwellings in the district be located no closer than seven feet of the side yard lines.

The town's working definition of "mean high water mark" would also be amended to make it consistent with the definition used by the Coastal Resources Commission.

By restricting the house to a smaller portion of the lot, the town will provide more space for parking (See OCEAN ISLE, Page 2-A)