

# Postal Service Concedes: Towns Can Keep Identity

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

A grassroots victory was won Friday when regional postal officials met with representatives of the South Brunswick area and told them the towns of Ocean Isle Beach, Sunset Beach and Calabash could keep their town names in mail addressed to them.

Robert Fisher, general manager and postmaster of the field division in Columbia, S.C. said, "I wanted to put your minds at rest. You can retain your identity." He said all three towns will continue using the 28459 zip code after their town name, as they have been doing.

Meeting in the Sunset Beach fire station with Fisher, Bill Austin of the Columbia office, and Jeff Martin, postmaster of the Fayetteville regional post office, were Mayor Jim Gordon of Sunset Beach, Bud Knapp, representing Calabash, Al Houghton, president of

Carolina Shores property owners, and Annette Odorn of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce.

The concession by postal authorities came after more than a month of public and private protest on the part of residents of the three towns who had been told Shallotte must be their address in the future.

Last month an enraged crowd of these residents confronted Martin at a meeting in the Sunset Beach fire station, demanding retention of their local identity.

Now Knapp and Gordon are elated at the outcome. "The next step is a grid system," Knapp said. "We'll work with the post office and the county planning department to get a system designating every house on every street. Also, we'll allow special delivery that is not delivered to go to Calabash instead of Shallotte." Calabash has a private contract station.

"It was great to be able to sit down and work it out," Knapp added.

Gordon said the next step is to be sure every street is named and every house numbered in the three towns. "Sunset Beach already has all its houses numbered," he said.

Fisher explained that each community must lay out a grid, identifying named and numbered streets and houses "to avoid duplication," and that every subdivision could not in the future get its own identity in its address.

John Harvey, county planning director, did not share the enthusiasm of the town representatives. "I wasn't invited to the meeting, and I didn't even know they were having one," he said. "But we've set up a meeting for Monday, and I'll tell them then the entire

situation with its complexities."

Declining to comment on the likelihood of success of the plan, Harvey simply noted that 90 percent of the roads in the areas involved are private roads. "We not only have to name these roads, but put up signs at every intersection," he explained. "There are 276 such intersections and each sign would cost \$90. The commissioners have been approached about this before, and the cost is why they haven't wanted to authorize it."

Congressman Charlie Rose's office has been involved in securing "address identity" for the area towns, particularly for Calabash, which submitted a petition to his office.

Representatives of the three towns will meet Monday with Harvey and Kenny Lewis of the Fayetteville office.

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# BRUNSWICK BEACON

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## Social Services Board Evaluates Director

Jamie Orrock expressed satisfaction with the evaluation of his work given Monday by the board of directors for the Brunswick County Department of Social Services, which he serves as director.

Orrock, who was first employed there in 1981, was dismissed without cause in November, 1983, following a sexual harassment complaint brought by former employee, Donna Rivenbark. Orrock was re-hired last August after an absence of 18 months.

Board members met briefly in executive session Monday to discuss his evaluation, then presented the evaluation in an open meeting.

Among his strengths mentioned by the board were an ability to "get along with all parties," his willingness to accept criticism and improve, and his knowledge of the services of the department.

Suggestions for improvement included a need to "be more open to new ideas and less stubborn." He was also asked to continue working on more in-house supervision of employees.

"I'm satisfied with the

evaluation," Orrock said. "I don't have any disagreements with anything they said."

He added that he and the board have a good working relationship and he respects the genuine interest board members take in the department.

A lengthy discussion was held about the need for more office space, because of extreme overcrowding. "There are six offices with at least two people in them," Orrock reported, "and this causes a problem with confidentiality and efficiency."

He noted that when the complex was built in the late 70s, his department was serving 36,000 people, and that number has now grown to 50,000, with additional staff hired to maintain services.

The board concluded that there are no immediate resources available at the government complex to relieve the problem. "Space is a critical need in all the offices here," Orrock said.

He was asked by the board to convey these concerns to the Board of County Commissioners.

Orrock was authorized to advertise for two eligibility workers for the

low-income energy assistance program. DSS will begin taking applications for this program Oct. 15 and will continue through the middle of December.

"People won't be approved for energy assistance on a first-come, first-served basis," Orrock explained, "and I would urge people to wait till November to apply."

The board reviewed a draft policy for the new state-mandated emergency assistance program for those receiving Aid For Dependent Children help. The program will begin Nov. 1, when AFDC recipients can apply for help in such emergencies as eviction or the loss of a major household appliance.

"Applicants must have a minor child and must meet the same income guidelines as for Food Stamps, which means their income must be ten percent over the poverty level," Orrock said.

He noted that the state legislature approved the program this summer after the departmental budgets had been set. "We have to supply 25 percent of the program costs, and 100 percent of administrative costs, and none of this was budgeted," he said.

## Varnum Challenges Graduates To Make Their Dreams Realities

BY SUSAN USHER

The "mother of Brunswick Tech," Bobbie Varnum, challenged Brunswick Technical College graduates Friday night to pursue their dreams and turn them into reality, just as her dream of a community college for Brunswick County became a reality.

Mrs. Varnum, who was a moving force in establishment of the college, addressed 205 graduates of 16 programs, who crowded with family and friends into the cafeteria of Shallotte Middle School for the college's annual commencement program.

She told graduates that "a dream is a seed planted inside your head and your heart," and told them not to let fear of failure or self-doubts get in the way of attaining their own dreams.

"Brunswick Tech was formed by a dream," she said. "Through hard work and patience, we accomplished our dream."

She noted that commencement marked only the beginning of success for the graduates.

In their workplace, she said, they can also achieve success by having a

willing spirit and a good attitude toward themselves, their jobs, their employees; by always striving to do their best; and by sharing, helping and encouraging others to achieve their own goals, to improve themselves.

Two programs graduated their first students—general education and business computer programming, according to Beth McLean, dean of student affairs.

Special awards were presented to nine students, as follows:

- SGA Executive Officers Awards—Nancy Nord, president; Gaye Varnum Fulford, vice president; and Stephanie White, treasurer;

- Outstanding Vocational Diploma Student Award: shared by Kathleen Halcob, a practical nursing education graduate, Miss Brunswick Tech and an SGA leader, and Gracie Pearl Johnson, a cosmetology graduate who is now co-owner of her own shop;

- Outstanding Technical Diploma Student Award: Jonathan Dale McDonnell, business computer pro-

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BOBBIE VARNUM

## Shopping Center Owners Are Looking At Options

The owners of Lewis Shopping Center, which was virtually destroyed in a Sept. 16 fire, say they plan to clear away the ruins and look at their options.

"We're going to clean it up and see what we can do. We're going to go forward one way or another," said Rae Sloane Cox. "We're looking at about six or seven options." She and her husband, Conner, and son, Tripp Sloane, are the principals of C & S Development Inc., which had recently acquired the shopping center and had begun renovations, with plans to rename it Riverside Plaza.

"We still think that is the best business location in town," Mrs. Cox continued. "If we go ahead and start

rebuilding, we'll probably do something a lot different and a lot nicer. It will be a showcase—we hope."

Seven stores, four occupied by businesses, were destroyed in the fire, which apparently began near the ceiling area of Shallotte Furniture Store which is located midway the length of the plaza.

While the State Bureau of Investigation has not completed its investigation and given an official report on the cause of the fire, preliminary results indicate there was no evidence of foul play, according to Mike Lewis of the regional office in Jacksonville.

Two SBI agents, arson investigator

Jerry Webster and criminal investigator Rick Gainey, were on the scene last Tuesday.

"It appears to have started at ceiling height," said Lewis. "They're considering the possibility it started in a lighting fixture."

Shallotte Police Chief Don Stovall said investigators indicated the fire had apparently started toward the rear of the furniture store high up near the ceiling area. He was expecting written confirmation of the cause at any time.

According to Shallotte Fire Chief Michael Arnold, firefighters have been called on several occasions to put out fires related to bad ballast, in-

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## CRC Moves To Change Beach Access Rules

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

After hearing results of an extensive survey on needs for access to public waters, the Coastal Resources Commission voted Friday to ask for inclusion of boat ramps in access requirements of the Coastal Management Act.

Meeting at the Wilmington Hilton Sept. 18 and 19, the commission heard a report by Julie Stambaugh of the Division of Coastal Management on the recent survey in which 724 government and business leaders returned questionnaires on public access to coastal and estuarine waters.

The persons surveyed were asked about demand for public access, whether additional access was favored, who would benefit, and what benefits result from public access.

Brunswick County leaders who replied requested more ocean access, while inland counties wanted access to estuarine waters. All respondents wanted strong local control over locations of new accessways. Also, a need for zoning by local governments was expressed.

Stambaugh told the commission state funding of future projects would be affected by results of this study. "But our funds are for public beach access only, and that doesn't include boats," she said.

Benefits of public access listed by business and government leaders included increased recreation, enhancement of the county's image, and increased sales tax revenue.

Problems identified at accessways were chiefly litter and traffic conges-

tion, Stambaugh said. Paul Dennis noted that land should be acquired for parking along public access roads, otherwise use of them is greatly restricted.

Brunswick County locations mentioned for future access areas included the intracoastal waterway, the mainland side of the intracoastal waterway across from Holden Beach, Long Beach and a site near Southport.

CRC also recommended action on its coastal regulations to conform with recent stormwater runoff rules adopted by the Environmental Management Commission.

Bill Kreutzberger, EMC staff member, reported on the new regulations that will place controls on any new development within 575 feet of

shellfish waters. He said all waters south of Kitty Hawk, except small waters, are classified SA, suitable for shellfishing.

He also noted that re-development after a natural disaster would be exempt from the regulations.

The EMC rules could become effective as early as Nov. 1, Kreutzberger said, as the Administrative Rules Committee was then reviewing them.

Hurricane preparedness plans were discussed in the planning and special issues committee. A disaster recovery operation center is being established in Raleigh, where staff members from the Division of Environmental Management will assist in decisions about roads and public utilities after a hurricane. DEM field persons will help local governments

assess storm damage, according to Art Cooper, committee chairman.

Concern was expressed by committee members that the field staff cannot get on the scene soon enough to prevent dumping of rubble in the wrong places.

The CRC voted Friday to approve exemptions from its regulations to two Brunswick County petitioners. Bald Head Island, represented by Kent Mitchell, can have a 100-foot addition to an island jetty and implement a sand-bypassing system around the entrance of the Bald Head Island Marina.

Jean Phipps, a Yaupon Beach realtor, also got approval of exemption from a regulation forbidding the subdivision of lots. She represented Stephen Horne and Carolyn Clem-

mer, who wanted to combine three lots, then split them, forming two lots on which two houses could be built facing Ocean Drive.

Planning grants for land use plan updates were awarded to 17 counties and municipalities, including Shallotte, Boiling Spring Lakes, and Navassa.

Brunswick County's land use plan will be discussed at the next CRC meeting, announced for Oct. 22 in Washington, N.C.

LaDane Bullington, mayor of Ocean Isle Beach and Rosetta Short of Long Beach serve on the CRC Advisory Council. Bullington is on the Implementation and Standards committee, Short on the Planning and Special Issues committee.