

More Than 100 Units Enter Shallotte Parade

There will be plenty of entertainment for everyone Saturday when over 100 units will be featured in the Shallotte Christmas Parade.

The parade starts at 10 a.m. at Shallotte Middle School and will turn down U.S. 17 and end at Hill's-Jones Shopping Center on the north end of town.

To allow parade units to line up, at 8:30 a.m. Shallotte Police will block off two roads to all but parade participants, said Chief Don Stovall. They are N.C. 179 (Village Point Road) from Sellers Drive to U.S. 17 and Blake Street from U.S. 17 to N.C. 179.

Then, at 9:30 a.m., the parade route itself—U.S. 17 from the south end stoplight to the Smith Avenue stoplight—will be closed to through traffic and vehicles rerouted along back roads.

Officers will be stationed at all major intersections to direct the flow of traffic during the parade.

"We look forward to the public's cooperation and hope everyone will enjoy the parade again this year," said Stovall.

Following the parade, Santa will be at the shopping center to give away candy and the Brunswick County Animal Welfare League will present awards for its pet costume contest.

Participants entered in the parade as of Tuesday morning include nine beauty queens, 12 fire and rescue squads; Brownie and Boy Scouts troops; the South and West Brunswick High School marching bands; saddle clubs; non-pom and baton twirling squads; mud track trucks; various businesses; skateboarders; roller skaters and old cars.

A talking school bus and seven professionally decorated floats will be featured and the Cedar Grove Gospel Choir will return with its "singing float".

Town and county elected officials also will ride in the parade.

Commissioners Will Subsidize Water Budget By \$5.2 Million

BY SUSAN USHER

Water sales will account for less than a third of a revised water system budget of \$7.68 million approved by Brunswick County Commissioners Monday. Most of the budget will be made up by a \$5.2 million subsidy from the general fund, plus a water fund balance of \$253,000 from prior years. The primary source of general fund revenues is county property tax revenue.

Commissioners adopted the budget and a new rate structure Monday night after returning to open session shortly before midnight following a two-hour closed door session. The executive session was requested by the county attorney and county manager to discuss a broad range of items—property acquisition, litigation, attorney-client matters and personnel.

The county anticipates \$2.1 million

in water sales, based on sales at its current rate through November, and after higher rates go into effect this month.

Expenditures include \$2 million in repayment of general obligation and revenue bond principal and \$4.1 million in interest payments, plus \$2.65 million in operation and maintenance costs. The budget reflects a delay in the start-up of the Northwest Treatment Plant and a delay in the start-up of Congentrix's new plant at Southport from spring to fall 1987.

Suit Settled

The county had operated the water system under interim budgets since July 1, pending the settlement in October of a federal utility rate discrimination suit filed by Pfizer Inc. against the county in 1985.

Following months of complex negotiations, the two have signed a new 10-page contract that continues

through June 30, 2020 and supercedes Pfizer's 1973 contract.

Under the terms of the new contract and the settlement, which Pfizer Plant Manager Robert Nubel said was a compromise among the parties involved, the county's water operation is recognized as a single, unified system. Previously, Pfizer had contended Phase I/I-A and Phase II were separate entities and that its contractual obligations extended only to Phase I and I-A.

At the same time, however, the county's rate structure was determined to have been discriminatory as regards its varying contracts with wholesale water users such as Pfizer.

Also, the county is obligated to furnish water that meets Pfizer's standards of purity as spelled out in the new contract and to adjust pH with specified chemicals.

Pfizer had previously been under contract to buy a certain quantity of

water per month regardless of whether it was used, in effect underwriting part of the cost of Phase I.

As of this month, all customers will only pay for water actually consumed. Customers that do not use county water exclusively can also be billed an "availability charge."

According to letters to municipal officials from County Attorney David Clegg, this method of rate assessment is equitable and non-discriminatory.

He adds, "It places the Brunswick County Water System on a firm legal footing for the anticipated growth of the retail and wholesale market due to completion of the Northwest Water Treatment Plant and accompanying transmission lines."

Two rates will apply. A wholesale rate of \$1.29 per 100 gallons will be paid by all municipalities and industries, said Clegg.

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Commissioners, Utility Board Will Discuss Water Projects

BY SUSAN USHER

Seven projects recommended for county water line extensions at a total cost of \$945,100 will be considered by Brunswick County Commissioners in a joint meeting with the Utilities Board on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Commissioners delayed action on the item at their meeting Monday night, when reorganization was the first item of business on a lengthy agenda.

On a motion by Benny Ludlum, commissioners elected District 5 member Grace Beasley as the board's first woman chairman. She was the current vice-chairman. Then, on a motion by outgoing Chairman Chris Chappell, commissioners named Ludlum vice-chairman. Both were unanimously approved.

"It's a responsibility I don't take lightly," said Beasley, adding, "It's my first adventure into chairmanship. You'll just have to be patient with me."

She and Chappell changed places

at the dais, but after a trial fitting, kept their same swivel chairs.

Board members voluntarily retained their current board and committee assignments.

Water Projects

Robert Nubel, newly-elected chairman of the utilities board, presented the list of recommended projects to commissioners Monday night, as had been requested. Commissioners took no action, instead asking for the joint meeting.

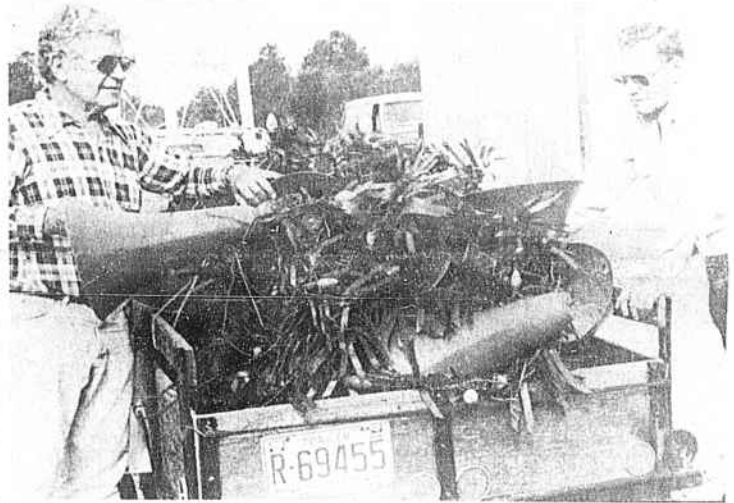
The utilities board also recommended the county require mandatory hook-ups in the areas served and that property owners be asked to pay their assessments in full within 60 days after water service is available to them. In this way the funds could be replaced in the revolving fund quickly for use in other projects.

Commissioners Jim Poole and Frankie Habon spoke out against mandatory hook-ups, while Chappell said he didn't like the idea, but that the system had to be paid for.

Selection of the seven projects, narrowed from a list of more than 100 communities grouped by engineering feasibility, was based on a ranking system that took into account the average cost of installation, the number of structures, and the number of parcels served. Seasonal and permanent homes were counted equally. Only projects that were situated within short distance of a county trunk line were considered in this first round of projects, said Nubel. Any requiring trunk line extensions, elevated towers or pumping stations were omitted.

In its ranking system, the utilities board eliminated from consideration petitions or letters requesting water for a particular community because they were of such "varying character," Nubel said. However, public opinion is expected at the hearings required on the projects before their adoption.

Listed in order of priority, the communities and estimated project costs (See SELECTED, Page 2-A)



CALABASH is getting ready for the holidays—and for the Calabash Christmas Boat Parade on Sunday. Above, Bill George and Bob Gross of the Calabash Veterans of Foreign Wars bring out the lights and bells to decorate the town's "Tree of Giving." Brunswick

Electric Membership Corp. helped string the lights Tuesday morning for lighting sometime during the week. George topped the tree with a cross he made a year ago.

Holden Boards Will Discuss Annexation Study Of Causeway

BY ETTA SMITH

Holden Beach commissioners voted Monday to meet jointly with the town's planning and zoning board at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 8, to discuss an annexation information study the latter board conducted recently.

The study is designed to give commissioners a suggested area should they ever decide to annex the causeway area north of Holden Beach, according to Town Administrator P.W. Buck.

Buck said the town has no intention at this time of annexing the area. The study is not to recommend annexation, or to not recommend it, said Buck, but to provide information should the question come up. He was not certain of the precise area targeted by the study.

The question of annexation came

up approximately four months ago when some residents of the causeway area asked Rep. E. David "Butch" Redwine to introduce a bill in the June 1986 legislative session to form a new town called North Holden Beach in that area.

Redwine said he introduced the bill, but dropped it after considerable controversy arose concerning the move.

Following that move, some residents of the area asked about the possibility of annexation by Holden Beach rather than creating a new town.

It was at this time, said Buck, that the planning and zoning board began considering the study in case the town was ever asked to make such a move.

The study will determine exactly what area would be feasible for an-

nexation, the services that would be made available by the town, the cost to the town, and revenues the town could expect to receive from such a move, according to Mayor John Tandy.

"The commissioners asked the planning and zoning board to do this study after a number of people said they didn't want to be annexed. But if they are, they want to be annexed by the Town of Holden Beach," continued Tandy. "Then, of course, there are some that don't want to be annexed at all."

According to Buck, if the study demonstrates that it's not advisable for the town to proceed with annexation, the idea will be dropped.

"But," he added, "if the town ever wanted to annex, we would have to have the study anyway."

Hunger Walk Added To Calabash Festival

A walk against hunger has been added to the line-up of activities featured in the Calabash Christmas Boat Parade, scheduled Sunday from noon until 4 p.m.

Volunteers will walk from the Thomasboro Crossroads to Calabash Sunday, Dec. 7, beginning at 1 p.m.

The entry fee is \$25 per person, with proceeds going to help feed needy area children over the holidays. Walkers may pay their own entry fee or sign up sponsors. The person who collects the most money will receive a free boat ride in the boat parade, as well as other prizes.

More information is available from the Brunswick County Volunteer and Information Center, co-sponsor of the four-mile walk.

The boat parade itself will begin at 4 p.m., instead of 5 p.m. as previously announced, according to organizer Sonia Stevens. A \$5 or larger entry donation per boat is required, with a plaque to be awarded to the best-decorated boat in each of two

classes—up to 20 feet and 21 feet to 40 feet. Registration forms are available at Moore's Grocery, Simmons Beverage Mart, Randy's Pork Center, Inlet Village Marina, Sheffield's Marina, Ocean Isle Marina and the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce office in Shallotte.

Beginning at noon, a variety of booths will offer barbecue, hotdogs, popcorn and other snack foods as well as arts and crafts, bingo, bake sale and cake walks.

Live entertainment will include afternoon performances by The Stanleys, a rock band from Shallotte. Tickets will be available at the festival for a 4 p.m. drawing for a videocassette recorder, color television, 10-speed bicycle and a microwave oven.

On Saturday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m., at the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department, a Little Miss Fawn and a Little Miss Fawn will be chosen.

Santa Claus is expected to attend.

Admission to the pageant is \$2.50 per person.

Each queen will receive a \$50 gift certificate, crown, banquet and portrait. First runner-up in the Little Miss Heindeur pageant will receive a \$25 gift certificate and a doll; second runner-up, a \$25 gift certificate; and third runner-up, a \$10 record certificate and T-shirt. Little Miss Fawn's first runner-up will get a bathing suit of her choice and a doll; the second runner-up, a \$25 gift certificate; and third runner-up, a \$10 gift certificate and a Teddy bear. There will be prizes for all who enter the pageant, said Ms. Stevens. The prizes have been donated by local merchants and banks.

Contributions to the Feed the Hungry Children fund can be sent by mail to United Carolina Bank, Calabash Branch, P.O. Box 308, Calabash, NC 28409.

The parade, in its second year, is a joint effort of the Town of Calabash and local merchants and civic organizations.

Combination of Wind, High Tides Causes Flooding, Erosion Damage

BY ETTA SMITH

A combination of astronomical tides and gale force winds temporarily closed the Sunset Beach Bridge and at least one street Tuesday and caused erosion along the beaches in Brunswick County.

The high tides, common to the area during late November and early December, were given an extra push

to the coast by two strong pressure systems located both north and south of the state, according to the National Weather Service.

Ocean Isle Beach Mayor LaDane Bullington said erosion returned conditions on the east end to where they were before the town's most recent efforts at erosion control. In recent years the town has installed a series

of wooden-piling groins at angles along the beach on the east end, plus had the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pump dredge spoil on the beach.

Bay Street was underwater, she said, and a few boats flipped over.

On Holden Beach, several oceanfront boardwalks were upturned, and there was noticeable erosion on the

east end of the island.

Caswell Beach Road on Caswell Beach was covered with tide waters, forcing relocation on Monday night of an N.C. Symphony concert scheduled in Hatch Auditorium and temporary closing of the road on high tide.

Mansell Bennett, maintenance supervisor for the state Department of Transportation, said Caswell

Beach Road received no structural damage although it was covered by about two feet of water. A lot of sand washed onto the road, he said, and the water made it impossible for about two hours Tuesday morning.

Bridge operator Tom Hewitt said the Sunset Beach Bridge was also closed because of high water levels on high tides both Monday and Tues-

day.

Hewitt said the water was about one foot above normal, and almost completely covering the fenders, the system on the bridge that keeps the boats from striking the bridge.

Two to three feet of erosion per year is average for North Carolina beaches, said Spencer Rogers, a

(See FLOODING, Page 2-A)