



Students Make Pressman's Hats

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Waccamaw Elementary School third-graders in Brinda Stanley's class were visited last week by a Beacon staff member who, among other things, taught the children how to make genuine pressman's hats. Pic-

tures are (front, from left) Shannon Lewis, Jarvis Davis, Cedric Daniels, Melissa Daniels, (back, from left) Tomeka Walker, Doniecia Moody, Tiffany Lance, Curtis Stephen and Daniel Little.

Ocean Isle Beach Eyes Savings With Purchase Of Water Bond

BY DOUG RUTTER

The Town of Ocean Isle Beach stands to save about \$140,000 by taking out a bank loan and purchasing its water system bond before it matures.

During a special meeting Monday afternoon, town commissioners agreed to take advantage of a discount purchase program offered through the Farmers Home Administration, which loaned the town money for its water system, and buy back its bond with an ordinary bank loan.

Town board members authorized Mayor Betty Williamson to work on the project with the town clerk and town attorney. Although Town Attorney Elva Jess was not present Monday, the mayor said she recommended the action.

Like many other municipalities, Ocean Isle borrowed money from FmHA to fund large town projects such as the water system.

The discount purchase program gives community program borrowers such as towns, counties and sanitary districts the opportunity to purchase the bonds at high discount prices.

Farmers Home Administration developed the program as a result of the federal Omnibus Budget Recon-

ciliation Act of 1986 and the Continuing Appropriations Act of 1987 which require the organization to sell enough community program loans to realize net proceeds of \$588 million by the end of September.

Mayor Williamson said the town still owes \$230,000 on its FmHA loan, which was issued in 1973 and will mature in fiscal year 2010. But under the discount purchase program, the town can purchase the bond for only \$152,000 and save about 33 percent of the total cost.

"We feel that it is quite a savings for the Town of Ocean Isle Beach," she said. "We know there are a lot of other towns participating and we're sure it's the best move for us as well."

To take advantage of the discount, the town had to indicate its interest in the program no later than May 4 and must have a five percent deposit on the loan, \$11,500 in the case of Ocean Isle, to the Farmers Home Administration office in Wilmington by Friday.

Community program borrowers also have to follow a specific timetable which, among other things, requires the bond purchase be settled by July 11.

Town commissioners must also hold a public hearing on the matter and adopt a refunding bond order and private sale resolution later this month.

According to Mayor Williamson, the town can save between \$80,000 and \$90,000 in principle and another \$52,000 in interest payments by taking out a bank loan to pay off the bond. She quoted these figures from a verbal proposal presented Monday by United Carolina Bank City Executive Al Laughinghouse.

She said the town can get a 10-year loan from UCB at a fixed interest rate of 10.15 percent. While the town

now pays \$20,000 per year on the FmHA loan, Mayor Williamson said the town should not have any trouble paying \$24,000 a year for the bank loan.

Although the town has not committed to one particular bank, the mayor said UCB made the best verbal proposal. Ocean Isle Beach has asked for formal proposals from various local banks.

Executive Session
Also Monday, commissioners discussed a personnel matter concerning the police department during a brief executive session.

Mayor Williamson said commissioners agreed to pay one week of vacation time to former Police Chief Bill Ozment, who resigned effective April 30.

She also said the town's new chief of police, Curtiss Pritchard, will start work May 6.

Slide-Talk Slated For Birders

Joan Van Atta, a South Carolina photographer and naturalist, will present a slide-talk program on "Nature—Plants and Birds" at the May 18 meeting of the Brunswick Bird Club.

The club will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. office on N.C. 179 in Shallotte.

Also, a bird walk will be held Saturday, May 21, at Fort Fisher. Participants will meet at 9 a.m. at the Southport dock of the Southport-Fort Fisher Ferry. For information and reservations call Marcia Warring, 579-9474.

Site Needed For Proposed Library; Group To Ask \$20,000 From County

BY RAHN ADAMS

The group heading up efforts to build a new Leland Library has its construction plans ready, but nowhere to put the library after area residents nixed a proposal to build it in Leland Park.

Discussion of the proposed library took up at least one-third of the Brunswick County Commissioners' 90-minute meeting Monday night in Bolivia. Jim Poole was the only commissioner absent.

On the eve of primary elections involving Poole and Commissioner Chris Chappell, Chairman Grace Beasley made a concerted effort to run through the meeting's light agenda in short order. No executive session was held.

Library Request

Although she was not scheduled to appear before the board, Edith Tillman, chairman of the Leland Library Building Fund, brought commissioners up to date on her organization's progress toward building a new branch library in the northern Brunswick County community—an effort which must be delayed until later this year mainly because no site for the facility has been found.

Last month, Ms. Tillman requested a \$12,000 donation from the county and asked commissioners to authorize the county's parks and recreation department to construct the proposed 40-foot by 80-foot building at Leland Park off Old U.S. 74-76. She emphasized that plans had to be formalized before May 9, when the Brunswick County Library Board initially planned to request state matching funds for the \$80,000 project.

At the April 4 meeting, commissioners said they supported Ms. Tillman's efforts but asked that she hold a public hearing to gather citizen input on the location of the library. Among other concerns, commissioners questioned whether or not the park was large enough to hold the library and a new parking lot, and if the parks and recreation department would have sufficient time to take on the project.

Ms. Tillman said Monday that only "a few" individuals attended the April 14 public hearing in Leland. However, citizen input she solicited at a recent political fundraiser there was overwhelmingly against location of the library in Leland Park. Some 64 softball and baseball teams currently use the already crowded facility.

"I don't care what land the library sits on," Ms. Tillman told commissioners. "All I care about is that the library building is located in a convenient place for the people of Leland."

"I am going to ask the Leland community to help me find land," she later stated. "I have given up the idea of the park because the Leland community doesn't need contention."

After presenting commissioners with finished plans for the new library, Ms. Tillman said her organization has increased its goal from \$40,000 to \$48,000, to hire a surveyor and auditor since private land must be purchased. She added that her group has raised \$26,925.10.

Noting that the library board now hopes to request state matching funds in October, Ms. Tillman asked the county board to allocate \$20,000 instead of the \$12,000 she requested last month.

Commissioners instructed her to submit a written request for the funds to County Manager John T. Smith, for consideration during the

upcoming budget preparation process. Smith is expected to present a proposed budget to commissioners at the board's May 16 meeting.

Petition Presented

In another matter during the public comments section of Monday's meeting, Ken Cox of Shallotte gave commissioners a 300-name petition which requests the expansion of Shallotte Township District Park.

Cox estimated that at least 200 more individuals have signed copies of the petition that are still being circulated. Also, he said a petition drive is set to begin which will ask for construction of a new park for the Ocean Isle Beach/Calabash area.

Noting that two teams had to be turned away this year due to lack of space, Cox said 160 youngsters from Supply to Calabash are now using the single ballfield at the Shallotte park.

"I'm tired of the children not having a place to play when they want to play," Cox said.

Chappell commented that the increase in participation is due to the formation of a new T-ball league for younger children. He added that the local school board has agreed to let the county construct a ballfield at Shallotte Middle School, to help relieve overcrowding at the district park.

The commissioner also pointed out that the county's parks and recreation department is updating a master plan that will identify the county's recreational needs through the turn of the century. Chappell said Cox's input will be beneficial in that update.

Requests Denied

Despite requests from two department heads, commissioners stood firm on their policy requiring that county vehicles be parked at the work stations after working hours.

Social Services Director Jamie Orrock asked the board to allow the DSS van which is used to transport kidney dialysis patients to be driven home. Routes for picking up clients are more efficient and economical if started at the driver's home in Sunset Harbor, Orrock said.

Also, Health Director Michael Barrett-Rhodes asked that animal

control officers be allowed to drive their county vehicles home at night due to after-hours calls. Barrett-Rhodes' request had been tabled from the board's April 18 meeting.

Before denying the requests, Commissioner Benny Ludlum said the board needed to either "let all (county) vehicles go or stick with the policy." The policy was adopted earlier this year as a cost-saving measure suggested by Smith.

Other Business

In other action, commissioners:

- Approved April tax releases and refunds, as authorized by Tax Administrator Boyd Williamson, and thanked Williamson for reminding them that Brunswick County property owners have until May 6 to pay their taxes without having their names advertised in local newspapers.

- Authorized the Brunswick County Public Housing Agency to apply for 40 units in the Section 8 Housing Voucher program, which allows more flexibility for families to select housing that meets their needs, according to PHA Director Perita Price.

- Adopted a resolution of intent to accept dedication of the Boiling Spring Lakes water system, and accepted dedications of water systems in the Lakeside and Oakbrook subdivisions.

- Authorized County Attorney David Clegg to advertise an offer on a foreclosed lot in Boiling Spring Lakes.

- Forwarded to the N.C. Department of Transportation an S.R. 1 request for paving and maintenance of a road in Windy Point's Lakeview subdivision; and a request to reduce the speed limit from 55 mph to 45 mph on Stone Chimney Road (S.R. 1119) from Sabbath Home Road (S.R. 1120) to an area past the entrance to Lockwood Golf Links, due to citizens' concerns about traffic congestion.

- Reversed until today (Thursday) at 6 p.m., when—at Chappell's request—the board will meet with Williamson and Tax Collector Nancy Moore, for general discussion of tax discoveries that apparently have increased over the past few months.



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