

# New County Board To Inherit Complex's Expansion Projects

**BY RAHN ADAMS**  
When the new Brunswick County Board of Commissioners gets down to county business this month, one of the first issues facing it will be two building projects set in motion earlier this year by the previous board.

In September, commissioners unanimously voted to seek architectural proposals for expansion of the county jail and construction of a new building for the Brunswick County Department of Social Services.

Since then, however, Democratic Commissioners Chris Chappell and Jim Poole lost their bids for re-

election. They will be replaced Dec. 5 by Republicans Kelly Holden and Gene Pinkerton.

But according to County Manager John T. Smith, the board's new makeup shouldn't change the county's expansion plans, since both projects are "pretty much mandated" by the state.

"I don't see any reason why we don't get on with it," Smith told the Beacon last week. "We have the money. We had it in the budget last year."

Before commissioners initiated the expansion more than two months ago, Smith emphasized the urgency

of both projects. He said the jail regularly exceeds its 44-inmate capacity; as a result, overcrowding has been noted on monthly jail inspections.

Sheriff John C. Davis has said he thinks the jail should be at least doubled in size to keep from having to expand again within five years.

Smith also said in September that the N.C. Department of Human Resources "has been on us very heavily" concerning office overcrowding in the county's Social Services building. The state eventually could withhold its DSS funding if ad-

ditional space isn't provided by the county, he noted.

The county's expansion plans call for the new DSS building and a new parking lot to be constructed behind the present Human Services facility. The additional parking also would help relieve continual parking problems at the complex.

Smith said last week that the county's \$1.2 million capital projects fund should cover the expansion, "if prices haven't accelerated much" since estimates were received more than two years ago. Otherwise, additional costs probably would have to be taken from unappropriated funds,

he said.

A 1986 feasibility study placed the total cost of the two projects at \$1,175,720. The DSS building would cost \$750,000, while its parking lot would cost \$50,000. The jail expansion was estimated at \$375,720.

Following the board's approval in September, Smith contacted seven architectural firms located throughout the eastern United States about the proposed expansion. He said last week that proposals were to be accepted until the end of November.

The proposals mainly outline the architects' experience in North

Carolina and do not include projected cost estimates, the county manager said. He added that the same architect hopefully will handle both projects.

"I'll wait until the new board comes on, then ask for a committee to review the proposals," Smith said. "I'm hoping we'll do that in December and award the bid around the first of the year."

He said the committee would possibly consist of himself, two commissioners, County Attorney David Clegg, DSS Director Jamie Orrock and Sheriff Davis.



ATMC Employees Pledge \$4,200

Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. employees set several records in donations to the 1988 Cape Fear United Way Campaign. They pledged \$4,244, up from \$1,560 last year, with 77 of 81 employees (95 percent) participating. The plant department (above) showed the greatest improvement, with an average pledge of \$56 per person. Kneeling, from left, are Frankie Stephens, Donnie Frink, Robert Stanley, Steve Bates and Dan Russ; second row, Roger Newsome,

Ellis Bryant, Brock Holmes, Roger Hewett, Tony Hewett, Kelvin Hewett and Larry Price; and back row, David Babson, Gary Young, Mark Sellers, Steve Long, Ross Bennett, Elton Smith and Greg Inman. This year, for the first time in six years, the Cape Fear Area United Way met its campaign goal, \$1.58 million, with pledges in excess of \$1.6 million. This means it will be able to fully fund requests of 19 agencies serving Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties.

## Leland Craft Fair Planned

The Leland Christmas Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Leland Middle School.

The fair, which is sponsored by the Leland Community Action Group and Brunswick County Parks and Recreation, will include handmade crafts, baked goods, barbecue and other sale items.

Entertainment will feature children's stories by Felicia Hardy, a puppet show by Elig Jones, dancer Windy Thompson, the Sunshine and Sonbeam Cloggers, a pie contest, a baby show, and music by groups including Bass and Bowen, and the East Coast Boys.

For more information, contact Special Events Coordinator Emma Thomas at Brunswick County Parks and Recreation at 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

## FFA Team Wins Tool Contest

West Brunswick's Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter recently took first place in the district FFA tool contest.

Team members are Jeff Evans, Toby Russ, Mark Logan Jason Bellamy, Chris Chapple, Michael Brogan, Whendall Cheers, Joseph Hewett, Barr Chadwick, Tony Perkins and Dale Smith. Of those, Evans, Bellamy, Russ and Hewett all scored perfect 100s on both sections of the test.

The team will advance to state competition in Raleigh in June, said Chapter Reporter Robert Evans.

## Hospice Festival Of Trees Continues

A Christmas wonderland awaits visitors to Lower Cape Fear Hospice's Festival of Trees, which continues through Sunday, Dec. 4, at the Wilmington Hilton.

Presented by Friends of Hospice, the festival features 94 trees decorated by various organizations and businesses for the holidays, as well as a special Hospice memorial tree honoring patients who have died during the past year. One of the trees was donated by Pfizer Chemicals of Southport and decorated by its employees, while two other trees were donated by DuPont's Cape Fear plant in Leland. One of those trees was decorated by Bolivia Elementary School kindergartners and the other by the N.C. State Employees Association.

In addition, the festival includes a judged display of 10 to 12 Christmas wreaths. Along with holiday decorating ideas the festival offers continuous music from area musicians, a Hospice gift shop and visits with Santa Claus. For \$15 a child can eat breakfast with Santa from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. or 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, or lunch at 12:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4. For reservations, call 1-392-4313.

The Festival of Trees will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily except for closing day, Sunday, Dec. 4, when hours will be 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. Tickets are available at the Hospice office in Sunward Plaza, Shallotte, at the Hospice office and Belk-Beery in Wilmington, and at the door.

The Hilton is located on the waterfront in downtown Wilmington.

The concert, which is open to the public, will include both sacred and secular music.

Under the direction of David Hines, the choir is composed of boys between eight and 14 years of age, representing a cross section of the community.

For more information, call Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church at 1-791-4092.

Lower Cape Fear Hospice is a program of care and support which helps terminally ill patients and their families live life to the fullest. The agency serves Brunswick, Bladen, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender counties.

## Boys Choir To Perform

The Wilmington Boys Choir will present its annual Christmas concert on Friday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Wilmington.

The concert, which is open to the public, will include both sacred and secular music.

Under the direction of David Hines, the choir is composed of boys between eight and 14 years of age, representing a cross section of the community.

For more information, call Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church at 1-791-4092.

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Frank M. Bolick, Jr., CFP

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