

# Sunset Beach Property Owners Are Updated On Lawsuit, Other Issues

BY RAHN ADAMS

As opposed to past gatherings, members of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers' Association (SBTA) didn't have much to get excited about at their annual meeting Saturday.

The hour-long meeting, which was held Saturday morning at the Sunset Beach Volunteer Fire Department, appeared to be a get-together of about 75 old friends more than anything else, as the association was simply brought up to date on various ongoing matters affecting the property owners, including the group's lawsuit over ownership of an ocean-front lot.

In one of the only items that required formal action, the association elected by acclamation three members to two-year terms on the board of directors. They included current director and Sunset Beach Mayor Mason Barber and two new directors, Cletus Waldmiller and Fitz Dove. Waldmiller and Dove replace Susan Shipley and Frank Nesmith.

## Lawsuit Discussed

At the outset, SBTA President Albert Wells set the tone for the annual meeting by saying, "I think as we look back on the past year, the scene is encouraging." He added that the association was "in the black" where finances and other matters



NEWLY-ELECTED DIRECTORS (from left) Cletus Waldmiller, Fitz Dove and Mason Barber chat following Saturday's annual meeting of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers' Association.

such as the lawsuit were concerned. Director Minnie Hunt reported on the continuing "Lot 1-A" litigation, a

1985 lawsuit filed by the SBTA against the local development firm, Sunset Beach and Twin Lakes Inc. In

August, a Superior Court judge ruled in favor of the association that the lot is a public right-of-way extending to

the ocean from Sunset Boulevard and not private property owned by the company.

Reading aloud a letter from SBTA attorney Jim Maxwell of Durham, Ms. Hunt said an appeal in the Lot 1-A suit probably will take another year to be decided. Maxwell's letter stated that an additional six months would be required if the N.C. Court of Appeals' decision is split or if the N.C. Supreme Court undertakes a "discretionary review" of the case.

In his treasurer's report, Barber said the SBTA has spent \$3,000 in legal fees alone since the association's Labor Day meeting. The group's current bank balance is \$6,784. Although forthcoming legal expenses will be taken from that account, Barber said members may later be asked to contribute to the SBTA's legal fund.

## Efforts Outlined

Waldmiller and Barber reported on various anti-litter efforts that are underway within the town.

"We hope it (cleaning up litter) will become contagious," Barber commented.

Waldmiller, who spearheaded Beach Sweep '88 at Sunset Beach, said 70 volunteers participated in the one-day clean-up campaign in

September and collected 50 bags of trash. He added that he has continued to pick up roadside litter on a regular basis along the causeway.

Barber also told the group that an "Adopt-a-Highway" anti-litter program is being developed in conjunction with the N.C. Department of Transportation to clean up N.C. 179 in the Sunset Beach area. He said the Sea Trail Property Owners Association has agreed to adopt the road from Seaside Station to the town limits, while the SBTA will handle trash pickup on the causeway and on N.C. 179 within the town limits.

## Other Matters

In other topics discussed by the association:

•Barber said the town was attempting to obtain two lots for a public access area on the eastern end of the island.

•Ms. Hunt briefly reported on other town-related matters, including underground wiring and dredging projects, and a recent satellite annexation request in the Seaside area that was denied by the town council.

•Various members complained about the illegal use of fireworks on the beach and inquired about the town's noise ordinance in relation to residential burglar alarms that are activated accidentally.

# Groups Brighten Holiday Season For Needy

Along with churches and other local groups, the Brunswick County Volunteer and Information Center is working to brighten the holidays for underprivileged families throughout the county.

Two of the VIC office's projects are

the Tree of Hope and Feed the Hungry Children campaigns.

The Tree of Hope officially opened on Nov. 18. Participants include United Carolina Bank of Bolivia and Yaupon Beach, Wilson's of Southport, Shallotte First Baptist

Church youth, Boone's Neck Baptist Church, Sharon Methodist Church, Hardees of Shallotte and North Brunswick High School.

A bake sale was held Nov. 19 for Feed the Hungry Children at Joe's Barbeque in Shallotte. Also, VIC's

"Butter and Love" cookbooks, whose proceeds also benefit the relief effort, are on sale at the VIC office in Bolivia, Joe's Barbeque, NCNB, Jennie's Branch Church, Ocean View Church, Southport Baptist Church, Shallotte First Baptist Church, Holden Beach Driving Range and Smith's Grocery.

In addition, the VIC office has "adopted" several families for the holidays, according to VIC Director Ouida Hewett. The Salvation Army serves as a clearinghouse for assistance to the families, to prevent duplication of services.

For additional information on the assistance programs, call the VIC office at 253-4441.

## Playful Rottweiler Pups Are Available

Six rottweiler mixed puppies are among the "Pets of the Week" available at the Brunswick County Animal Shelter, according to Supervisor Zelma Babson.

The two male and four female pups—all black and tan—are approximately eight weeks old. Ms. Babson

said they are "playful and adorable."

Other pets include a six-year-old male Boston terrier named "Digger." The black and white dog is up to date on its shots, housebroken and good with children.

Also, a two-year-old female

domestic cat named "Poochy" is available. She is medium sized, and has black and white, medium-length fur.

These animals and others can be seen Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the animal shelter off N.C. 211 south of Supply.

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