

Focusing On Inlet

An area professor plans a closer look at inlet conditions affecting pollution levels and water flow in and from Lockwood Folly River for the Save Our Shellfish conservation group. The story's on Page 8-A.

Facing The Judge

Most drivers prosecuted in Brunswick County for DWI with a high blood alcohol concentration (0.10) can expect convictions, according to the latest state "Rater's Report." To compare figures, see Page 10-C.

Tiger's The Ticket

For the third straight year, Billy Greer takes the Poor Boy Shark Tournament with a tiger—this time with a 565-lb. "lady," examined here by researcher Frank Schwartz. Details and photo are on Page 9-B.

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Sunset Beach Gets Out Of The Trash Business

BY SUSAN USHER

Sunset Beach got out of the garbage business this week, with Town Administrator Linda Fleugel telling the town council Monday, "Thank you, thank you, thank you" after its 4-0 vote.

Starting Saturday morning, Chambers of South Carolina will begin collecting trash on both the island and mainland under a three-year contract with the town approved by council members Monday afternoon. Chambers is the company that collected trash for the town on the July 4th holiday.

Councilwoman Minnie Hunt did not attend the special meeting, which was called following a work session last Thursday on the issues of trash collection and annexation. Councilwoman Kathy Hill Peed was absent from the work session.

Council will discuss planning board recommendations regarding annexation at its August meeting (See related story in this issue.).

Existing Cans Will Go

In contracting trash collection to a private firm, Sunset Beach Council followed the example of Holden Beach, Ocean Isle Beach and Shallotte, all of whom already contract with Chambers.

Mike Bessant of Chambers said the firm's employees were to begin working with the town crew immediately, putting out new 90-gallon rolling carts starting Wednesday and setting existing racks and trash cans behind houses—overturned and stacked until owners indicate to town hall whether they want to keep the cans for other uses or have Chambers haul them away.

"We can expect some confusion until the old carts are gone," said Councilman Ed Gore. "The sooner they're gone the better."

It could take up to a year for a complete transition to the new system, he noted, as tourists and permanent residents must get accustomed to using the carts. To ease the transition, both Chambers and the town will be contacting property owners about various aspects of the service.

Through September Chambers will pick up residential garbage twice weekly, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, with carts and any additional secured bags to be set at curb-

"For 30 percent more money we will get equal and perhaps better service—and we're out of the garbage business."

Al Odom, Councilman
Sunset Beach

side by 6 a.m. Landscape material such as leaves and limbs will be picked up if cut and bagged, said Bessant, and arrangements can be made to pick up heavy items such as furniture or appliances from curbside.

From October through April, pickup will be once weekly, on Thursdays. The same schedule applies to roadside containers at five locations throughout town.

Commercial concerns with multi-yard containers will receive twice-weekly pickup year round. Strand pickup will be weekly.

Pickup is expected to begin early, possibly by 6 a.m., on Wednesdays, and not until mid-morning or later on Saturdays, when tourists check out.

Contract Not Ready

The contract formally takes effect Aug. 1 and ends July 31, 1992. It provides for a six-month notice if the town decides not to renew with Chambers.

While council members approved the contract, a copy wasn't ready for signing Monday. Town Attorney Michael Ramos and Chambers' attorney were still negotiating the final "verbiage," said Mayor Mason Barber, adding that Ramos was working to include in the contract some additional protections for the town, such as a provision for being released from the contract if Chambers does not perform to the town's satisfaction.

As part of the deal, Chambers will buy out the town's two garbage trucks for \$18,500 and provide a general umbrella liability policy for the town as well as a performance bond.

In turn the town will pay a base rate of \$38,597 for the first year of service, based on monthly rates of \$1,781 per month October through April and \$5,226 May through

September. The cost will increase as new customers are added. Also, the annual contract figure can be adjusted upward or downward based on percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the Southeast Region.

At last Thursday's work session, Councilwoman Hunt said she was concerned that council didn't have a clear grasp of how garbage collection is now being managed or of its actual cost to the town. Without that information, she said it was hard to compare the services.

However, fellow members pointed to hidden costs to the town and headaches associated with providing regular service. "For 30 percent more money we will get equal and perhaps better service—and we're out of the garbage business. I have no objection to that," said Councilman Al Odom.

Councilwoman Mary Katherine Griffin will also be relieved.

She told council, "I've almost stopped going into my yard. When I go and am working in my yard I am accosted by people about the garbage situation."

Residents have told her they have no objections to a private service so long as the town, not individual property owners, pays the bill, and the garbage gets picked up on schedule.

Regular pickup has been a challenge for the town at times. Councilman Ed Gore noted that trying to keep the trash collected "has put a strain on the other jobs these people are supposed to be doing."

Councilwoman Hunt had asked if the town could afford to continue the two \$21,000 positions filled by the garbage truck crew, and wanted a detailed explanation from the administrator as to how they would be used.

For the present, the town has no intentions of eliminating any employees or positions, as Administrator Fleugel assured the council that the two employees now assigned to the garbage detail can be better utilized elsewhere, particularly in operating and repairing other town-owned equipment. As for salaries, she noted, "You're not going to be able to get good people to do good work if you don't pay them a decent salary."



STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS

Brunswick County Flag Flies

County Veterans Services Officer Jess Parker displays the new Brunswick County flag, which was run up its flagpole at the county government complex in Bolivia for the first time last Wednesday. Designed by Parker, the flag features the blue-and-gold county seal on a field of green; it also shows the date—March 9, 1764—that Brunswick was established as a county. The idea for the county flag was conceived earlier this year by Parker, Commissioner Gene Pinkerton and County Manager John T. Smith.

Dozen More Hopefuls File For Office

BY DOUG RUTTER

A dozen more candidates have filed for municipal office over the past week, including three at Holden Beach and incumbents at four other towns in the western end of Brunswick County.

The deadline for filing for office is Friday, Aug. 4, at noon. There is a \$5 fee. The last day for voter registration for the Nov. 7 election is Monday, Oct. 9, according to Brunswick County Board of Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt.

As of Tuesday afternoon, she said there were still no candidates for office in the towns of Bolivia, Boiling Spring Lakes, Yaupon Beach and Navassa. Also, no candi-

dates had filed for the three slots opening up this fall on the Doshier Hospital Board of Trustees and five seats on the Leland Sanitary District Board.

"It's still a little early," said Ms. Britt. "I expect to see a few more by next week."

Meanwhile, three more candidates have filed for commissioner at Holden Beach since last Tuesday, according to town board of elections member Mabel Dutton.

George Bradshaw, Carole Rogers and Don Pollard have all filed within the past week, bringing the total number of commission candidates to four. Odus Aleck Alexiou filed for a seat on the board of commissioners

shortly after the filing period opened on July 7.

All five seats on the Holden Beach Board of Commissioners and the mayor's post are up for election this year. None of the current board members had filed for re-election as of Tuesday afternoon, said Mrs. Dutton.

Incumbents have filed for office over the past week at Sunset Beach, Ocean Isle Beach, Shallotte and Varnamtown.

At Sunset Beach, long-time board member Edward M. Gore Sr. has filed for re-election to the town council, and D.G. "Bud" Scramton has also filed for councilman. (See A DOZEN, Page 2-A)

Calabash Savings & Loan Boosting Security To Deter Robbers

BY DOUG RUTTER

Officials of Security Savings & Loan are upgrading security equipment and working toward better communications with law enforcement personnel following two recent armed robberies at the institution's branch at Calabash.

One new surveillance camera has already been installed and there are plans for another as well as relocating additional alarm buttons and

switches to activate the cameras, according to Allen Bellamy, a loan officer and security officer in the S&L's Shallotte office.

"We are doing things to beef up the security there and throughout our system," he said. "We're trying to do everything we can to make sure this doesn't happen again."

The branch, located on N.C. 179 just outside of Calabash, was first robbed on June 20, then again last

Tuesday. In both instances, a man carrying a handgun entered the building, demanded and received money and fled on foot into woods behind the property.

Bellamy said officials are replacing outdated security equipment and trying to send a message to would-be criminals that the Calabash branch and others are not going to be easy targets. He said the Calabash office has been vulnerable

in the past, partly because of outdated security equipment which hasn't always functioned properly.

"We are making these alarms more accessible to our employees," he said. "We're making them more plentiful and easier to use." Bellamy also said the institution plans to test its equipment with the sheriff's department more often than it has in the past.

"We intend to work a lot more closely with the sheriff's department, and we hope to organize some type of regular patrol with them," he added.

Bellamy noted, however, that he believes Calabash is large enough and has enough businesses to warrant its own police force. "I certainly see the need for some type of police protection." Security Savings & Loan's branch office is outside the town limits.

Calabash Mayor Doug Simmons said last week he hasn't heard much talk recently of the need for a police department in town, although he admits that crime in the area seems to be on the rise. "It's getting kinda serious down here," he said.

Past efforts to get a police department failed due to the high cost, he said. A proposal several years ago to use off-duty officers from the sheriff's department was rejected by town residents, the mayor continued, because it would have required a sizable jump in the tax rate.

Calabash has a total budget this year of about \$150,000. Funding police departments in other South Brunswick Islands towns will cost an average of \$180,000 this fiscal year. That doesn't include the cost of a fleet of vehicles, uniforms and other equipment needed to start a police force.

Mayor Simmons said the proposed consolidation of Calabash and Carolina Shores or the annexation of

other areas into Calabash may bring in enough tax revenue for the town to afford a police department.

United Carolina Bank Area Executive Al Laughinghouse refused to comment last week on whether he thinks Calabash should start providing police protection or whether the sheriff's department needs to increase its force. He also declined to talk about security sys-

(See SAVINGS, Page 2-A)

Grand Jury Indicts Suspect In Calabash Bank Robbery

A federal grand jury last week indicted a man on one count of armed bank robbery in connection with the June 20 robbery of the Calabash branch of Security Savings & Loan.

Jerry Lee Brooks, 39, of Surfside Beach, S.C., and Charlotte, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Wilmington on July 18, according to Paul Cox of the FBI office in Wilmington.

Cox said Tuesday Brooks is being held in prison in Florence, S.C., and that a court date is pending. He refused to release the amount of money taken during the robbery—the first of two armed robberies to have occurred at the branch over a four-week period.

Cox said FBI agents are still investigating the most recent robbery of the Calabash financial institution, which occurred on July 18. Brooks is not a suspect in that robbery, said Cox, because Brooks does not match the description offered by tellers and because he was in custody at the time of the crime.

The N.C. League of Savings Institutions is still offering a cash reward of up to \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest and indictment of the person who committed the July 18 robbery. Anyone with information can contact the FBI office in Charlotte at (704)525-8497. Telephone charges may be reversed.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

ANNA REDMOND of the Sunset Beach Police Department, pictured in front of the Calabash branch of Security Savings & Loan following last week's armed robbery, has been the first law enforcement officer on the scene for each of the last two robberies. The financial institution plans to improve security, and some merchants in town are seeking better police protection.