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THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Twenty-seventh Year, Number 40 ©1989 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON Shallotte, North Carolina, Thursday, August 10, 1989 25¢ Per Copy 34 Pages, 3 Sections, Plus Insert

Commissioners Request County ABC Referendum

BY RAHN ADAMS

Brunswick County residents this November will have their second chance in eight years to decide on alcohol sales in unincorporated areas, as commissioners Monday night called unanimously for a county-wide ABC referendum.

The referendum will be held on Nov. 7—the same day voters will go to the polls in municipal elections.

The motion for the referendum was made by Commission Chairman Frankie Rabon, after a two-hour executive session to discuss other matters (see related story). All five commissioners were present. Benny Ludlum was the only commissioner to comment on the issue before the vote.

"I wish I'd heard about it before tonight, Mr. Rabon," Ludlum said of the chairman's motion. Ludlum did not speak when the vote was taken; however, his silence counted as an affirmative vote.

Rabon's motion specified that the referendum would determine whether or not to permit the following in unincorporated areas: on- and off-premises sale of malt beverages; on- and off-premises sale of unfortified wines; the operation of ABC stores; and the sale of mixed beverages in hotels, restaurants, private clubs, community theaters and convention centers.

Alcohol sales of one sort or another are legal now in most of the county's municipalities. Also, "sports clubs" in unincorporated sections of Brunswick County can obtain ABC permits, as a result of legislation sponsored two years ago by State Rep. E. David Redwine.

After Monday's meeting, Rabon said he initiated the board's action as a result of input from groups in his district and the Southport area. In March, a representative of "small business owners" in the county urged commissioners to seek a county-wide ABC vote. Also, State Rep. E. David Redwine told the board in January that it should consider requesting a referendum.

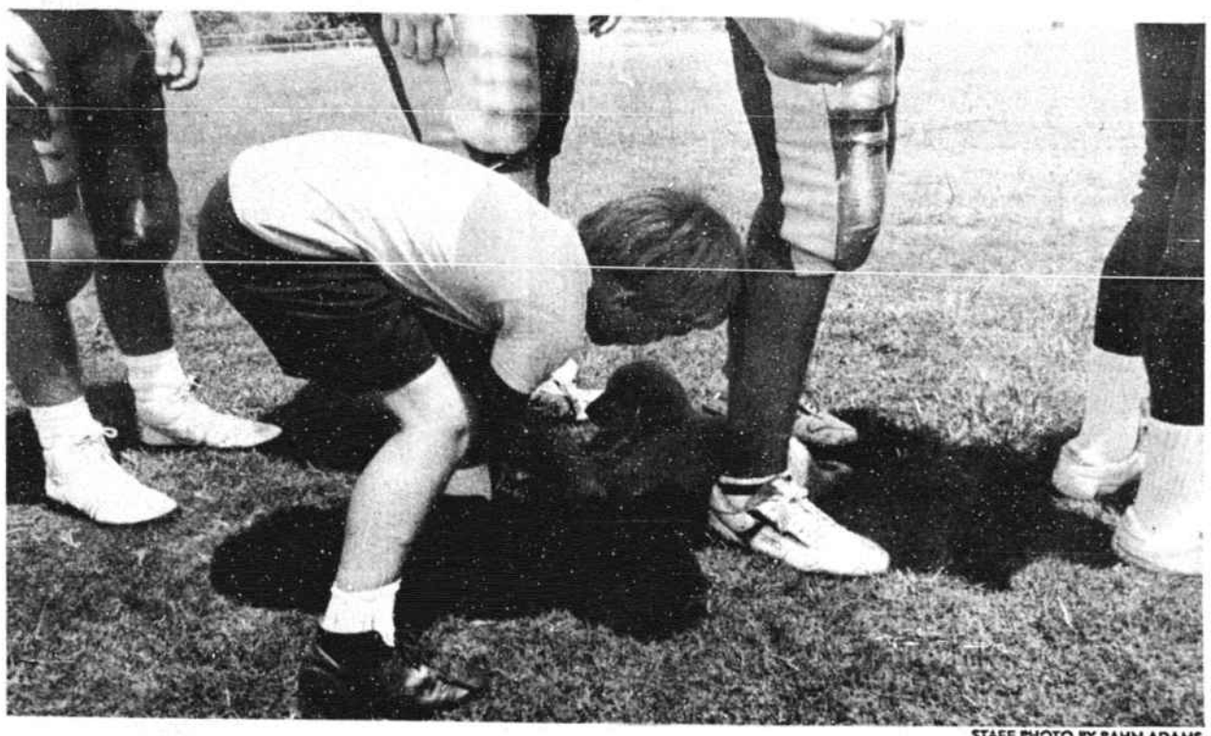
"I'm not saying they do need it (alcohol sales in the county)," Rabon told reporters. "Why not let the people decide? ... I'm going to let the people decide."

In September 1981, a majority of county voters decided against on- and off-premises beer and wine sales. There were four questions on the ballot: whether to not to permit on- and off-premises beer sales; on- and off-premises wine sales; and just off-premises sales of both beverages.

All four issues were defeated, with the narrowest margin being about 500 votes. Only six of the county's 20 voting precincts then voted passage of any of the four questions. Those precincts were Belville, Hood Creek, Oak Island, Southport I and II, and Shingletree.

County Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt told the Beacon Tuesday that the only potential problem with holding the ABC referendum in conjunction with municipal elections is that county and municipal polling places are different in many cases. She said local elections officials probably will ask for direction from the state elections board on how to handle the situation.

Ms. Britt added that the county would not be faced with the same problem encountered last November by the Town of Shallotte, whose ABC referendum was nullified because it was held in conjunction with a general election. According to state law, ABC votes can be held along with general elections only in odd-numbered years.



STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS

A Real 'Dog' Day Afternoon

Aaron Seay, son of West Brunswick High School head football coach Marshall Seay, tries to coax his Golden Retriever puppy, Gigi, out of the shadow cast by a line of Trojan players during a team photograph session Saturday on the high school stadium field. The dog found out that he didn't have it "made in the shade" after all and had to endure the hot afternoon sun like everyone else.

Municipal Candidates Flock To Bolivia As Filing Period Closes

BY DOUG RUTTER

A wave of hopefuls flocked to the county government center in Bolivia last Friday before the close of the municipal filing period to bring the total number of candidates for town office this fall over the 100 mark.

Twenty-six of the 109 candidates for municipal office, sanitary district board and hospital board of trustees filed last Friday morning prior to the noon deadline, according to Brunswick County Board of Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt.

She said more people have filed for office this year than ever before. Mrs. Britt attributed the high number of candidates, in part, to the two new towns of Varnamtown and Sandy Creek, which will be holding their first municipal elections in November.

There are three candidates for mayor and eight for alderman in Varnamtown, while Sandy Creek has eight persons vying for the five seats up for grabs this year on the town council.

Other Brunswick County municipalities with lots of candidates from which to choose include Holden Beach, with eleven candidates for the five seats on the board of commissioners, and Southport, with 15 candidates for alderman and two seeking the mayor's post.

Holden Beach Mayor John Tandy, who will face no opposition in his bid for re-election, said last week he expects a good race for the board of commissioners.

"I am kind of proud of the fact that we have that many running," he said. "The people have got a choice. There's no doubt about that."

In contrast to the last municipal elections in 1987, every municipality in the county has enough candidates this year to fill the available seats.

And, at Ocean Isle Beach, three incumbents face no challengers in their bid for re-election.

Other municipalities where candidates will apparently face no opposition this fall are Belville and Navassa in northwestern Brunswick County. Also, there are five candidates for the five seats open on the Leland Sanitary District Board and three persons seeking the three seats up for election this year on the Dosher Hospital Board of Trustees.

There was no filing period in Calabash. There will be an emergency filing period depending on the outcome of an Aug. 22 referendum concerning the proposed consolidation of the town and the neighboring community of Carolina Shores.

Here's a list of the candidates for the 1989 fall elections in Brunswick County. An (I) following a name means the candidate is an incumbent.

SUNSET BEACH:

Mayor—M. Mason Barber Jr. (I)

Councilman—Edward M. Gore Sr. (I), Katherine L. Peed (I), Julia J. Thomas, D.G. "Bud" Scrantom, Fran S. Salone-Pelietier

OCEAN ISLE BEACH:

Mayor—Betty Williamson (I)

Commissioner—Terry Barbee (I), Bill Benton (I)

SHALLOTTE:

Mayor—Jerry W. Jones (I)

Alderman—Sarah L. Tripp (I), Paul Wayne Reeves (I), Chris Lane, Joe Ebright

HOLDEN BEACH:

Mayor—John Tandy (I)

Commissioner—William Williamson (I), Gay Atkins (I), Bob Buck (I), Gil Bass (I), Odis Aleck Alexiou, George Bradshaw, Carole Rogers, Don Pollard, Kenner Amos, Gloria Barrett, Judy Bryan

VARNAMTOWN:

Mayor—Marion Davis, Judy L. Galloway, Barbara "Bobbie" Varnam

Alderman—Ada McDonald (I), Ennis Swain (I), John David Dawson (I), Roger Robinson (I), Samuel Terry Varnam, Luellen Norris, Pam Galloway, Joseph L. Herring

BOLIVIA:

Mayor—Ina Mae Mintz (I)

Councilman—Robert S. Willetts III (I), Ella Jane Wescott (I), Deborah Stanley (I), Sarah E. Knox, Cecil D. Robbins Jr.

BOILING SPRING LAKES:

Mayor—Robert W. Williams (I), H.C. Boswell, Jo Ann Smith

Commissioner—Herbert C. Bunten (I), Lester K. "Randy" Randolph, Dennis K. Finley, Tom Simmons, Curtis L. Workman

SOUTHPORT:

Mayor—C.B. "Cash" Caroon, William R. "Bob" Thorsen

Alderman (Ward I, three-year term)—James Brown (I), Ed L. Oliver (I), Gilbert Powell, J. Walton Willis, Walter C. "Andy" Anderson, William "Bill" Crowe, Thomas Florkiewicz, John Walters

Alderman (Ward I, two-year term)—Mary H. "Meezie" Childs

Alderman (Ward II, three-year term)—Harry W. Gore Sr., Bill Delaney II, Thomas O. Savidge

Alderman (Ward II, two-year term)—Olivia Costango, Paul Sweeney, Gloria Yount

LONG BEACH:

Mayor—John W. Vereen III (I), James R. Somers, Bob Miller

Commissioner—James B. Sloop (I), William "Hobe" Millard (I), William D. Easley III, Joan P. Altman, Joe Edwards, Jeffrie D. Ensminger, Danny C. Leonard

YAUPON BEACH:

Commissioner—Robert W. Brown (I), Loy David Buff, Nancy Craven Aman, Dorothy Kelly, William S. Smith, Hugh D. Zachary

CASWELL BEACH:

Commissioner—Duncan R. Stuart (I), William A. Boyd Jr. (I), Earl B. Gilbert

BELVILLE:

Mayor—Kenneth D. Messer (I)

Commissioner—Eunice I. Long (I), Samuel T. Herring

NAVASSA:

Mayor—Louis "Bobby" Brown (I)

Councilman—Jimmy Lewis, William L. White

SANDY CREEK:

Councilman—Ernest "Buddy" Grainger (I), Donald C. Minnis (I), Willie E. Millinor (I), Ray Flynn Jr., Waymon Earl Sutcliff, Louis A. Blouir, Carolyn Hamilton, Kenneth L. McKoy

DOSHER HOSPITAL BOARD:

Douglas A. Ledgett (I), Ben Blake (I), Robert M. Zukoski

LELAND SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD: Patsy Ann Elliott (I), Julius D. "Buddy" Lewis (I), Edison Moore, Jean G. Speight, Julius C. Adams.

Shallotte Residents Seek Board's Help In Blocking Group Homes

BY DOUG RUTTER

Though a concerned group of residents opposing construction of two more group homes for mentally retarded adults in Shallotte wants the town's help in blocking those proposed facilities, there may be nothing town officials can do to prevent their locating here.

Developer Eddie Droughan of Dunn has proposed building group homes at 128 Pine Street and 116 Pender Road in Shallotte. The local homes, as well as nine others proposed in surrounding counties, would be leased and operated on a for-profit basis by LifeSkills Inc., also based in Dunn.

At last Wednesday's regular town meeting, a half dozen residents from Pine Street and Al Street requested the town board's assistance in blocking the proposed group homes. Some of the audience members had attended a public hearing the day before in Lumberton held as part of the state's certificate of need process.

A decision on whether to issue certificates of need, which would allow construction of the intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded, will be made before the end of October and could be made as soon as mid-September, according to Terri Muchmore. The project analyst with the state Division of Facility Services chaired last week's hearing.

Joe Hewett, who lives on Pine Street, said last week he and five other town residents went to the public hearing to oppose the proposed group homes. He came to last week's town meeting seeking the support of town officials.

"We want you to jump on the bandwagon with us and help us keep them out of here because we don't think they're needed on any street in Shallotte," he told the board.

Aldermen agreed to look into what the town could do to keep the group homes from locating in Shallotte. One proposal was to limit the number of unrelated persons living in one dwelling.

But there are no zoning restrictions or other measures the town can take to prevent the homes from locating in town, according to Shallotte attorney Rex Gore, chairman of Southeastern Mental Health's board of directors. Others in the mental health field agree that state law is on the side of the developers and that the town cannot pass laws to prevent the construction of group homes.

Gore said the agency proposing to manage the two facilities, LifeSkills Inc., had earlier requested a letter of support from the Southeastern Mental Health board, but nothing was approved. He said the board did not have statistics and other information needed to judge whether or not there is a need for one or two more group homes, and therefore, has taken no stance on the proposal.

Southeastern Mental Health (SMH) recently started construction of a group home for mentally retarded adults on John Street. The two other homes proposed in town would be slightly different than the home being built on John Street, according to Claire Emerson, director of the developmental disabilities programs for SMH.

Ms. Emerson said the adults who would live in the proposed homes would have developmental disabilities and, generally speaking, would be slightly less functional than those who will live at the John Street home. She added, however, that none of the people will be mentally ill or pose a threat to neighbors.

"If the residents would take the time to visit a group home somewhere else, they would see that there is nothing to fear."

—Claire Emerson
Southeastern Mental Health

"I'm sorry that group homes are felt to be a menace because very nice people live in them," she said. "If the residents would take the time to visit a group home somewhere else they would see that there is nothing to fear."

The homes proposed for Pine Street and Pender Road would also be operated for a profit, while the home on John Street will be run as a non-profit facility.

Rhett Raynor, vice president of LifeSkills Inc. which formed last spring, said the state limits the amount of profit the agency can earn. If the homes are approved and built, he said the corporation would earn a profit of $1 per patient per day, or $2,190 per year with six clients in the home.

Funding for the proposed homes would come in part through state and federal grants, he said, and the homes themselves will be worth about $200,000 each.

Raynor said the Town of Shallotte was chosen because it is a growing community that offers services such as doctors, lawyers and shopping centers. Also, the town is close to The Brunswick Hospital and Brunswick Community College, where some clients will attend classes offered through the interagency program.

He said the agency examined approximately eight sites in town and chose the lots on Pine Street and Pender Road because they are good building sites and are situated in established residential neighborhoods.

"There is a tremendous need in Brunswick County and this is a tremendous opportunity to care for the mentally retarded people in Brunswick County," said Raynor. "The group homes allow for special care of mentally retarded adults without taking them far away from their families and putting them in institu-

(See RESIDENTS, Page 2-A)

Communities Plan Separate Meetings On Consolidation

BY DOUG RUTTER

A proposal to consolidate the community of Carolina Shores and the Town of Calabash into one municipality will be the topic of separate meetings planned over the next two weeks by leaders of the two areas.

The first public meeting will be held Saturday, Aug. 12, at 1 p.m. at the Carolina Shores Property Owners Association (CSPOA) clubhouse for residents of Carolina Shores. Calabash Town Council will then hold a special meeting for town residents Thursday, Aug. 17, at 7 p.m. in town hall.

Both meetings are being offered to provide information and answer questions concerning the proposed consolidation, which will go to a vote later this month. Residents of Calabash and Carolina Shores will vote in separate elections Tuesday, Aug. 22, on the issue of consolidation.

If the plan is rejected by either side in the referendum, the two areas will both continue in their present form.

However, if both sides vote in favor of the proposal, a seven-member town board of commissioners and a mayor for the enlarged town would be elected in November. Five of the commission seats would come from Carolina Shores, and the other two would come from the existing Town of Calabash. The mayor could be elected from either district.

A letter from CSPOA Board of Directors President Bob Cook distributed last week to residents of the golf course community contains details of the proposed consolidation and a sample budget for the Calabash and Carolina Shores area developed by the Carolina Shores incorporation committee.

Cook said the budget is a "hypothetical" plan developed to give community residents an idea of what consolidation could mean in financial terms.

Under the sample budget, consolidation would cost the owner of a home in Carolina Shores valued at $100,000 an extra $62 per year. The present POA dues would be reduced from $235 per year to $52 annually, but a hypothetical town tax rate of 24 cents per $100 of valuation would make up for that reduction.

In response to the Carolina Shores meeting, Calabash Town Council voted Tuesday night to hold a special meeting of its own. They decided to wait until next Thursday so there would be time to advertise the meeting in next week's issue of *The Brunswick Beacon*.

At this week's Calabash Town Council meeting, Marsh Harbour Yacht Club project coordinator Bob Hirsch told board members, "There generally doesn't seem to be an understanding of what the pros and cons of consolidation are."