

# Local Coordinators Gearing Up For 'The Big Sweep'

BY DOUG RUTTER

They're getting psyched up for The Big Sweep. Like warriors preparing to do battle, they're arming themselves with pointed sticks and gloves.

"They" are the local coordinators for The Big Sweep—the people who will lead hundreds of concerned volunteers next weekend as they scour local beaches picking up trash.

The Big Sweep, a statewide litter cleanup, will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

On the day of The Big Sweep, volunteers will meet local organizers at designated sites to receive trash bags, pencils and data cards. Then they will head to their assigned stretch of beach to collect litter and record their finds on the data cards. The information on the cards will be compiled into state and national databases for educational purposes and to pinpoint the sources of trash.

## Sunset Beach

Clete Waldmiller, who is leading the cleanup effort this year at Sunset Beach, hates litter and litterbugs. "I personally dislike litter and I think a lot of other people do too," he said. "When God created these beaches there wasn't litter on them. I think we should do everything we can to keep them clean."

Waldmiller said about 70 volunteers turned out in 1988, and he is looking for at least that many this year. Posters have been put up in the Sunset Beach and Calabash areas to get the word out, he said.

On Sept. 23, volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. at the same location they did last year—the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Main Street.

People who have helped out in the past will see a new twist to the cleanup this year, said Waldmiller. Each person or couple will be given two bags this year—one for trash and another for recyclable items such as aluminum cans and glass bottles. He said the recyclable items will be taken to Sunset Beach's new recycling center.

Volunteers will meet for refreshments at Waldmiller's home after the beach has been cleared of litter. Sunset Beach Mayor Mason Barber is assisting him with organization of the cleanup.

## Ocean Isle Beach

At Ocean Isle Beach, the property owners association will once again hold its fall "Trash Bash" in conjunction with the statewide cleanup.

"We're going to pick up garbage until our little fingers are raw," said coordinator Hayden O'Neil. "We're enthusiastic about this. It's just a great time to get together."

O'Neil expects about 150 people to participate in this year's cleanup. Volunteers, each of whom will receive a free Big Sweep T-shirt, will meet at the fire station at 9 a.m. There, they will be assigned to one of 12 teams that will each clean a different section of the island.

*"We're going to pick up garbage until our little fingers are raw."*

—Hayden O'Neil  
Ocean Isle Beach

Ocean Isle's cleanup effort will include streets and canals as well as the beach, said O'Neil. He added that one group of volunteers will also pick up trash along the causeway on the mainland. At the same time, that team will weed and fertilize the planted areas beside the road.

"That island will be very clean by the time we finish with it," said O'Neil. "I feel sorry for the first person who throws a beer can out. I'll personally hang him up by his thumbs."

Following the cleanup, volunteers will meet back at the fire station for the POA's "famous hot dog lunch."

## Holden Beach

Holden Beach coordinator Margaret Vasco is hoping for a repeat performance of last year's cleanup when 185 volunteers turned out to pick up litter on the beach. Volunteers will meet under the bridge next Saturday at 9 a.m.

For the second year in a row, the litter cleanup is being directed by the Holden Beach Beautification Committee. Mrs. Vasco heads up that committee and said the island will be divided into six zones for The Big Sweep.

"We don't plan to change a thing," she said. "We're going to do it the same way as last year." She said cleaning the beach is important because it beautifies the environment and makes it safe for marine life.

"If we don't make people more aware of the litter and trash on the beach, we are just allowing them to destroy the sea creatures," said Mrs. Vasco. "We need to protect the birds and fish and make people aware that they are killing the animals every time they litter."

## Big Sweep History

The Big Sweep started out two years ago as Beach Sweep. In its first year, 1,000 volunteers removed about 14 tons of trash from the coastline. In 1988, the turnout topped the 3,500 mark as volunteers bagged 47 tons of debris.

Locally, participation in the cleanup effort has grown tremendously over its two years. Turnout was relatively light for the first Beach Sweep, but it grew last year to 380 people in the South Brunswick Islands alone.

The success of the past two cleanups spurred organizers to include inland lakes and rivers in this year's



ROBIN, JOSH AND JUDY HOLDEN of Holden Beach were among the 380 volunteers who helped clean up the South Brunswick Islands during Beach Sweep '88. The Big Sweep will be held next Saturday, Sept. 23.

effort and to rename the event The Big Sweep. More than 90 sites are targeted for this year's cleanup campaign. Organizers expect more than 6,000 volunteers statewide.

The purpose of the cleanup is to educate people about the effects of littering and pollution. In addition to hurting the appearance of an area, items such as fishing line, plastic bags and six-pack rings are blamed for killing thousands of animals, birds and fish every year.

Over the first two years of the cleanup, organizers say most of the trash recorded has been plastic in one form or another. Also, a small percentage of the debris has been commercial or industrial, indicating that beachgoers and recreational fishermen are the ones that need the most education about littering.

The Big Sweep is coordinated by the UNC Sea Grant college program, N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, N.C. Aquariums, N.C. Division of Coastal Management, WRAL-TV, N.C. 4-H Program, Keep N.C.

Clean and Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful of Carteret County.

Also, more than a dozen corporate sponsors have donated money for trash bags, posters, brochures and other promotional items such as buttons that will be given to each Big Sweep volunteer.

## How To Volunteer

To volunteer for The Big Sweep, contact the coordinator at your favorite local beach:

Sunset Beach: Clete Waldmiller, 579-8951, or Mason Barber, 579-4164.

Ocean Isle Beach: Hayden O'Neil, (704) 375-4349.

Holden Beach: Margaret Vasco, 842-9282.

Oak Island: Long Beach Parks and Recreation Department, 278-5518

Bald Head Island: Bill Brooks, 1-800-722-6450.

Elsewhere: Big Sweep Hotline, 1-800-275WEEP. Volunteers are urged to wear shoes, hats and gloves during the cleanup. Sunscreen is also recommended.

# School Board Approves All Personnel Decisions

Brunswick County Board of Education members moved Monday night to approve personnel actions taken by the school system administration since the board's last meeting.

These included the hiring of employees as follows: Thomas Hughes, art, South Brunswick Middle; Phillip Tate, interim guidance counselor, South Brunswick Middle; Margaret Price-Huber, interim teacher, Bolivia Elementary; Gail Porterfield, math, South Brunswick Middle; Barbara Wood, interim 60 percent English, Extended Day Program, North Brunswick High School; Edgar Adams, interim fifth grade, Bolivia Elementary; Wilma Newkirk, interim second grade, Bolivia Elementary; Carol Malpass, interim sixth grade, Leland Middle;

Also, Debra Carroll, interim eighth grade, Leland Middle; Betty Hasty, speech therapist, Waccamaw/Union Primary; Sally Lineberger, Chapter 1 teacher assistant, South Brunswick Middle; Norfrette Bellamy, special education teacher assistant, South Brunswick Middle; Rita Starnes, custodian, Southport Elementary; Donna Green, assistant secretary, and Donna Coughlin, secretary, support services, central office; Lori Elliott, secretary, Post-Poning Sexual Involvement; Esther Lyons, five-hour cafeteria worker, Lincoln Primary;

And, Johnnie Smith and John Hewitt, cafeteria worker, Shallotte Middle; Ellen Bulak, teacher assistant, Union Primary; Peggy Fodrie, part-time teacher assistant, Bolivia Elementary; Gail Thomas, Chapter 1 reading teacher, Waccamaw Elementary; hired on contract, Valerie Taylor, part-time dance instructor, West Brunswick High; Naomi Hewitt, assistant cafeteria manager, Shallotte Middle.

## The board also:

—Transferred Gwen Davis, cafeteria worker, South Brunswick high, to assistant cafeteria manager, same school; Sherry Davis, from assistant cafeteria manager at North Brunswick High to assistant cafeteria manager, Lincoln Primary; Retha Rusk, fifth grade teacher to AG teacher, Bolivia Elementary; Wendy Milligan, teacher, Waccamaw Elementary; to guidance counselor, Union Primary; John Gideon, band director, North Brunswick High, to band and music teacher, Leland Middle.

—Accepted the resignations of Sara Spencer, art, South Brunswick Middle; Pauline Castner, special education, South Brunswick Middle; Joan Morris, speech therapist, Waccamaw Elementary; Patricia Ellis, eighth grade science, Leland Middle; Pamela Scales, secretary,

vocational, central office; Margaret Price-Huber, teacher, Bolivia Elementary; Ronald Martin, ROTC instructor, North Brunswick High; John Kirkman, maintenance worker, maintenance department.

—Granted maternity leaves of absence to Delana Raines, teacher,

Shallotte Middle; Greta Galloway, teacher, Bolivia Elementary; Kathy Rublein, teacher, Leland Middle.

—Granted certified disability to Lillie Randolph, 66, teacher, Bolivia Elementary, through March 1, 1990.

—Approved 20 substitute teachers.

# Brunswick Challenge Plans Red Ribbon Week Campaign

Brunswick Challenge, a county-wide volunteer committee that promotes drug-free communities, is asking Brunswick County residents to don red ribbons the week of Oct. 22-29 to demonstrate commitment to a drug-free, healthy lifestyle.

"It is our goal to experience a 'blizzard' of red ribbons displayed by everyone," said Jean Parker, chairperson. She said the ribbons could be displayed on homes, mailboxes, automobiles and in businesses and other agencies.

The week is designated nation-

wide as the second National Red Ribbon Campaign. It is sponsored by the National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth, the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the Wilson (N.C.) Families in Action. The campaign originated when federal agent Enrique Camarena was murdered by drug traffickers in 1985. The ribbon became the symbol to reduce the demand for drugs.

Specific activities in conjunction in the week are to be announced. For more information, contact Parker at 278-9797.

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