

## Preliminary Access Plan Unveiled; Boards To Discuss Proposed Sites

BY RAHN ADAMS

County planning officials last week got a sneak preview of 12 sites that may be the focus of the county's first shoreline access plan—a "wish list" of proposed facilities that will be discussed today (Thursday) during a joint meeting of Brunswick County Commissioners and the county planning board.

The workshop will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Assembly Building at Bolivia. County Parks and Recreation Director Bobby Jones also is expected to participate in the session, to report on his department's long-range goals as they relate to the shoreline access study.

At the planning board's regular monthly meeting last Wednesday, Wilmington landscape architect Howard Capps presented a draft of the \$7,800 state and locally-funded access plan, and outlined preliminary recommendations that he indicated were based on information from three public hearings in December and subsequent talks with Jones. Other factors were the sites' development potentials and growth patterns of the areas around them.

The plan is targeted for completion in late February. While the study may be used in future access grant applications, Planning Director John Harvey has emphasized that it will not guarantee that any or all of the recommended sites will be developed.

In December, Harvey contacted local municipalities bounded by the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) to inquire whether or not they would be interested in participating in the study. However, only Sunset Beach—which already has its own shoreline access plan—indicated that it supported possible joint access projects at sites within its jurisdiction.

**Recommended Sites**

Capps' final draft will list 42 existing and potential access sites on coastal and inland waterways throughout Brunswick County—30 sites that the consultant identified by touring the county and 12 additional sites that were suggested in the public hearings.

Of that number, Capps has recommended the following 12 areas for either improvements to existing facilities or construction of new facilities for active and/or passive recreation, such as boating, fishing,

hiking, picnicking and sightseeing:

\*A gazebo, fishing pier and trash receptacles at each of the county's four existing N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission boat access areas, located at Pireway on the Waccamaw River; at Sunset Harbor on the Lockwood Folly River; and in the Southport area on the Carolina Power & Light Company canal and on Rice's Creek. Picnic tables are recommended for all except the Rice's Creek area.

\*ICW at Bricklanding Road—boat ramp, gazebo, picnic tables and benches.

\*ICW at Old Bridge Road under the Oak Island Bridge—boat ramp, picnic area, fishing area.

\*Lockwood Folly River at the N.C. 211 bridge—gazebo, picnic shelter, nature trails and fishing pier.

\*Town Creek at the U.S. 17 bridge—gazebos, fishing pier, nature trails, canoe trail, picnic tables and restroom facilities.

\*Cape Fear River east of N.C. 133 near Eagle Island—visual access (sightseeing) area.

\*Cape Fear River at Hooper Road—gazebos, fishing pier, boat ramp, picnic shelter, picnic tables, nature trails and restroom facilities.

\*ICW east of N.C. 179 at Sunset Beach (mainland)—boat ramp, picnic shelter, picnic tables and trash receptacles.

\*Shalotte River at Middle Dam Road—gazebo, boat ramp, picnic shelter, picnic tables, nature trails and restroom facilities.

Except at the four wildlife access areas and the Department of Transportation-owned Eagle Island site, the county would have to acquire land from private property owners to implement Capps' recommendations. The consultant estimated that land at individual sites would range in cost from \$53,068 (Town Creek site) to \$488,551 (Shalotte River site).

**Board's Reaction**

Harvey noted that the planning board and commissioners must decide several policy questions before the access study is completed, including whether to pursue sites that involve land acquisition; whether the county would be responsible for operations and maintenance of sites; and whether to involve any municipalities in the plan.

Planning Board Chairman Ed Gore indicated he felt that the coun-

ty should not consider boat ramp sites that would require property acquisition, especially at access areas that private enterprises have already determined to be unfeasible to operate. Other board members commented that certain lands—particularly the Lockwood Folly site—probably could not be bought from present owners, anyway.

Gore also noted that he did not support inclusion of Capps' Sunset Beach site in the plan. The chairman and Harvey pointed out that Sunset Beach Town Council earlier this month recommended two other proposed boat ramp sites on the ICW for consideration in the county access plan: on the mainland under the proposed Sunset Beach high-rise bridge where the present bridge is located; and at Bonaparte Landing off N.C. 179.

In reference to Capps' recommendations concerning fishing piers at proposed sites, Gore—who owns the Sunset Beach Pier—said he felt that only ocean piers were worth more than "kindling" here. The other board members present—Thomas Dixie, Alan Holden and Commissioner Benny Ludlum—also showed little interest in a new state program that Capps and Harvey said would possibly fund construction of fishing piers.

**Other Business**

In other action last Wednesday, the planning board approved preliminary plat proposals for the following subdivisions:

\*Addition to Sandy Bluff, located in Lockwood Folly Township on the east side of Stanley Road, 34 lots measuring 60 feet by 175 feet, owned by Alfonza Roach and Benny Ludlum.

\*Addition to Forest Hills, located in Lockwood Folly Township west of Kirby Road, approximately 29 lots of at least 50 feet by 125 feet, also owned by Roach and Ludlum.

The board also received information from developer Morris Crouch on the proposed Hickory Farms, a golf course subdivision that is planned for construction east of Sunset Harbor Road; approved plans for a proposed connector road off U.S. 17 in Lincoln Industrial Park near Leland; and conditionally approved a survey map involving property owned by William Hewett on the east side of Avenue Road north of Sautpan Creek near Brick Landing.

## Warmer Weather Still Forecast

The Shalotte area should continue to get a "reprieve from winter" over the next several days, with unseasonably warm and dry weather conditions, according to Shalotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Temperatures through the weekend are expected to average from the low 40s at night to the low 60s during the day. Rainfall should measure less than one-half inch, which is the normal amount for this time of year.

That forecast is a continuation of relatively balmy conditions recorded during the period of Jan. 16 through 22, when the daily average temperature was 55 degrees. Canady said that mark was 10 degrees above the local seasonal average.

The daily average high temperature was 67 degrees, and the nightly average low temperature was 43 degrees.

The maximum high temperature during the period was 72 degrees on Jan. 18. The minimum low temperature was 36 degrees on Jan. 17 and 22.

Only 0.01 of an inch of rain was measured during the seven-day period. The trace of precipitation was recorded on Jan. 18.

## State Sues Area Firm Over Waste Treatment Violations

The N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources (DEHNR) has filed suit in Brunswick County Superior Court against a Southport area utility company, to collect \$38,847 in civil penalties for 19 wastewater treatment violations.

Filed earlier this month, the lawsuit involves River Run Utilities Inc., which operates a 25,000-gallon-per-day package wastewater treatment plant that serves businesses in River Run Shopping Center. The company's office is in Jacksonville.

The shopping center, located near the intersection of N.C. 211 and Long Beach Road, is part of an area between Southport and Oak Island that eventually will be served by a newly-formed sanitary district. The need for sewer service in that area sparked formation of the district last year.

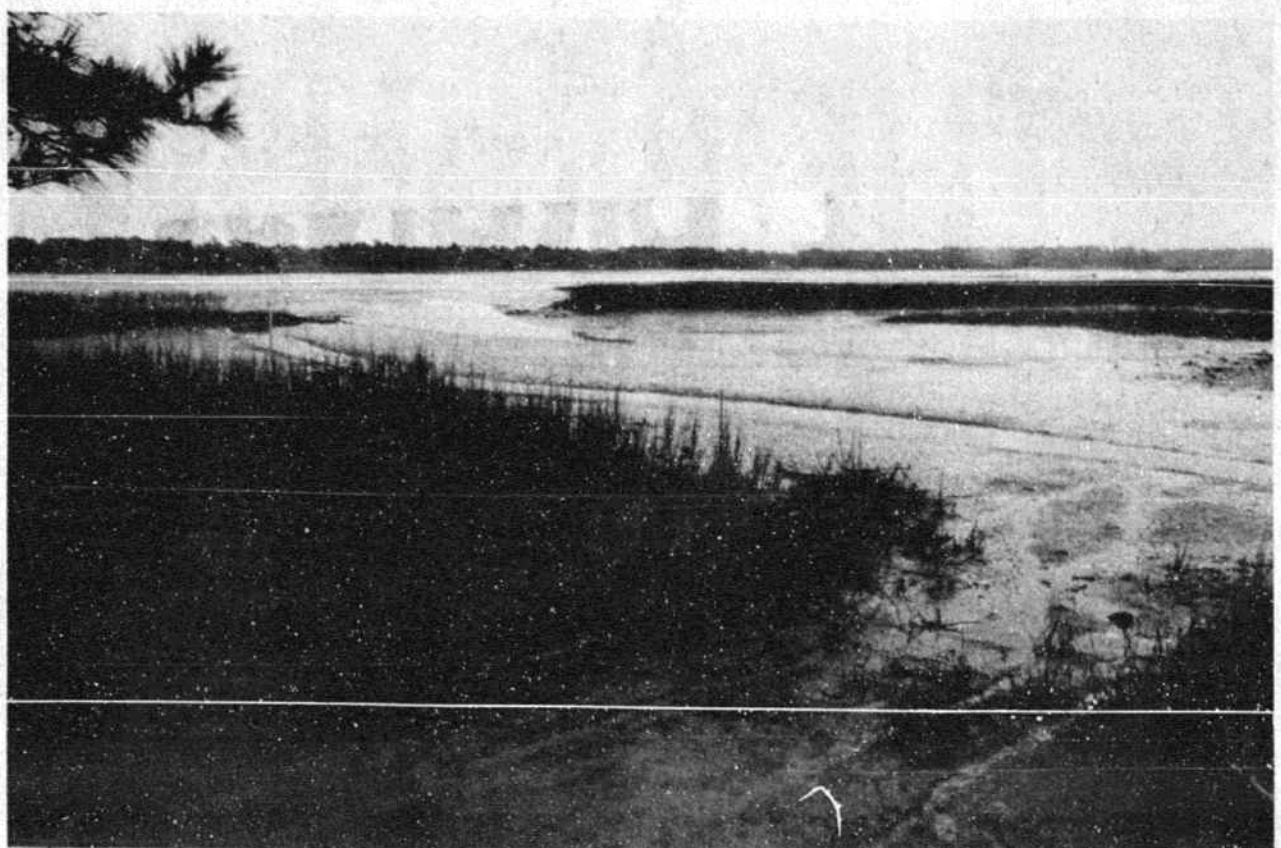
According to DEHNR's complaint, the Division of Environmental Management (DEM) assessed the civil penalties against River Run Utilities in August 1988. Although the company was given 60 days to

either pay the penalty or appeal the matter, the firm took neither action.

DEM maintains that during 19 occasions between August 1988 and July 1989, the utility company permitted waste to be discharged into Jump and Run Creek—a tributary of Dutchman Creek—with effluent levels that were too high in four categories: biochemical oxygen demand, suspended solids, ammonia and dissolved oxygen.

After River Run received violation notices in April 1989 and June 1989, company President Warren G. Bailey of Jacksonville contacted the Wilmington DEM office in late June and stated that the utility was in compliance, according to DEM documents. However, DEM sampling inspections over a five-day period in early July found violations in the same categories, except for the ammonia limit.

The \$38,847 assessment consists of a \$2,000 penalty for each of the 19 violations and \$847 for investigation costs. The civil penalty amounts to 20 percent of the maximum fine authorized by law.



THIS SHALLOTTE RIVER SITE at the end of Middle Dam Road is one of 12 proposed shoreline access areas that may be featured in an on-going county study.

## River Opens To Harvesting

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Varnamtown shellfish dealer Carson Varnam said the average oysterman picked up about five bushels Tuesday, while the average clammer filled two or three bags.

"Everybody was real disappointed with what was out there," he said. "It's a lot less than what they were expecting."

George Gilbert, assistant director of the state's shellfish sanitation program, said the section of river was reopened to harvesting as a result of good water and shellfish meat samples taken there last Thursday.

"They could have been a little bit better, but we've seen it a whole lot

worse," Gilbert said of the bacteria levels.

Since rain was expected over the weekend, Benton said officials decided to wait until Tuesday to open the river. If the area had received heavy rain, the state would have been forced to close the river to harvesting right away.

Stormwater runoff that accompanies heavy rains often carries pollutants into the river, pushing bacteria counts beyond safe levels.

Looking ahead, Gilbert said there are showers in the forecast for later this week, but no heavy downpours are expected. "If there's any appreciable rain, we'll probably have to close it right back down," he warned.

Lockwood Folly River, which accounted for more than 40 percent of the commercial shellfish landings in Brunswick County from 1985 to 1987, has been affected by pollution for the past decade.

Since August 1987, however, problems have become increasingly worse. State environmental officials have listed septic tanks and stormwater runoff as the two most likely sources of pollution.

A water quality management plan took effect Jan. 1 protecting about 420 acres in the lower Lockwood Folly River. The plan limits development near the river and restricts new or expanded marinas, dredge and fill operations and discharges.

## Petition Seeks To Undo Incorporation

(Continued From Page 1-A)

to use its state sales and use tax revenues to help build a town hall, rather than to meet town water and wastewater treatment capital needs. The request will span six years, through fiscal year 1995-96. The town will also request from the Health Services Division and the Division of Environmental Management certification that the town's water and wastewater treatment system (private wells and septic tanks) meets state standards respectively, and projections of the town's needs in those two areas on a year-by-year basis.

Authorized Alderman John David Dawson to contact attorney Glen Peterson of Leland regarding employment as the town's attorney. Members said an attorney will be needed to assist with development of ordinances and other legal matters.

At the request of various residents, Alderman McDonald agreed to contact the state Department of Transportation as to whether that resident can erect a "Caution: Children Playing" sign in the road right-of-way and whether the stop sign at S.R. 1122 can be changed to a yield right-of-way sign, to reflect changes in traffic patterns there

since the signs were changed once before.

Agreed, on a motion by Alderman Dawson, for Town Clerk Paul Vealey to purchase a tape recorder and tapes for use in conjunction with his work.

Set the board's next meeting for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at Dixon Chapel United Methodist Church.

Noted a joint public hearing with the county and several other municipalities regarding a proposed 50-cents per month fee to help cover the cost of providing 911 county-wide. The town board has previously endorsed the plan following a public meeting of its own.

## Sting

(Continued From Page 1-A)

morning, he's got 48 hours to pay his (drug) taxes." The state's 48-hour payment period begins after a tax notice is served; the period does not include weekends or holidays.

The excise tax—which went into effect Jan. 1—is \$200 per gram of controlled substances such as methamphetamine and cocaine; and \$3.50 per gram of marijuana. The four ounces of drugs seized last Thursday from Phillips translated to approximately 114 grams.

In general, if the tax isn't paid within 48 hours after the drugs are brought into North Carolina, a suspected dealer who is caught must pay the tax as well as a penalty equal to the tax and interest. Also, violators of the drug tax law can be charged with a felony offense punishable by up to five years in prison.

Local law enforcement agencies are required to report all drug seizures of taxable amounts to the SBI, who in turn reports them to the state revenue department. Local tax offices are then notified of the seizures, to check whether the excise tax has been paid and to collect any taxes that are owed.

Drug dealers can apply anonymously for tax stamps either at local state revenue offices or through the mail.

Introduced last spring by state Sen. Robert Shaw of Greensboro, the drug tax law was adopted by the N.C. General Assembly last August. Shaw, a Holden Beach property owner, said he sponsored the legislation after he noticed that most Brunswick County drug traffickers were not being ordered to pay mandatory minimum fines.

If convicted of both trafficking charges, Phillips faces a mandatory minimum sentence of seven years in prison and a \$50,000 fine on each count. However, a judge can impose a more lenient sentence if Phillips provides "substantial assistance" to investigators.

## Police Chief Enters Race For Sheriff

(Continued From Page 1-A)

20 years. As of Tuesday, the only GOP District 5 commission hopeful was Donald Shaw of Route 1, Leland.

Yvonne Lewis Bright, 46, of Route 1, Leland, Friday became the first Republican candidate so far for the District 5 Brunswick County Board of Education seat now held by Democrat James Clemmons of Leland. Ms. Bright has been a Federal Paper Board Company employee for 22 years. She unsuccessfully ran for the school board in the late 1970s as a Democrat. Clemmons is opposed by fellow Democrat Julie Strickland of Olde Towne.

Also, state Rep. E. David Redwine, a Democrat, filed Monday for his fourth full term representing the 14th District, which includes Brunswick County and parts of New Hanover and Pender counties. The Ocean Isle Beach area resident is the first candidate to file for the district seat. Redwine was appointed to the state house post in 1983, following the resignation of former state Rep. Tom Rabon Jr. of Winnabow.

According to the state board of elections office in Raleigh, 13th District Attorney Michael F. Easley made his intentions official Tuesday by filing for the Democratic U.S. Senate race. Other official candidates so far are incumbent Republican Sen. Jesse Helms and Greensboro Democrat Robert L. Hannan. Easley announced in November that he intended to seek the Democratic nomination.

Prior to Jan. 17, the following candidates filed for other Brunswick County and district offices to be decided this year:

—Clerk of Superior Court—Democratic incumbent Diana Morgan of Long Beach.  
—County Commissioner, District

2—Democrats Allan Dameron of Holden Beach, Joseph Stevenson of Route 3, Supply, and Alfonza Roach of Boones Neck; and Republicans Jerry W. Jones of Shallotte, and Eugene Hewett of Route 1, Supply.

—Board of Education, District 2—Democrats Polly G. Russ of Shallotte, and Joseph Carter of Route 2, Supply; and Republicans W. James Payne and Richard F. Bangs, both of Shallotte.

—District Attorney—Democrats Rex Gore of Shallotte, and Tom Aldridge Jr. of Route 2, Whiteville.

—Superior Court Judge—Democrat William C. Gore Jr. of Whiteville.

—District Court Judge—Democratic incumbent David G. Wall of Elizabethtown.

—State Senator—Democratic incumbent R.C. Soles Jr. of Tabor City.

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