

County Invites Input On 911 Road-Naming Project

BY RAHN ADAMS
Question: Does Horseford Road intersect with Blueberry Farm Road? Answer: Yes... and no.

Actually, those two Shallotte area roads—which do intersect—are officially known as Avenue Road and Hale Swamp Road, respectively, even though many local residents don't like the official name in the former case and persist on using the unofficial name in the latter case.

Those are two road names about which the Brunswick County Planning Board and county commissioners are seeking public input in a series of workshops to be held across the county beginning Tuesday. However, the main purpose of the workshops is to help the county update its road-name ordinance—an important step in getting ready for a 911 emergency telephone system here.

Commissioners Chairman Gene Pinkerton said last Thursday that the county hopes to complete the road-naming project by mid-March, so that the county planning department can proceed with a county-wide house-numbering project, which also is necessary for 911.

According to Planning Director John Harvey, the workshop schedule is as follows:

—Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 6:30 p.m., at Sea Trail's Tavern on the Tee in District 1; and at Bolivia Town Hall in District 4.

—Thursday, Feb. 8, at 6:30 p.m., at the Waccamaw Community Building in District 1.

—Monday, Feb. 12, at 6:30 p.m., at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in District 2; and at the Leland Sanitary District office in District 5.

—Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m., at the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce in District 3.

—Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 6:30 p.m., at the Hood Creek Community Building in District 5.

With the exception of the Feb. 12 workshop at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, planning department representatives will be on hand at the meeting sites from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the days of the workshops, to allow interested individuals to review maps and proposed road names in advance. A planner will be at the Lockwood Folly Community Building Feb. 12 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The planning department has worked on the road-naming project for more than a year, to ensure that there are no duplicated road names within the county's 13 postal zones. The effort does not involve roadways within municipalities and their extraterritorial areas.

Planner Tom Birmingham, who has handled much of the project, indicated Tuesday that the road-naming update mainly involves private roads whose names are not included in the county's official list of state

roads. Since an "Enhanced 911" system provides telecommunicators with callers' street addresses, all roads—public and private—must be named, and they cannot duplicate each other within postal zones.

Local postal zones include Ash, Bolivia, Calabash, Leland, Longwood, Oak Island, Reigelwood, Ocean Isle Beach, Shallotte, Southport, Sunset Beach, Supply and Winnabow.

"A lot of them (private road names) won't be affected," Birmingham said. "We use the existing name where it doesn't duplicate another road." He noted, though, that many private roads in the county never had names until now.

Birmingham indicated that Avenue Road—which runs from Hale Swamp Road to Bricklanding Road—is the only state road that is being considered for a name change, due to complaints about the name since the county's road-name ordinance was first passed in 1981. The road was previously called Horseford Road, he added.

At a meeting last Thursday, Harvey also told commissioners that they may want to consider changing the names of other roads that are possibly better known by their unofficial names. Hale Swamp Road (Blueberry Farm Road) and Ocean Isle Beach Road (Four-Mile Road) were two examples.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG BUTLER

Yager Receives Award

Shallotte Police Sgt. Chuck B. Yager, right, accepts the 1989 Officer of the Year Award last Thursday from Police Chief Rodney Gause. The award is given annually to the police officer who has demonstrated outstanding service and dedication to the force.

Oyster Season To Close Early

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so hard to meet the quota that they take undersized oysters. "We feel this lets the fishermen make money but still protects the resource."

Annie Smigiel, president of the local conservation group Save Our Shellfish, said she was pleased with the stricter limits on harvesting. While many fishermen think the five-bushel limit is too low, she said it will help preserve the resource and should drive the price of oysters higher.

"I think they (state officials) are beginning to realize that if they don't limit it we'll have nothing left to harvest," she said. "That should have been done years ago."

Ishmael Chadwick, whose family runs a seafood house at Shell Point, agrees. "It'll give the oysters a chance to grow. They'll get a better quality oyster and more money too."

Mrs. Smigiel said closing the season early won't affect shellfishermen such as herself who work primarily in Lockwood Folly River. The river has been closed to harvesting for most of the oyster season due to pollution.

Chadwick, who lives on the Shallotte River, also approves of the early closure. "I'm with them 100 percent. They've got to give the oysters a chance to reproduce."

Rich Carpenter, southern district manager for Marine Fisheries, said most local shellfishermen he spoke with last week had no complaint

about the season closing early. However, he said many think a daily limit of seven or eight bushels would be better than five.

"They've been saying it won't be worth the trip if they're limited to five bushels a person," said Carpenter. "But five bushels now is better than nothing later."

One reason given for the poor oyster season is the suspension of the state's oyster relay program in which fishermen move oysters from polluted to clean waters where they can later be harvested.

The presence of two oyster-killing parasites in local rivers prevented the state from offering the program last spring and fall. Carpenter said officials hope to start up the oyster relay again this spring.

Clarification

The crime report in the Jan. 25 edition of *The Brunswick Beacon* inadvertently stated that the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department received a report Jan. 19 of a break-in at a mobile home in Ray's Trailer Park near Holden Beach.

A report on file at the sheriff's department indicates that the mobile home in question is located off the Holden Beach causeway near Ray's Trailer Park.

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Continued Mild Temps Forecast

Mild weather conditions enjoyed in the Shallotte area over the past few weeks are expected to continue at least through the weekend, according to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Temperatures over the next several days should remain above normal, averaging from the low 40s at night to the low 60s during the day. Rainfall is expected to be near normal at about one-half inch.

Canady said the National Weather Service Tuesday issued its 30- and 90-day extended weather outlooks; both long-range forecasts called for mainly above average temperatures in southeastern North Carolina. "But that's not to say we won't get more cold weather," added Canady.

For the period of Jan. 23 through 29, the daily average temperature in the Shallotte area was 52 degrees, which Canady said was six degrees above average.

The daily average high temperature for the period was 64 degrees, and the nightly average low temperature was 40 degrees.

The maximum high temperature for the period was 73 degrees on Jan. 29. The minimum low temperature was 25 degrees on Jan. 27.

Canady measured 0.29 of an inch of rain during the seven-day period.

Mobile Office To Visit Brunswick

Congressman Charles Rose's mobile office will visit Brunswick County three times in February and March, giving local residents an opportunity to talk with his staff about any concerns.

Area residents who are having problems with government agencies or who have questions or opinions about federal legislation are invited to talk with a staff member.

The mobile office will be set up at the following locations: Shallotte Post Office, Feb. 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Supply Post Office, Feb. 27, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.; Bolivia Post Office, Feb. 27, 12 noon-2 p.m.; Southport Post Office, March 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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911 Service Charges Expected In August

(Continued From Page 1-A)

pected to pass at their regular meeting Monday, the 50-cent monthly surcharge would be added to residential and commercial telephone bills in Brunswick County beginning in August. The two phone companies would collect the 911 charges and turn them over to Brunswick County, which will keep the funds in an interest-bearing account until the estimated \$243,000 cost of installing the system is due in January 1992.

Interim County Manager David Clegg told the gathering Monday that municipalities should pass similar ordinances in support of the 911 surcharge by the end of February. State law requires at least a 120-day waiting period before the charge can be levied.

Fuller said the 50-cent charge will generate approximately \$238,000 during the 17-month period beginning in August. The remaining \$5,000 will come either from interest or a \$500,000 account that commissioners already have budgeted for 911-related expenses.

After installation costs are paid, the charge will be used to cover the system's estimated \$14,000 per month operating costs. With 28,000 subscribers in Brunswick County, the monthly charge will generate approximately that amount.

"The smaller the county, the higher the cost per subscriber line," Fuller noted. "As the county grows and you get more telephone subscribers, it is very likely that this 50-cent cost could be reduced." For example, he said some other monthly 911 surcharges in eastern North Carolina are 12 cents in Wake County, 56 cents in Pender County and 70 cents in Scotland County.

Also, Southern Bell estimates that Brunswick County will have 32,000 telephone subscribers by January 1992. While that increase would generate more funds, the monthly operations cost also would rise by about \$200 per 1,000 new subscribers, Fuller said.

Passed last July by the N.C. General Assembly, the Public Safety Telephone Service Act allows the surcharge to be used for most instal-

lation- and operations-related 911 expenses "except personnel and anything on wheels," Fuller said. The law prescribes that the charge also cannot be used for "the lease or purchase of real estate (or) cosmetic remodeling of emergency dispatch centers..."

According to Fuller, "Enhanced 911" systems are currently used in 10 counties across the state, including Mecklenburg, Wake, Guilford, Gaston, Buncombe, Iredell, Rowan, Catawba, Haywood and Cleveland. Systems also are being installed in nine other counties besides Brunswick, including Pender, Wayne, Scotland, Orange, Henderson, Caldwell, Burke, Rutherford and Forsyth.

"Enhanced 911" differs from a regular 911 system in that no verbal communication with a telecommunicator is necessary after the caller dials the three-digit number. Seconds after the telephone connection is made at a 911 PSAP, programmed information on the caller's location flash onto the telecommunicator's computer terminal.

Carolina Shores To Decide Street Maintenance Issue

Carolina Shores landowners will learn if maintenance of their roads will be offered to the Town of Calabash at the annual property owners association meeting Saturday.

The meeting starts at 1 p.m. at the Carolina Shores clubhouse, said Robert Noe, manager of the Carolina Shores Property Owners Association (CSPOA). Other business on Saturday's agenda is the election of four people to the board of directors.

Noe said ballots concerning responsibility for road and ditch maintenance recently were mailed to property owners and will be accepted up until the time of the annual meeting. Two-thirds of the lot owners voting must approve of the streets and ditches being turned over to Calabash for the measure to

pass.

If property owners approve the transfer, Calabash Commissioners would still have the final word. The town board would have to formally accept the streets and ditches before Calabash would be responsible for maintenance.

The issue of transferring responsibility for streets and ditches is a result of last August's referendum in which voters from the old Town of Calabash and the neighboring community of Carolina Shores approved a merger of the two areas into one municipality.

The CSPOA Board of Directors has recommended that Calabash take over maintenance of the streets and ditches. The POA doesn't receive state Powell Bill money for the streets, but the town would re-

ceive funds if it took over maintenance.

Noe said the POA spends about \$120,000 per year to maintain the 15.5 miles of streets and nine miles of ditches in Carolina Shores.

Calabash budgeted \$15,655 this fiscal year for its streets department, which is about one-eighth as much as Carolina Shores spends on street and ditch maintenance in an average year.

Noe said several Carolina Shores residents have questioned him about Calabash taking over maintenance of the roads. "I've had a few people say they didn't know if it was a good idea or not," said Noe. "I think it will pass without any problem."

Also at Saturday's meeting, results of the board of directors election will be announced. Ballots were mailed to lot owners and will be accepted up to the time of the meeting.

Noe said four seats on the seven-member board are up for election this year. The terms of Darrell Peters and Ken Lyons will expire. Bob Cook and Al Smith are resigning.

Lyons is seeking re-election to the board. The five other candidates for the vacant seats are Darwin Whipkey, John Myers, Jack Brady, Ann Hierman and Marci Rochel Gianni. All terms are for two years.

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