

It's Back!

The *Beacon's* fishing report resumes this week, as the pace of fishing activity picks up across the South Brunswick Islands. Anglers looking for action last week included Holden Beach visitor Richard Jefferies of Westport, Ontario, at right. The round-up is on Page 9-C.



Evans Wins Title

Marion Evans, a sophomore at South Brunswick High School, won the 1990 Martin Luther King Jr. ACT-SO competition Saturday at Bolivia. Check out the story and photos of the winners on Page 3-B.



Visit The Show

Check out the latest products for better living this weekend at the 5th annual Brunswick Living Home Show, sponsored by the South Brunswick Islands Homebuilders Association. A supplement inside this issue has the details.



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Welcome Center Will Open With Shallotte Bypass

\$1.5 Million Facility Almost Ready For Bid

BY SUSAN USHER

By the time traffic begins whizzing along the Shallotte U.S. 17 bypass in August 1991, a new state welcome center will also be open for business, offering visitors information on area attractions.

State Secretary of Transportation Tommy Harrelson said last Thursday at a news conference in Shallotte that plans for the welcome center should be completed and ready for bid "within a few months." The center is budgeted at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million in the current state Transportation Improvement Program.

Speaking to an audience of approximately 30 government officials and community leaders gathered at the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce office, Harrelson confirmed that the center will be built and ready to open when the Shallotte bypass opens.

The Southport native was in town for a ceremony marking a unique relationship between state government and local tourism promoters. State welcome centers historically have been built only along interstates and are managed by the state's Division of Travel and Tourism.

However, the local facility represents a new breed of regional welcome center. In exchange for the

N.C. Department of Transportation agreeing to build the visitors center, four groups have formed a non-profit organization to operate the Brunswick County facility as the Southeastern Welcome Center Inc. Their part of the agreement includes furnishing and staffing the center, as well as other operating costs.

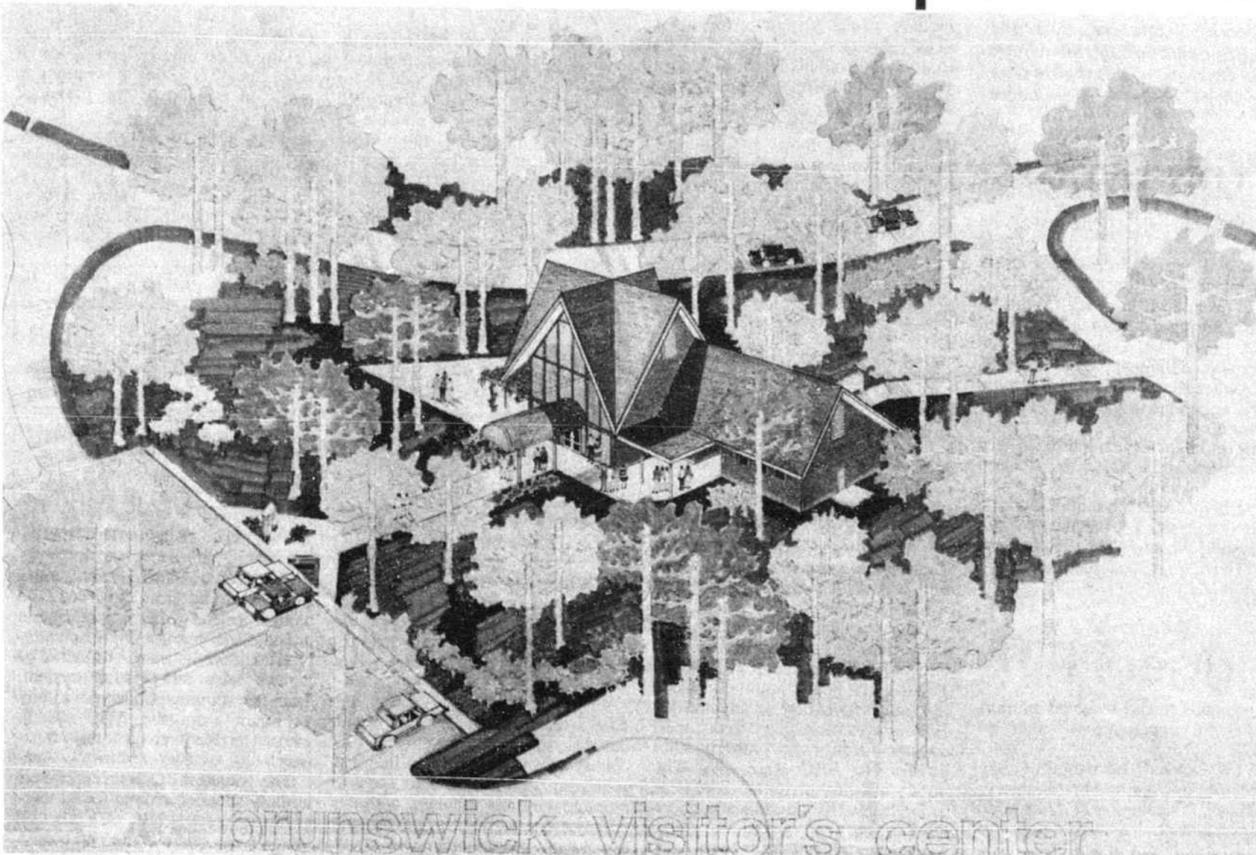
Representatives of each group signed the operating agreement Thursday amid much fanfare over plans for the center and its impact on the region's tourism industry.

Signing were Dean Walters, president of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce; Margaret Rudd, president of the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce; Joe Augustine, director of the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce; Jane Peterson of the Cape Fear Convention & Visitors Center; and Susanne Sartelle, executive vice president of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce and secretary for the new operating group.

Similar operating arrangements have been worked out for the Dismal Swamp Center located along U.S. 17 in northeastern North Carolina and for a center to be built in western North Carolina.

Since the Dismal Swamp site opened nine months ago, it has al-

(See WELCOME, Page 2-A)



ARTWORK CONTRIBUTED

STATE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION Tommy Harrelson unveiled this artist's rendering of the welcome center to be built along the Shallotte U.S. 17 bypass at a press conference in Shallotte Thursday.

County Seeks Expansion To Extend Life Of Landfill

BY RAHN ADAMS

When you can't build outward, your only real alternative is to build upward, even when what you're building—or rather, expanding—is a county landfill.

County Engineer Robert Tucker currently is working on a plan to extend the life of the Brunswick County central sanitary landfill between Supply and Bolivia by up to four years—an extension that would keep the facility open for another six years.

State officials have said that if no changes are made, the seven-year-old, 54.5-acre facility will be full within two years, as the county tries to cope with Brunswick County's expanding population. While factors such as the lack of a local tipping fee—a fee charged for dumping garbage—compound the problem here, Tucker noted that the county still needs to begin an immediate search for a new landfill site.

To extend the life of the current landfill and give the county time to locate a new landfill site, Tucker is working on a state application to use cover dirt from property adjacent to the landfill, which the county purchased last year. The soil would be used to raise the slope of the landfill to its permitted elevation.

Because new state regulations require that landfills be set back at least 300 feet from property lines, Tucker said, the new 51-acre property is not large enough for a new sanitary landfill.

However, the engineer says he hopes to use a section of the adjacent property as a "demolition landfill" for the types of materials—demolished buildings, for example—which soon will not be allowed in sanitary landfills, as required by Senate Bill 111. Tucker said the county will seek state approval of the plan in June, when the plan will be submitted to the state.

Through that requirement and other recycling-related measures, 15 percent to 20 percent of the county's waste stream can be diverted from the sanitary landfill, Tucker said.

Earlier this month, municipal officials met in Bolivia with Tucker and state waste management specialist Ikie Guyton to talk about new state and federal mandates related to solid waste management. Guyton said new Environmental Protection Agency guidelines will soon take effect to set stringent criteria for the location, design, operation, cleanup and closure of landfills.

Federal regulations will make landfill operations more costly, because of requirements for buffer zones, liners to prevent leaching and other measures to protect the environment, Guyton said.

According to Tucker, new landfills now cost from \$200,000 to \$250,000 per acre to develop, up from \$100,000 to \$150,000, based on the cost of a Rowan

(See COUNTY, Page 2-A)



STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS

COUNTY ENGINEER ROBERT TUCKER points to the area being planned for a "demolition landfill" next to the county's central sanitary landfill between Supply and Bolivia. Use of the new area is expected to extend the landfill's life by up to four years.

Bellamy's Appointment Triggers Rift On Resources Development Commission

BY RAHN ADAMS

The man whose appointment last week to the Brunswick County Resources Development Commission sparked an uncharacteristic rift on the generally low-key board won't talk about the controversy.

Former Brunswick County Clerk of Court Greg Bellamy of Holden Beach, who resigned his office in

September 1987 after pleading guilty to a cocaine possession charge, was appointed to the RDC April 16 on a split vote by county commissioners.

The following day, RDC member Robert Radcliffe of Long Beach mailed his resignation to the RDC office in protest of Bellamy's appointment. Last Wednesday, after

having heard similar concerns from at least three other board members, RDC Interim Director Robert Williams publicly asked Bellamy to refuse the appointment in a statement issued to the press last week.

Bellamy did not return the *Beacon's* telephone calls last Thursday and Friday. When finally contacted

Friday afternoon and asked whether he intended to accept the board seat, Bellamy's response was, "I can't talk to you now." He would not agree to return the call at a more opportune time.

Other RDC and county officials, however, were willing to talk about the controversial appointment which, according to Williams,

threatens to split the development board. As of Friday, said Williams, Bellamy had not contacted the RDC office.

"The citizens of Brunswick County have a right to expect the Resources Development Commission to present an unimpeachable image of integrity and morality," said Williams in a prepared state-

ment. "The appointment of Mr. Bellamy, whose background was characterized by Commissioner (Kelly) Holden as very controversial, can only damage this image as well as jeopardize the functioning of the Resources Development Commission in its dealings with potential clients."

(See BELLAMY, Page 2-A)

Nearly 27,000 Are Registered To Vote Here

Nearly 27,000 Brunswick County residents are registered to vote in the May 8 Democratic and Republican primaries, based on figures released last week by the Board of Elections.

The statistics released by Supervisor Lynda Britt show an increase of more than 1,000 registrations, from 25,550 to 26,661. Registration books closed April 9 for the primary.

Of the total, 16,272 voters are registered as Democrats, 9,352 as Republicans and 1,037 as unaffiliated. Unaffiliated voters may vote

in the Republican primary only, Ms. Britt said. Only registered Democrats may vote in that party's primary.

White voters outnumber blacks by a ratio of more than 4-1, or 22,278 to 4,333, while female voters slightly outnumber males, 14,093 to 12,568.

Longwood has the distinction of being the smallest of Brunswick County's 21 precincts, with 380 voters. Of those, 299 are registered as Democrats and 80 as Repub-

(See NEARLY, Page 2-A)

Holden Beach Tapped For Liquor Store

BY RAHN ADAMS

Deciding to go for the gusto on its own, the Brunswick County Alcoholic Beverage Control Board wants to pop the cork on its first ABC store early this summer in the Holden Beach area.

County ABC board member Joyce Vereen, John Ramsey and Clyde Babson Tuesday voted unanimously to begin the search for prospective ABC store sites in the Holden Beach, Supply, Southport and Bolivia areas. The only general

sites named were the Live Oak and River Run shopping centers near the intersection of N.C. 211 and N.C. 133 near Southport.

Although the officials have stated previously that they eventually hope to establish more than one ABC store, they indicated Tuesday that only one store will be started initially and that renting a building in the Holden Beach area will take priority over establishing stores in the other three areas mentioned.

"I just feel that the area (Holden

Beach) is the least served, and it would be the best area for profit," said Babson, the only board member from the Shallotte area. Mrs. Vereen and Ramsey—both Long Beach residents—concurred with Babson.

Maintaining that they have not investigated specific rental properties, the board members agreed to look individually for prospective store locations in the four areas and select a site at the panel's next

(See HOLDEN, Page 2-A)