

Local Residents Are Urged To Keep Watch On Tropical Weather Activity

Jackson Canady, a weather watcher for the National Weather Service, cautions area residents to keep watch on weather activity in the tropics as the hurricane season begins in earnest.

Although the season began quietly June 1, over the past two weeks it has "started popping," Canady said.

"We're getting to the heart of the Cape Verde season," Canady said, a reference to the island area off the African coast where many of the tropical waves first form this time of year. Over a two-week period, four named storms have developed. As of Tuesday another tropical depression was located near the Azores.

Tropical disturbances are named when they intensify into a tropical storm, with rotary circulation and wind speeds above 39 miles per hour.

"All indications are that it will be a very active season," Canady said. "This year could live up to expectations. This activity does underline the concern that we could have some very strong hurricanes develop yet. The next six to eight weeks

should tell the tale. The Cape Verde season runs through the end of September."

Before Diana in September 1984, a hurricane had not made landfall in North Carolina since Donna, in September 1960. Last September 22, Hugo made landfall at Charleston, S.C., about 100 miles south.

"It's very important people in our area do keep a cautious eye out on what's happening in the tropics and to take proper steps to protect life

and property," Canady emphasized. "It's nothing to take likely. Statistically speaking, we're overdue for a major hurricane on the North Carolina coast."

Canady cautioned that when several years go by without a major hurricane, coastal-area residents may develop a false sense of security and fail to estimate the strength of a storm. Those who have never lived through a hurricane may not understand the need for protective action, he said.

More Rain In Forecast

More rain is in the forecast for the coming week across the South Brunswick Islands, while temperatures are expected to remain about the same.

Shalotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady predicted Tuesday that the area could receive up to about an inch of rain, slightly above average for this time of year.

Temperatures are expected to range from around 70 degrees at

night to around 90 degrees during the daytime, Canady said.

For the period July 31 through Aug. 6, Canady said he recorded a maximum high of 96 degrees on July 31. The minimum low of 67 degrees occurred Aug. 4.

He logged an average daily high of 91 degrees and a nightly average low of 73 degrees, for an average daily temperature of 82 degrees. He said that was about 2 degrees above average for this time of year.

Property-Value Losses To Hugo Cost Brunswick About \$100,000

Hurricane Hugo devastated the Charleston, S.C. area, which it hit head-on last September.

And, while the damage to the Brunswick County beaches was negligible compared to the damage that would result from a direct hit by such a massive storm, some beach houses fell victim to the storm and some beachfront property eroded away.

Therefore, the damage in Brunswick County does give some indication of the loss in property value and subsequent tax dollars that would result from such a direct hit.

Brunswick County beach areas had property devaluation of approximately \$13 million to \$15 million as a result of Hurricane Hugo, according to the Brunswick County tax office.

The loss of that tax base is reflected in the current fiscal year and represents a loss of \$89,000 to \$102,750 in revenue to the county at this year's tax rate of 68.5 cents per \$100 property valuation.

Brunswick Interim County Manager David Clegg is protective of the county's budget reserve fund, currently in the area of \$7 million. He says a coastal county needs to have a considerably greater reserve than inland counties, because of the ever-present threat of hurricanes.

Clegg speaks to the need to have money on hand for cleanup after such a storm, as well as money to keep the county operating in the face of a colossal loss in property devaluation.

If such a massive storm were to hit Brunswick County head-on, instead of \$13 million to \$15 million property devaluation and about \$100,000 of lost revenue, the county could suffer billions of dollars of property devaluation and millions of dollars of lost revenue.

According to Patsy Elliott of the county tax office, the following losses of property valuation were attributed to Hurricane Hugo:

- Long Beach, about \$8.8 million, from \$30,105,110 to \$21,312,360.
- Ocean Isle Beach, about \$1.7 million, from \$4,782,300 to \$3,077,700.
- Holden Beach, about \$660,000, from \$7,581,810 to \$6,922,140.

Ms. Elliott did not have actual figures on Bald Head Island, but county Tax Supervisor Boyd Williamson estimated losses there at \$2 million to \$4 million. Sunset, Yaupon and Caswell beaches reportedly escaped major damage.



STAFF PHOTO BY BOB HORNE

Pets Of The Week

These three darling 3-month-old kittens are among many pets at the Brunswick County Animal Shelter who are looking for a good home. From left, they are gray and white, brown and white and black and white. Others include a 2-year-old female beagle and a black and tan 6-month-old male mixed German shepherd. Only four dogs and one cat were adopted last week, while 44 dogs and 57 cats were taken to the shelter. Animals that are not adopted are put into permanent sleep. Kittens can be adopted for \$2 plus a \$7 rabies vaccination fee. Cats older than 4 months can be adopted at a fee of \$2 to \$6 plus the \$7 vaccination fee. Puppies can be adopted for \$5 plus a \$7 vaccination fee and dogs older than 4 months for a fee of \$5-\$15 plus the \$7 vaccination. The shelter is located 1 1/2 miles east of Supply off N.C. 211 and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Sunset Bans Off-Premises Signs

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space on the collective signs, or at an unstaffed information "center" near Sunset Beach Town Hall. The signs would be modeled after some already in use at St. Simon's Island, Ga.

Chairman Good said a timetable for removal of non-conforming signs won't be established until after the Planning Board and Town Council complete the rewriting of the remainder of the sign ordinance.

That could take another six months, according to Planning Board member Schuyler "Sky" Bramley.

Meanwhile, permits will no longer be issued for off-premises signs or billboards such as those now standing along N.C. 179 near the western outskirts of the town or for other signs now banned.

Speaking in favor of a more restrictive sign ordinance during the hearing, island resident Cleve Waldmiller referred to the proliferation of billboards and other roadside signs across the state line in South Carolina. "They're creeping this way," he said.

No Bed & Breakfasts

No bed and breakfast homes are likely to open at Sunset Beach in the near future. Monday night the Town Council turned down a proposal to allow homes serving up to six people in two beach residential and the mainland business districts.

Several board members, including "Bud" Scrantom and Julia Thomas, were reluctant to change the zoning ordinance to accommodate the few requests to the town to allow bed and breakfast operations.

Mayor pro tem Ed Gore went farther, seeking clarification of whether a bed and breakfast would constitute a commercial business. He said he thought it would be a "disservice" for the town to permit the homes through the zoning ordinance when most deed restrictions on the island do not allow commercial development. Operators might be forced to argue their right to do business in court, he said.

The question of deed restrictions was first raised by audience member Minnie Hunt, who reminded council of the town's decision to close a public parking lot it had opened on an island lot with a deed covenant restricting it to residential use.

Other Rules Adopted

A change in the zoning Monday of six lots at the east end of Sunset Beach, near the juncture of Main Street and Canal Drive was intended to eliminate split zoning of some lots after 10 existing lots were reconfigured by the developer.

The new zoning retains the same pattern for oceanfront and sound-front properties, but raised concerns for an adjoining oceanfront property owner.

Attorney Jim Maxwell of Durham said his clients, Sandy and Courtney Mullins, were concerned that the reconfiguration of the lots would diminish their view of the ocean. They are also concerned about other issues, such as increased density, since at the time they purchased their lot the neighboring subdivision consisted of only five lots. The land was first replatted from five lots to 10 lots in 1977; the town of Sunset Beach didn't adopt its first subdivision ordinance until 1982.

Because of ambiguities in the subdivision ordinance over what constitutes the recombining of lots, Town Attorney Mike Isenberg said he had decided in favor of the property owner on the latest realignment of the lots, which led to the rezoning hearing.

In a related vote, council members also named the private road serving the subdivision Main Street, since it aligns with the existing Main Street.

The action came in response to a concern raised by audience member Minnie Hunt. She pointed out that the setback line for construction along the island's oceanfront is measured from Main Street, and that the plat did not clearly indicate any name for the street extension.

Without that, she said, there would be, in effect, no minimum build line.

Maxwell also questioned whether the lots would meet minimum lot size requirements for construction permits under the Coastal Area Management Act.

Council also adopted an ordinance that allows the town to require owners of property along public waters, such as the ocean beach and waterway, to clean up storm-related debris and litter. If the owners do not, the town can have the lots cleaned up and the cost placed as a lien against the property.

Another ordinance adopted Monday provides for drug testing of all officers new to the police department, as now mandated by state law.

Another ordinance adopted Mon-

day clears the way for an "experiment" in Sea Trail Plantation in the use of privacy walls in a residential area.

The new rule will allow the Sunset Beach Board of Adjustments to consider requests for privacy walls in MR-3 zones on a case-by-case basis—so long as they exactly match design plans for the proposed experiment. The proposed trial use would put solid, six-foot-tall fences between six single-family homes and a three-story multi-family project to their rear, as well as between the homes.

Proposed Ban Fails

Members took no action on a proposal from Mrs. Fluegel to further restrict door-to-door solicitation in town.

The town administrator said she was concerned that volunteers with the environmental group Greenpeace may have "aggravated" visitors to the beach as well as residents with a door-to-door solicitation in July which was allowed under town ordinances since Greenpeace is a non-profit, charitable organization.

However, if the town banned all solicitation it would also affect other activities such as the sale of Girl Scout cookies.

"If we're going to clean up, let's clean up," suggested Mayor pro tem Ed Gore, speaking in favor of a general ban. He said he didn't care for the "collaring" of motorists each Easter during the annual "bucket shake" fundraiser by the Sunset Beach Volunteer Fire Department.

Lawsuit Seeks Dissolution Of Company

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Earl Jr. retires.

Mrs. Gibson claims she was dismissed as manager and vice president of BTC at a Sept. 1, 1989 corporate meeting in which she was misled as to its purpose and therefore did not attend. She also says she was ostensibly dismissed because of the financing of a \$171,000 press for Coastal Printing Co., a business operated by her and Hubert, one of her six brothers. She claims that William Earl Bellamy Jr. approved the financing procedure but that he denied such approval at the Sept. 1 meeting.

In the suit, Mrs. Gibson accuses William Earl Bellamy Jr. of "con-

ning" to get the other five brothers who are shareholders in BTC to "retire" her.

Greg Bellamy moved his real estate business into the BTC office overnight in late April 1989 without the consent of the BTC board of directors and pays no rent for use of the space, Mrs. Gibson alleges.

She also claims that William Earl Bellamy Jr. has given Greg Bellamy an exclusive listing agreement for all BTC property and is allowing Greg to claim one-half of the commissions on sales of BTC property, "even though Greg has not procured the buyers for BTC."

Prior to Greg moving into the BTC office, she says, BTC never

claimed any part of the commission from the sale of BTC property. She says that Greg's claiming half of the commission has hurt sales of BTC property, "as real estate agents are used to receiving the entire commission."

Mrs. Gibson says the seven children are unable to agree on how to run BTC and the corporate is beset by squabbles among the seven children, who are the shareholders. She claims that liquidation of BTC is reasonably necessary for the protection of her rights and interests.

Greg Bellamy resigned as Brunswick County clerk of court in September 1987 after pleading guilty to a charge of cocaine possession.

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