

LETTERS

Speed Limit Unreasonable

To the editor:
I would like to take a moment to explain my objection, part of which was published in the *Beacon* Dec. 6, to keeping the speed limit on Brunswick Avenue at 20 MPH.

When the town first considered paving Brunswick Avenue, one of the noted benefits was that it would act as a relief valve to the congestion on Ocean Blvd. during heavy traffic periods. And whether residents of Brunswick Avenue appreciate this or not, that will in fact be the result.

Brunswick Avenue is not a private street to be controlled by a group of 18 or so families living on it, but part of a network of public streets in Holden Beach to be used by the general public including commercial and tourist vehicles. It seems unreasonable to expect the public to travel in second gear.

I, like some of the other residents on Brunswick Avenue, am a grandparent and, as such, am always concerned as to the safety of my grandchildren. In my concern, I feel it is important to teach children not to play in the street, any street. And I do not believe my children or grandchildren are placed in peril by raising the speed limit from 20 to 25 MPH.

However, I would support a movement by Brunswick Avenue residents to construct a sidewalk.

David R. Sandifer
Holden Beach

Bring Back The Magic

To the editor:
For the last three or four years our family has gone to the Christmas parade in Shallotte. We go partly because our oldest child has been in the parade, and partly because we have always enjoyed it.

Something was lost this year, though. At first I thought it was just me, but the more people I spoke to, the more I realized that it wasn't just me.

There didn't seem to be much enthusiasm among the participants and, in turn, none among the crowds either. There was no magic in the air.

This alone wouldn't have been so bad, but coupled with lapses in the parade, was just more than enough to dampen it totally. At one point we and at least a hundred other families thought the parade was over—so we left, only to find out later that it was just another major lapse in the parade.

If all this wasn't enough, quite a few people were upset, including myself, at the thought of certain floats allowed in the parade. Certain issues just don't have a place in a Christmas parade. Perhaps at a political rally or on a picket line, but definitely not in a parade.

Hopefully, next Christmas the magic will return and everyone will leave with a little more Christmas spirit than they came with. Such a special time of year deserves a little magic, if not for us then for our children.

Lynn Immen
Supply

Important Decision

To the editor:
The county commissioners' decision to place a high priority on the hiring of a new county manager is commendable. Realistically, the commissioners cannot possibly monitor the day-to-day activities in rapidly growing Brunswick County.

Given the enormous time and effort expended by the previous board in addressing constituents' concerns regarding the state of affairs at the Bolivia complex, there is little question as to the need to hire a highly competent individual.

Ideally, the board should seek someone with broad managerial skills and, of equal importance, one who is unafraid to engage in honest confrontation with entrenched parochial interests.

Concomitantly, the board should offer an attractive salary and other perquisites to the successful candidate with incremental increases based on solid performance. Good help does not come cheap. At last reckoning, the county manager's proposed salary ranked well below a number of employees whom he is to supervise, creating an inconceivable employment scenario.

The importance of this hiring cannot be overestimated and it should be based on intensive deliberations by the board members themselves and not left to other subordinates. The final selection, judiciously rendered, will probably be the most important decision that this board is likely to make.

Francis W. Niland
Shallotte

A Better Life For Ants

BY BILL FAVER

I've always felt a little angry when someone unthinkingly kills ants for no good reason. You know the scene—you're standing around talking with someone on a sidewalk and he stomps on the ants scurrying around on the pavement.



FAVER

the front yard!

I read an interesting piece about Kathryn Fuller, president of the World Wildlife Fund, and her experience with ants. It seems she noticed several ants near her telephone one day and resisted the impulse to kill them. She watched them for several weeks and discovered they were coming from a potted plant in her office.

Some weeks later, she asked a Harvard biologist who was one of her board members and a leading authority of ants about her ants. He was amazed at her discovery and told her these ants were possibly a new species. He researched them and indicated they would be named after her, *Pheidole Fulleri*.

So now Kathryn Fuller feeds her ants sugar water and cookies. She says she finds inspiration from them for her work and is constantly reminded of the diversity of life on our planet.

The thin line between life and death is often in our hands when it comes to insects. Many bugs, like snakes, are destroyed just because they are bugs. We ought to know better. We ought to do better. Next time we have the urge to "squash out" the ants or the spiders or whatever, maybe we should take time to study them and to watch what they are doing. We could learn to have more reverence for life—no matter what the form!

Calabash Planning Board Chairman Asks Town To Pay For Use Of Logo

BY DOUG RUTTER

Calabash Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Warren "Bud" Knapp has offered to provide the town with a new logo if officials are willing to pay him \$1,500.

The circular logo features the words "Old Calabash" and "On The River" curved across the top and "South Brunswick Islands, North Carolina" along the bottom. A trio of shrimp boats form the center of the logo, which was designed by local artist Ken Buckner.

Knapp said he has applied for a copyright on the logo, and he is willing to let the town use the design if they pay him what he spent on it.

"I have no intention of making money from the town on it," Knapp said. "All I would like to do is recover the money I spent on it."

The planning board chairman presented his offer to the town finance committee at its Nov. 2 meeting, and the logo was discussed at the Nov. 12 meeting of the planning board, according to minutes on file at the town hall.

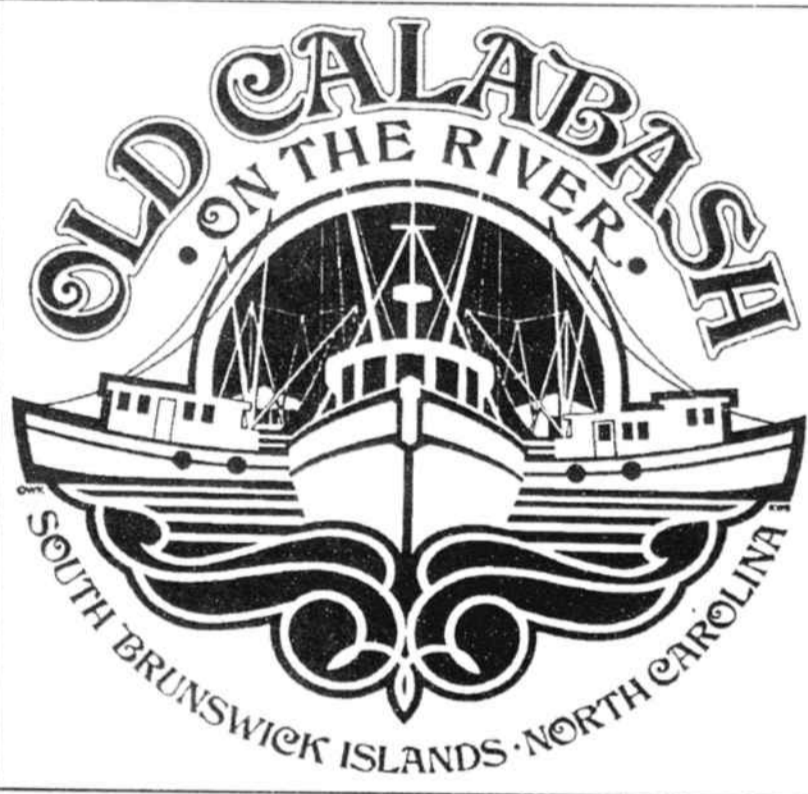
Knapp said he chose the words "Old Calabash" and the shrimp boats because there has been general agreement that part of the town image should be that of an historic fishing village.

However, Commissioner Stu Thorn said there has been talk in the community that the logo should just say "Calabash" instead of "Old Calabash."

"As far as my own thinking, I'm undecided on it right now," Thorn said. "I'd like to hear a little more and hear what the people think about it."

Knapp said he's also heard concerns about using "Old Calabash" on the logo. "Some people feel that would be a mistake," he said. "The logo could be adjusted very easily to accommodate that if that's what they wanted."

Commissioner George Anderson, who is chairman of the finance committee, said there are no current



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THIS DESIGN has been submitted to Calabash officials as a possible town logo.

plans to purchase rights to the design. If the town commissioners adopt the logo, he said Knapp would have to be paid.

Anderson said he would like to see more than one design before making a decision. "You're talking about one submission. I'd like to see a number of them."

He said town commissioners could invite local artists to submit designs and then choose their favorite. "I think it's something the town needs," Anderson said.

Commissioner Jon Sanborn, who also serves on the finance committee, declined to talk about his opinion of Knapp's proposal. He said the town board is facing many issues right now more important than choosing a logo.

Sunset Council To Address Annexation Request Today

Sunset Beach Town Council meets today (Thursday) at 5:30 p.m. in special session at the town hall to consider a pending request for voluntary annexation.

The proposed annexation, which was discussed and tabled at the council's Dec. 3 meeting, would include nine holes of Sea Trail Golf Course curving around the Sugar Sands development and extending to N.C. 904, the business district along N.C. 179 bordering Seaside Station and a portion of Long Bay Developers Inc. property on N.C. 904 that includes a shopping center.

"I thought that if we're going to do it we need to go on and do it," said Mayor Mason Barber. "If the council approves it, then we can proceed with the annexation study for Sugar Sands I and II."

In 1989 the town completed an annexation feasibility study that looked at Sugar Sands and at Oyster Bay Colony. The town took no steps to annex either property within the legal timeframe to do so. Since then, however, it has voted again its intent to annex, establishing a new timetable for consideration of several areas, including Sugar Sands.

The voluntary annexation request was tabled at the Dec. 3 meeting after questions were raised regarding the benefit to either town or petitioners of the annexation.

Mayor Pro-tem Ed Gore, a principal in Sea Trail Corp., which owns much of the land proposed for voluntary annexation, said at that meeting that the petitioners are seeking annexation in a sense of "community spirit," a desire to be

part of the community, not through any other motivation.

Mayor Mason Barber pointed out that the annexation would increase the feasibility of involuntarily annexing Sugar Sands development, a residential patio home development that is also a part of Sea Trail, and would extend the town's influence along N.C. 179 in the Seaside area through extension of its one-mile extraterritorial zone.

Also, he acknowledged, while the area is "all right" presently in terms of septic tank usage, eventually the area will need a sewage disposal system.

"When that time comes then they're going to need us and we're going to need them."

Barber said he wants the council to decide on the petition one way or the other so that, if the request is approved, the town can proceed with a second look at the Sugar Sands development.

"There are several things that could delay the entire proposition," said Barber, in explanation of the possibility of a 3-2 vote on the voluntary annexation. That would necessitate a second vote at the board's next meeting, which is scheduled Jan. 7.

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