

Grant Assists Leland In Survey Of Housing

BY TERRY POPE

Leland will be studying its needs for lower-income housing by putting to use a \$5,000 state grant awarded the town last week.

Mayor Russell Baldwin said the Community Development Block Grant will be used to survey the town for future needs, including possible housing programs that are eligible for assistance under block grant funding.

"It's (housing) one area that's a need," Baldwin said. "It's mobile home city up here."

The grants have been designated by the state for the planning of projects that can be considered for future CDBG funding. Grants totaling \$33,500 were awarded on a competitive basis last week to seven North Carolina towns or communities.

The money is part of the state's \$35.2 million CDBG allocation from the federal government for the program year that began April 1. The program is administered by the N.C. Division of Community Assistance in the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Leland has hired a consulting firm, Ken Weeden and Associates of Wrightsville Beach, to conduct the survey which will be funded by the grant, Baldwin said. Weeden helped the town apply for the grant.

According to the state's news release, Leland applied for the grant to help survey the town's housing, water, sewer, street and drainage needs. The information obtained from the housing surveys and engineering analysis of the town's public facility needs will assist the town in preparing a CDBG Community Revitalization application.

Leland is contributing \$500 to

help cover the cost of the survey, it states.

The grant coincides with another \$6,400 federal grant the town received in October to assist with the development of its first land use plan. That land use study is now underway, Baldwin said.

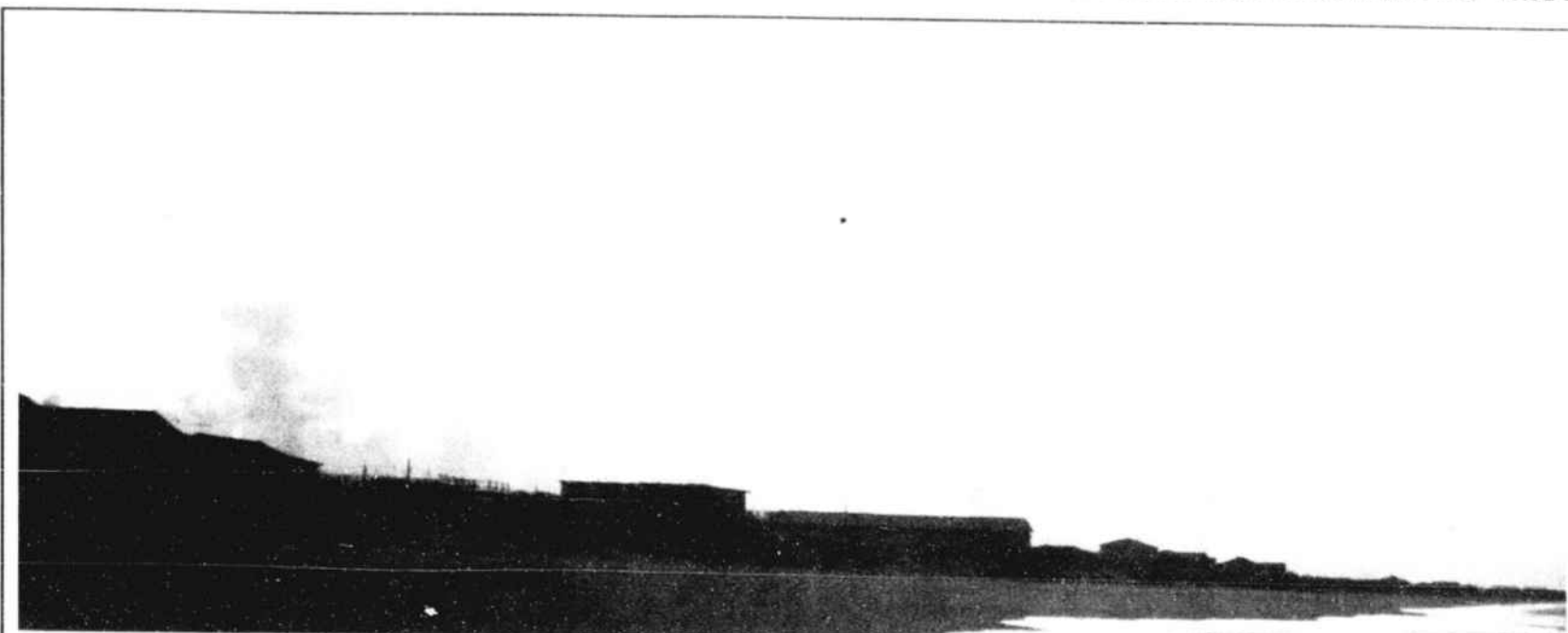
Land use planning helps local officials conserve valuable resources while guiding community growth to areas best suited for development. The plans must be updated every five years.

Leland, which incorporated in 1989, will also begin a house numbering project in cooperation with the Brunswick County Planning Department, Baldwin added. The project calls for every home to have a number and every street to have a name within the Leland limits. A system must be established county-wide before the enhanced 911 communications program begins in January 1992.

"One, it's to help with the county's 911 program," Baldwin said, "and two, it will also help upgrade our fire department and help bring insurance rates down."

The Leland Volunteer Fire Department has launched a campaign to help upgrade the quality of fire protection to property owners in the Leland Fire District. The town will contribute more than \$65,000 to help the department purchase a \$114,000 pumper truck. The county contributed \$35,000 for the truck.

The goal is to help the department prepare for an inspection by the N.C. Insurance Service office which would help improve the department's rating and help lower fire insurance premiums for local residents.



A STROLL ON THE BEACH at the beginning of the new year is a good time to think about choices for 1991. PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

Choose To Be Involved In The New Year

It is hard to believe another year has come to an end. Seems like just yesterday we were all talking about the beginning of the 1990s and what a new decade would bring. Now we are into the 90s and another year is about to begin. As 1991 begins we have some choices that may make a difference in the new year.

One choice is to work at developing an awareness of our environment. We know what is happening to our marshes, rivers, dunes, oceans, woods and fields. As we develop

appreciation and respect for the complex interrelationships and interdependencies we begin to see man's role as steward of the natural world. That awareness leads us to our responsibility to make a difference in trying to solve some of the environmental problems confronting all of us.

Another choice is to do something about loss of plant and animal habitat. It may not seem to be a big deal that species of plants and animals are becoming extinct at an alarming rate. But each time the diversity in plant and animal life is lessened, we lose some of the quality of life we enjoy on planet earth. We can join existing groups, write letters, start a campaign of our own, to preserve habitat.

We can choose to become involved in a con-

servation group and join our forces with those of others throughout the country to make our concerns known. We can choose National Audubon, National Wildlife, Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Carolina Bird Club, North Carolina Shell Club and others. Their magazines and newsletters help keep us aware of their work and ways we can contribute to making a difference through them.

These are just some of the choices for a new year. We can choose to make a difference or we can choose not to. Even not choosing is a choice in itself. The wildlife, plants, trees, flowers, rivers, woods, fields, marshes, and the ocean all depend upon your choices in 1991. Happy New Year!



FAVER

Varnamtown Wants Input On County Water Service

BY DOUG RUTTER

Varnamtown residents are being asked whether they're willing to pay for county water service in the community or are content with the well water they have now.

Town officials are asking residents to go to Betty's Mini Mart, a convenience store in the center of town, and sign their name to a sheet of paper to indicate whether they are for or against county water.

Harvey Champion, who owns the store, raised the question of county water service at the town board's meeting last Thursday. It was the board's first meeting in the town hall.

Mayor Judy Galloway said following the meeting that she thinks the town board will go along with what the majority of the people want.

"If they wanted it, I think we would try it," she said. "But I don't think the majority would sign up for it. I would be surprised if they did."

Mrs. Galloway said most people in the community have good well



"A lot of people cannot afford what it would cost to run it across their land. I would hate to put that hardship on them."

—Judy Galloway
Mayor of Varnamtown

water and they are used to it. She said she doesn't think many people will favor county water, mainly for economic reasons.

To get Brunswick County water, Varnamtown would have to petition the county. Whether every landowner uses the water or not, they would be charged assessments based on how much land they own. The exact cost wouldn't be known until the work is done. Homeowners who tap on to the county water line would have to pay an additional fee.

"A lot of people cannot afford what it would cost to run it across their land," Mrs. Galloway said. "I

would hate to put that hardship on them."

The mayor said she would hook on to county water given the opportunity, but said she wouldn't want to hurt other people in the community to get county water lines through town.

"That's the only thing that would worry me," Mrs. Galloway said. "It's tight down here. The river has been bad. I feel for the other people."

Renovations Continue

Renovations at the new town hall are underway, with several walls torn down to create a meeting room

and a new bathroom door installed that is wide enough to serve the handicapped.

Alderman John David Dawson said ceiling lights in the meeting room need to be replaced. The town also needs furniture for the meeting room and new floor covering.

To speed up the improvements, aldermen authorized the building committee to make the necessary renovations inside the town hall. Aldermen plan more work outside once the interior is finished.

Board member Ada McDonald said she would love to see volunteers from the community help with the renovations. "We need to spread the word. It would warm my heart to see that."

Mayor Galloway said there should be more men willing to help out after the holidays because hunting season will be over.

Starting in January, the board will meet the third Monday of each month instead of the third Thursday. Aldermen will continue to meet at 7:30 p.m.

Bridge, Sidewalk Needed

(Continued From Preceding Page)

progress. I even may be sorry for speaking out for who knows the access for the new bridge might even be down my now quiet street, but I am not going to be like them and only think of myself.

They made the boaters mad who launch their little boats near the now existing bridge by saying this would be taken away. I am sure they will find another good spot with the new bridge; it might even be better.

Then they turned to the environmentalists saying what will happen to the turtles and birds and animals? The same thing that happened to them when they cleared their property for their house, and when they cleared all that land for the golf courses.

They are being foolish, for if the state passes us up now for a new bridge we all might be really sorry when a fire breaks out on the island. Say a breeze is going. A whole row of homes could burn to the ground because the fire engine couldn't get there because that cute little one-lane bridge was broke.

Or if they are drowning and the ambulance can't get there or back because a high tide made the bridge uneven and no vehicle could pass. In hurricanes, emergency evacuation is a must and cannot be hindered by a faulty bridge.

I would like to see a two-foot sidewalk for pedestrians or bikes. If you don't do it now you can't do it later.

I walk and ride my bike back and forth to the beach as do many others. A sidewalk would be a safety feature for bikers and walkers for I know I will still walk or ride my bike across as I do now with all the traffic.

More people are down here permanently and we need this new bridge and sidewalk. When you are talking a few dollars it is one thing; when you are talking thousands of dollars, go for the extra one time deal and get that sidewalk now.

Those Sunset Beach Taxpayers who want to stop progress should move to a desolate island if that is what they want. They are afraid this new bridge will bring more people and high rise buildings on our now quiet beach. Didn't they move here and spoil it for us when we were the

only ones here? It was really quiet before they moved here, so taxpayers move over for progress or move.

Mary Noorigian
(A permanent resident)
Sunset Beach

Strand Hospital Sets Blood Drive

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will stop at Grand Strand General Hospital in Myrtle Beach, S.C., for a blood drive Thursday, Jan. 3, from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m.

The blood drive is being held due to a critical shortage of platelets, which is a component of blood, according to a local news release.

"The Red Cross is in desperate need of blood. With the holidays, there is always an increase of need," said Sharon Wine, laboratory manager at Grand Strand General Hospital.

Hatteras Reopened To Fish Trawlers

State waters between Cape Hatteras and Ocracoke Inlet that were closed to fish trawlers earlier this month have been reopened to trawlers as long as they are equipped with turtle excluder devices (TEDs).

The area known as Hatteras Bight was closed to trawlers Dec. 7 due to the deaths of about 70 sea turtles. State fisheries officials believe the turtles drowned in fishing nets.

The waters were reopened to trawling Dec. 26, according to a proclamation from the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries. Fishing nets must have TEDs and fishermen are required to keep log books showing when they fish, how many pounds of fish they catch and how many turtles they catch and release.

The rules will remain in effect until it is determined that sea turtles have left the area. Trawls pulled from the beach are exempt from the requirements, according to the proclamation.

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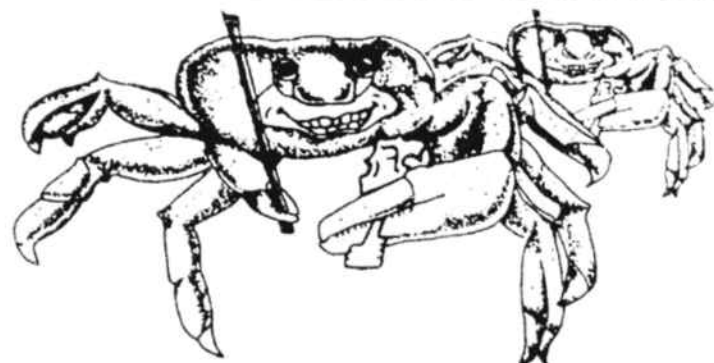
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