



Bring On The Beach!

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Ambassadors representing the South Brunswick and Southport-Oak Island Chambers of Commerce are "blitzing" communities along I-40 from Asheville to Mount Olive this week, encouraging visits to the area and leaving behind a bit of the beach, along with free vacations and other gifts donated by local businesses. Above, Al Laughinghouse joins other business sponsors and "blitzers" in filling a tub with sand from local beaches. Also shown (from left) are Sabrina Hodges, Susanne Sartelle, Libby Bostic, Terry Barbee and Vicki Spencer.

Holden Beach To Seek State Law Leaving Annexation Up To Voters

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach Commissioners will ask state legislators to pass a law that would prevent the town board from taking steps toward annexation without first holding a referendum of the town's registered voters and property owners.

On a 3-1 vote Monday night, commissioners adopted a resolution endorsing the annexation referendum and requesting that the N.C. General Assembly enact legislation requiring a vote on any proposed changes to the town boundaries.

Mayor Pro tem Gloria Barrett and Commissioners Bob Buck and Judy Bryan voted to pass the resolution. They have each voted against mainland annexation in the past.

Commissioner Gay Atkins, a proponent of annexation, voted against the resolution, saying she disagreed with the wording: "It's not the annexation problem itself, it's the way this was written."

Mainland annexation has been a controversial issue at Holden Beach for a number of years and proved to be the deciding factor in the 1989 town election, when four candidates opposed to annexation were elected.

Those four town commissioners made good on their campaign promises early last year when they voted to overturn an annexation ordinance that had been adopted by a previous board in the summer of 1989.

The ordinance would have brought into the town limits about 67 acres of property bordering the mainland causeway. The annexation was scheduled to take effect in June 1990.

The Holden Beach resolution adopted Monday night asks Brunswick County's representatives in the General Assembly to introduce a local bill that would modify annexation provisions set forth in the state's general statutes.

The resolution states: "Before the commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach can initiate any steps toward extension of the town's boundaries, either upon petition by land owners outside the town boundaries or upon the commission's own initiative, the question of whether to annex the designated area must be put to a referendum to be voted upon by all registered voters residing within the town limits and all owners of property within the town limits not otherwise registered to vote in the town. The town board shall take no action toward annexation

"I am in full support of the resolution. Annexation is a major factor affecting all property owners."

—Commissioner Bob Buck
Holden Beach

without approval by referendum."

The question of whether to extend town boundaries should be decided by all property owners who would be affected, the resolution says. Under current state law, as few as three town commissioners could change the town limits.

Holden Beach is described in the resolution as a resort community less than one-fourth mile wide and less than eight miles long, surrounded by water with a great portion of its land mass being marshland that needs protection.

It points out that at least three-fourths of Holden Beach's property owners are non-residents, who pay more than 75 percent of the town taxes but are not eligible to vote for elected officials of the town.

The resolution says extending town boundaries to include mainland areas could upset priorities regarding environmental concerns, because the island's potential to gain registered voters is limited due to geographic boundaries and other growth restrictions.

Prior to adoption of the resolution Monday, Commissioner Atkins had asked that the vote be postponed. An issue relating to town board appointments was tabled earlier in the meeting due to its controversial nature and the absence of Mayor John Tandy and Commissioner Kenner Amos.

However, other board members refused to delay action on the resolution. Mrs. Bryan, who initiated the proposed referendum last month, said local bills must be introduced in the legislature by April 1 to be considered this year.

Although the board denied Ms. Atkins' request to (See ANNEXATION, Page 2-A)

TOWN CREEK COMMUNITY ANGRY

County Asks State To Listen To Residents On Crematorium

BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick County Commissioners have requested a public hearing from the state regarding a proposed animal crematorium that has been targeted for the Town Creek community.

Angry residents packed the commissioners' chambers at Monday night's meeting to ask that the county do what it can to stop construction of the project. A cement foundation for the building has already been poured.

Ron Currie, owner of the proposed crematorium, has filed for a permit from the air quality section of the N.C. Division of Environmental Management. The business would be built off of Town Creek Road (State Road 1413), about two miles west of U.S. 17. It would be called Southeastern Pet Cremation. Currie is New Hanover County's animal control supervisor.

Commissioners voted unanimously Monday to ask the state to conduct a public hearing on the permit to give residents a chance to voice their concerns about possible damage to air and water quality in their neighborhood. The 320-square-foot building would sit on a nine-acre tract and house an incinerator that's 32 square feet.

The public has until Saturday, March 9, to file written complaints with the Division of Environmental Management to comment on whether the incinerator would be environmentally unsound.

Commissioner Frankie Rabon told the group of residents that filled the meeting room Monday that he is equally concerned about the crematorium.

"I live less than a quarter mile of the site," Rabon said. "There are wetlands surrounding there. I think

"Our homes were here first. I just think something like this can be placed some other place."

—Pamela Wall
Town Creek Resident

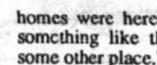
that hopefully we can have this public hearing so that people in our community can voice their concerns. It's up to the people in Raleigh to make that decision."

Chairman Kelly Holden told the group that county zoning could have prevented someone from building a crematorium in a residential area. Countywide zoning is something the commissioners are working toward, he said.

"I don't think you're going to get any disagreement from anyone on this board," Holden told Pamela Wall, a resident who was the first to speak. Commissioner Donald Shaw said he had been contacted by angry residents and advised them to attend the commissioners' meeting to voice their concerns.

Ms. Wall told the board that because the area is unzoned doesn't mean someone should have the right to endanger the safety of people in a community.

"No one can guarantee me 100 percent that some type of contamination will not be involved," she said. "Our homes were here first. I just think something like this can be placed some other place."



WALL

The crematorium would be used to cremate cats and dogs and to burn carcasses from research laboratories, slaughterhouses, animal pounds and similar sources. Residents attending the meeting Monday had obtained copies of the state permit which listed the uses of an animal crematorium. Veterinarians and pet owners who want to have a pet cremated would also use the facility.

The permit would allow a maximum of 75 pounds of waste per hour or 78 tons yearly to be burned by natural gas. A concrete foundation has already been poured for the project, one resident said Monday. The county has issued a building permit, but it is not listed as a commercial building project since it would not produce commercial traffic.

Jane Moore lives about two miles from the proposed site on State Road 1412. She said she moved to Brunswick County to escape the pollution in Maryland. She questioned if it was right for a business to produce heavy traffic in a residential neighborhood and if the county would have to pay to improve the road to the site.

"A pet crematorium is not appropriate in a residential area, zoning be damned," Ms. Moore said.

A petition has gathered about 546 names in the area that oppose the crematorium. Resident Michael (See CREMATORIUM, Pg. 2-A)

Redwine Seeks Parties' Ideas About County Governing Boards

Rep. David Redwine has an issue he would like both the Democratic and Republican parties to discuss during their upcoming county conventions.

He wants to know members' views on how long a term commissioners and school board members should serve, whether school board elections should be non-partisan and related questions—"the whole governance issue in Brunswick County," said Redwine. Redwine said Tuesday he was writing letters to the chairmen of the parties requesting the item be placed on convention agendas.

Republicans gather 2 p.m. Saturday at GOP headquarters north of Supply, while Democrats will convene April 6 at their headquarters, also on U.S. 17 north of Supply.

"Most of the people actively involved in the parties attend the con-

vention and I hope this will spark even more interest in attending the conventions," said Redwine. "I want as much input on this as I can get."

County Democrats have addressed part of the issue once before.

Redwine's attention to the issue began last year when the Brunswick County Democratic Convention passed by a narrow margin a resolution requesting that he introduce legislation to set the terms of county commissioners at two years.

Since then he has received "mixed" responses to the idea, while also hearing at the same time suggestions for other types of changes.

"It's more complex than just this one issue. There are a lot of different constituencies interested in the overall governance question. That

resolution sort of opened the door for all these other questions. I'd like to tackle them all at once and resolve them."

The deadline for introducing local legislation is April 4, Redwine said, but he plans to introduce a dummy bill to leave the option open for a local government bill.

In other activity this past week, Redwine co-sponsored H.B. 98, which would permit a member of the Teachers and State Employees Retirement System to retire after 28 years with the system instead of 30 without a reduction of benefits.

Redwine plans to support a bill that would allow people who own their own homes to obtain so-called "reverse" mortgages, whereby lend- (See REDWINE, Page 2-A)

Republicans Meet Saturday

Brunswick County Republican Party members will elect a new county chairman and other officers at its county convention, Saturday, March 9, at 2 p.m. at the Republican headquarters building on U.S. 17 a mile north of Supply.

Featured speaker will be Joe Dean, secretary of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Republicans will also elect township chairpersons and delegates to attend the GOP state convention to be held in Wilmington May 31-June 1, said Chairman Malcolm Grissett.

Resolutions will also be voted on at the county convention to decide if they should be taken to the state convention. Grissett has announced that he will not be a candidate for the chairman's position this year.

"We have some important issues to discuss and decisions to make for the coming year," Grissett said. "We urge all precinct delegates and officers to turn out for this event. We also are in urgent need to raise monies for our building fund. This will be an important agenda item."

The convention is open to all Brunswick County Republicans or interested persons.

North-End Detour Starts March 15 On Highway 17

BY SUSAN USHER

Starting next Friday, March 15, traffic on U.S. 17 north of Shallotte will be rerouted while the connector to the Shallotte bypass is built, a project that is scheduled for completion by the busy Memorial Day weekend.

Citing potential bad weather, last December the contractor on the bypass project, Propst Construction Co. of Concord, delayed completion of the job until the arrival of warmer weather.

North- and south-bound vehicles will be detoured along Redbug Road and Holden Beach Road for a period of two to three months.

An initial notice from the N.C. Department of Transportation noted the closing as for 90 days.

However, a time requirement in the state's contract with Propst calls for traffic to be rerouted onto the Shallotte bypass by the Memorial Day holiday or else the company could face stiff penalties.

"It may go into the record as 90 days, but it won't be for 90 days," said Dave W. Boyleston, resident engineer for the project with the N.C. Department of Transportation. "The contractor said he didn't anticipate problems unless the weather really gets bad."

Propst was awarded a \$3.86 million contract in late 1989 to grade and pave the 4.8-mile bypass. The final completion date for the entire project is August 1991. That time frame includes landscaping and adjustment of highway markings.

When work resumes next week, Propst will continue building the roadway embankment to grade level, then stoning and paving it to connect with U.S. 17.

Where the bypass and highway connect, new roadway paved last fall will become part of U.S. 17, while the previously existing roadway will become part of the bypass.

The completed bypass will have two traffic lights, one at the intersection of the bypass and the service road at the north end of town and the other at N.C. 130 west and the bypass, near West Brunswick High School.