

SOUTH BRUNSWICK COMMITTEE OF 100 PROPOSED

Group Would Promote Light Industrial Development

BY SUSAN USHER
A group of local business people is seeking support for an organized effort to recruit to the South Brunswick Islands area light industry that would offer higher wages while complementing tourism, the major industry here.

The purpose of the proposed South Brunswick Islands Committee of 100 would be to help bring about the development, expansion and creation of jobs and employment opportunities for all people—and do it in a way that complements "orderly and responsible economic growth," according to the mission statement of the not-for-profit organization.

"We see the need, but for it to be successful we know others must want it also," said Bobby Davis, economic development director for Brunswick

"I got to thinking about what were my grandchildren to do if they wanted to live in Brunswick County. I didn't want them to be limited to minimum wage jobs."

—W.A. Stanley Jr.
Committee of 100

Electric Membership Corp. and president of a temporary Committee of 100 steering committee. The panel was formed to see if the community wants and is willing to support such an endeavor. So far, he indicated, response has been positive.

Davis said that competition for new industry is strong and that the

committee would work with the Resources Development Commission and other agencies in selling the advantages of the South Brunswick Islands area—a district that stretches from Supply to the South Carolina line north to the Columbus County line.

Sites exist north of U.S. 17 that are suitable for light industry, said Langston, offering the potential of work for residents of western Brunswick County without driving to Wilmington.

"The options are just unlimited," he said.

Tom Monk, executive director of the Resources Development Commission for Brunswick County and a member of the steering committee, agrees.

He is enthused about the potential of a Committee of 100 for the area, and the things it can do that complement efforts of the RDC—such as identifying and/or providing sites for industry, locating or providing shell buildings and providing an "industrial host team."

Such a team is made up of knowledgeable local people who can talk about the area's amenities, business climate, taxes, government, education, sites and buildings and services.

"They're in essence my final sales pitch," said Monk.

"I can do whatever I can to sell the county, but people look at me and know I'm a paid professional, that I'm paid to say that," he said. "Prospects are more enthused hearing these kinds of things from a volunteer group than a paid staff."

The SBI Committee of 100 will be the second local industrial development committee to form in the county. Last year a similar group formed in the Southport area.

Monk said both groups will be seeking industry with a similar profile: Smaller, with five to 30 employees, a 5,000- to 20,000-square-foot building, less need for infrastructure.

"The kind of clientele we want to attract is likely to be an owner or manager showing a desire to live in the area who can locate a small facility and live near where they

work," he said.

Completion of the Shallotte bypass this summer and the four-laning of U.S. 17 across Brunswick County over the next two years will be an added plus.

"Transportation is not going to be looked at as an obstacle as it has been," said Monk. "Instead it's going to be a plus."

A start-up campaign for the South Brunswick Islands Committee of 100 began with a mailing to local chamber of commerce members and continues mostly by word of mouth.

Early June is the target date for an organizational meeting, at which the last charter members would be signed up. However, there is no limit to the number of members. Annual dues are \$100, with businesses or individuals eligible. Dues are tax-deductible.

The committee came about when W.A. (Bill) Stanley Jr., Dr. Lee Langston and Davis were drawn together by a mutual concern for the area's future.

"I just thought there something lacking at this end of the county," said Stanley, who was instrumental in the founding of Brunswick Community College 11 years ago and is vice chairman of the 100 steering committee. "Industry coming into the county was locating in another area."

"I got to thinking about what were my grandchildren to do if they wanted to live in Brunswick County. I didn't want them to be limited to minimum wage jobs," he said. "We have a lot of jobs in Brunswick County, but they seem to be low paying. I think clean industry is the way to go."

Langston, a local physician who was instrumental in the creation of the Prescription for Excellence Foundation, is secretary of the committee. He said that ideally a community has a diverse economy that includes an industrial base. Whatever industry is recruited to the South Brunswick Islands area, he stressed, must complement the county's No. 1 industry—tourism.

"We have the area's best interests at heart," he said. "We all live here too. We don't want anything that would take away from what we have."

Other steering committee members include Davis Milligan, treasurer; Doug Baxley, attorney; David Batten, Larry Cheek, Dennis Crocker, Don Evans, Bobby Kirby, Al Laughinghouse, Nick Newton, Annette Odom, Mike Reaves, Susanne Sartelle, Joe Stanley and Dean Walters.

Wealth Of Knowledge Comes From Conference

BY SUSANNE D. SARTELLE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
South Brunswick Islands Chamber Of Commerce

Last week I represented the South Brunswick Islands at the North Carolina Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism in Atlantic Beach.

Several hundred people representing all areas of the state and all facets of the travel industry were in attendance. Not only did I bring back a wealth of knowledge about the tourism industry, but I also made new contacts all over our state. The new people I meet at conferences provide a major benefit because of networking. We are able to exchange ideas and share experiences. It is always helpful to find out the successes and failures of other organizations like our chamber.

Someone else's experience can save a lot of miles, and there is no reason to re-invent the wheel if you can learn from others.

Now, back to the wealth of knowledge I brought home. Although there is a limited budget, the Division of Travel and Tourism is doing a good job promoting our state to vacationers. Updates were provided on state programs and publications. A key emphasis has been on international tourism and we are seeing results from that in the South Brunswick Islands. A group of German travel agents recently visited our area. Too, we have received a great deal of publicity in Canada as a result of a tour of Canadian writers.

At the Governor's Banquet, Gov. Jim Martin presented one of the most inspirational speeches I have ever heard. He made hundreds of people feel terrific about our state.

The seminars during the conference were very informative. Marketing events and seeking sponsors were especially beneficial and the information will help with oyster festivals and King Classic tournaments to come.

We do live in a wonderful state. We have the best to offer in vacation opportunities. We have more than a \$6 million tourism industry. And I agree with Gov. Martin—in 1992, we're going for eight!

Keep up the great work in our community. The South Brunswick Islands is important to North Carolina.



SARTELLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Hospital Honors Nurses

The Brunswick Hospital at Supply recognized its nursing staff for excellence and hard work during the past year at a May 6 reception held in conjunction with National Nurses Week. Diana Ramsey (center), director of nursing, is shown with Carrie Small, registered nurse of the year, and Tammie Stanley, licensed practical nurse of the year. The two were chosen by fellow staff members.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Leland Man Receives Patent

A Leland man was recently awarded a patent by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Donald Baldwin of Route 4, Leland, designed a 9- by 12-inch tray for ladders. It provides a temporary storage area on extension ladders for loose items such as nuts and bolts as well as heavier-items such as paint cans and hand tools.

Baldwin could not be reached for comment on his invention.

Unit Accredited

Grand Strand General Hospital in Myrtle Beach, S.C., is the first mammography facility in Horry County to receive accreditation by the American College of Radiology.

The accreditation, will expire April 25, 1994, is the result of a review process intended to assure that qualified personnel perform and interpret mammograms and that dedicated mammographic equipment is

used to insure that women receive the best exams possible.

Grand Strand performs mammograms on an outpatient basis weekdays by appointment.

Employee Honored

The Seafood Barn Restaurant at Holden Beach honored a longtime employee Monday night with a cake and a service plaque, said Jerome Walker, manager.

Faye Gibson, a cook and plate maker, has been employed at the restaurant for 10 years, he said.

Incorrectly Identified

A photograph of Kim Lloyd, director of Lee's Little World of Leland, was identified in last week's issue as Betty Lee, one of the owners of the firm.

The firm, which provides child care services, was presented a small business award for community service. Ms. Lloyd accepted the award.

Survey To Look At County Agricultural Production

Approximately 25 Brunswick County farm households will be visited in early June as part of a major U.S. Department of Agriculture survey.

Gilbert Anderson of Cerro Gordo will serve as enumerator for Brunswick and Columbus counties.

The farm/ranch families are among approximately 3,000 statewide chosen randomly as part of a national sample of 117,000 producers to be contacted in the annual June survey.

Information gathered is used to make state, regional and national estimates of crop acreage, grain stocks, livestock inventories, number of farms and land in farms, and other statistics. The estimates provide the basis for an orderly marketing system, according to Bob Murphy, head of the Agricultural Statistics Division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture. The data is also used by government agencies and farm organizations in developing farm policy positions. Data revealed can also aid farmers in production, marketing and investment decisions.

Murphy said North Carolina wants to make sure that Tar Heel

farmers are fully represented in the national picture.

Households that choose to participate by voluntarily providing information are among those who receive a summary of the study's findings.

Facts about an individual's farm or ranch remain confidential and are used only in combination with reports from other farmers.

Bill Wilken, a statistician in the state department, said the number of farms to be visited in Brunswick County can only be estimated.

"That's because part of our sampling is by areas of land that are randomly selected," he said. "We don't who lives there until we get there."

The project defines as a farm or ranch family any family that receives \$1,000 in sales or in government payments.

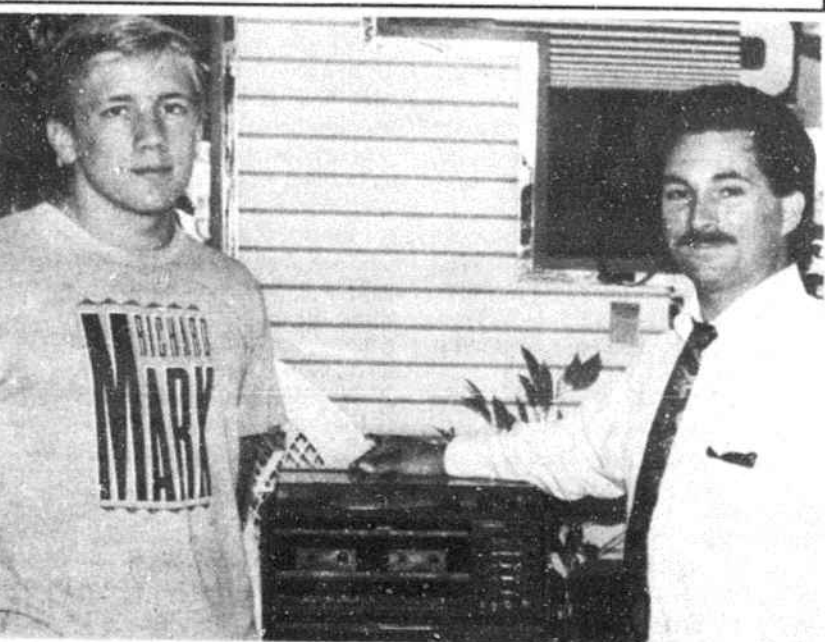
"It doesn't take much," said Wilken. "It can be as little as a half dozen chickens in the yard or a pig or cow for home use."

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STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Jessen Wins Stereo

Mark Jessen of Holden Beach (left) won an AM/FM stereo receiver with twin cassette deck in an April 30 drawing at Jones variety store in Shallotte. Pictured at right is Tony Graham, store manager.

Next Medifast Classes Start July 9

Call today to sign up.

Marilyn J. Boehm, M.D., Ph.D.
Village Pines, Shallotte 919-754-5581
919-754-9949

We're Making A Grand Entrance In Brunswick County.

If you've been curious about all the activity going on just west of Southport on NC. 211, here's some exciting news. The gently rolling berms and picturesque ponds are part of the grand entrance of what will be Brunswick County's premier golfing community, St. James Plantation.

Beyond the entryway, extending to the intracoastal waterway, construction of P.B. Dye's magnificent 18-hole golf course is on schedule for play this fall.

Along with spectacular golf, St. James Plantation will offer the kind of amenities you would expect of a community of this calibre. Swimming, tennis, beach club and boating facilities. All are part of the lifestyle that will be unique to St. James' homeowners.

You can take advantage of this special opportunity to own property at St. James while prices remain at pre-development levels. Plus you can select from choice homesites on the waterway, along the fairways, with views of the marsh, lakes or in wooded interior locations. For a limited time your club initiation fees are included with your homesite.

Call now to arrange a tour of our spectacular low-country plantation. It's your grand entrance to a whole new way of living.

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