

Sunset Mayor Seeks Third Term, Three File For Holden Beach Board

BY DOUG RUTTER

Three Holden Beach residents filed as town board candidates, and Sunset Beach Mayor Mason Barber filed for a third straight term in the opening days of the 1991 municipal election filing period.

Filing started last Friday and ends Aug. 2 at noon, said Brunswick County Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt. The \$5 filing fee can be paid at the board of elections office in Bolivia or town halls where forms are available.

Voters will elect 58 people this fall to seats on 16 municipal boards in Brunswick County. Five other seats are available on local hospital and sanitary district boards.

Holden Beach

Holden Beach Board of Elections member Mabel Dutton

said three men had filed for seats on the board of commissioners as of Tuesday afternoon.

Sid Swarts, a military retiree who recently served six years on the town's planning and zoning board, declared his candidacy shortly after filing opened last Friday at noon.

David R. Sandifer also is seeking election to the town commission. He is the owner of Holden Beach Properties and Holden Beach Rental Services and is a co-owner of Holden Beach Construction Company.

James Shafer, who was appointed to the planning and zoning board as an alternate last year and was named a regular member in May, filed for town board Tuesday.

The Holden Beach mayor's post and all five seats on the board of

commissioners will be up for election in November.

Sunset Beach

At Sunset Beach, Barber is running for his third, two-year term as mayor. He was unopposed in 1989, and defeated Councilman Edward Gore Sr. in 1987.

Cherri Cheek also has filed for one of the two town council seats up for election this year. She's involved in the organizing of a new group, Friends and Neighbors of Sunset Beach Inc., that along with supporting the town's Fourth of July salute to the troops, also supports state plans to replace the community's pontoon bridge with a high-rise span.

Calabash

Elsewhere in the South Brunswick Islands, Jon B. Sanborn has filed for re-election to the

Calabash Board of Commissioners.

Sanborn, administrative assistant at The Brunswick Hospital, is running from District II, where two town board seats are available. Voters also will elect one board member from District I this year.

Leland

In northern Brunswick County, three people filed for office Monday in the Town of Leland, where voters will elect a mayor and two town council members.

Councilwoman Jane Gilbert filed for re-election. She said she is running with the Rev. S.L. Doty Jr., who filed for mayor, and Thomas D. Hyatt, who is seeking the other available town council seat.

"Hopefully, we can get a little more responsive government up here," Mrs. Gilbert said Monday.

Boiling Spring Lakes

"Hopefully, we can get a little more responsive government up here," Mrs. Gilbert said Monday.

Elsewhere, a commissioner at Boiling Spring Lakes has filed for mayor. Town board member Steven Mark Stewart, who has two years remaining on his term, filed for the mayor's post now held by H.C. Boswell.

Besides a mayor, Boiling Spring Lakes voters will elect two commissioners in November.

Southport

In Southport, William W. Delaney II has filed for the board of aldermen. He is running from Ward II, where two town board seats will be up for grabs. Voters also will elect a mayor and one town board member from Ward I.

Long Beach

Bobbie H. Larrison filed for commissioner at Long Beach, where voters will elect a mayor and three town board members.

Sandy Creek

In Sandy Creek, Louis A. Blouin filed for one of the two town council seats to be filed this year. Blouin made an unsuccessful bid for election in 1989.

Elsewhere

As of Tuesday afternoon, Ms. Britt said no candidates had filed in the towns of Shallotte, Varnamont, Bolivia, Yaupon Beach, Caswell Beach, Belville or Navassa.

Ocean Isle Beach Town Clerk Daisy Ivey also said nobody had filed as of Tuesday. Voters there will elect a mayor and three commissioners.

Nobody had filed for the available seats on the Dosher Hospital Board of Trustees and the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District Board, Ms. Britt said.

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Twenty-ninth Year, Number 36

©1991 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

SHALLOTTE, North Carolina, Thursday, July 11, 1991

25¢ Per Copy

36 Pages, 3 Sections, 1 Insert

Angry Health Board Strikes Back At Deep Budget Cuts

BY TERRY POPE

If push comes to shove, septic tank permitting will take a back seat to other inspections conducted by the Brunswick County Health Department.

The health board voted last week to make restaurant, lodging and swimming pool inspections of top priority for its environmental health specialists.

The unanimous vote came following the board's heated attack on county commissioners, who on June 17 unexpectedly cut a full-time supervisor's slot from the 1991-92 health department budget and shifted the county's soil scientist to a post in the engineering department.

Chairman Bill Rabon said the health department needs to stay on top of its restaurant and swimming pool inspections to keep from breaking both the law and the public's trust.

"Let's not do an overall poor job," said Rabon. "If we're going to do a poor job, let's isolate where that job is going to be."

Three health specialists responsible for restaurant and pool inspections will not be pulled from their jobs to cover the vacancies.

"We're at 100 percent at those inspections now, and I'd like for us to stay there," said Rabon.

At least one employee will have extra duties as a result of the personnel cuts. The department has redefined the job of Bruce Whitrow, environmental health program specialist since joining the department in 1985.

Policy amendments will also change the appeals process for failed site evaluations. Grievances were previously taken to Gary McDonald, environmental health supervisor, for a second opinion.

However, McDonald was fired by

county commissioners, and county soil scientist Walter Marley was transferred to a post in the engineering department. While not a health department employee, Marley worked closely with its environmental health unit.

Board members criticized commissioners for making the personnel cuts without first consulting the board or Health Director Michael Rhodes.

"I feel that if my input is worth that little," said board member Bill Phillips, "then why am I serving?"

Rabon said the department was dealt another blow when commissioners took an anticipated \$103,720 from increased fees and gave it to a post in the solid waste department.

"That money was earmarked by the board for use in the environmental health," said Rabon. "They accepted our proposal, but they cut the ear off and put another ear on."

The new fee scale will raise site inspections for septic tank permits by \$15 for single-family homes. The department will also start charging individuals \$30 to obtain the actual permit.

Health officials had planned to purchase new vehicles with the extra money.

Commissioners have turned "a user fee into an abuser fee," added Rabon.

"There's no sense in it whatsoever," said Phillips.

Rhodes said McDonald's firing was a shock to him. He said the department tried to convince commissioners that loss of the positions would "devastate" the environmental health program.

"We had to go through a little bit of anger, but now we have to move forward and try to do the best we can with the staff we have," said Rhodes.

(See ANGRY, Page 1-A)



Go Ahead, Make Our Day

Benjamin (left) and Michael Powell of Ocean Isle Beach drove this miniature Jeep last Thursday in a small Fourth of July parade on Scotland Street. The Powell boys, ages two and three respectively, stopped just long enough to do their Clint Eastwood impressions. The story and more photos are inside.

Holden Beach To Start Water Safety Program

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach officials plan to hire lifeguards and designate guarded swimming areas in the near future as part of a new water safety program prompted by the drowning of a vacationer last week.

Commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday to begin the lifeguard program immediately and possibly follow through later with the purchase of a surf boat and other life-saving equipment.

Mayor John Tandy called for the development

ment of a safety program in a memo to the town board and interim town manager written prior to a special meeting Tuesday morning.

"I never had so many calls on one thing in my life," Tandy said of last Thursday's drowning of a 12-year-old boy. "It ruined the Fourth of July for our island. There's no doubt about it."

Holden Beach Commissioners, who are known for discussing issues at length before acting, indicated this week that they don't want

to waste time getting the safety program started.

Tandy asked Commissioner Judy Bryan to work with Interim Town Manager Gus Ulrich and Keith Sawyer, an officer with Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department who was involved in the search last week.

"If you guys can get it started tomorrow, go ahead and do it," Tandy told the committee.

In his memorandum, Tandy recommended

(See WATER, Page 2-A)

LOGAN: BEACHES NEED WARNING SYSTEM

Boy Drowns In Holden Beach Surf

BY DOUG RUTTER

In the wake of a drowning last week at Holden Beach, Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan said local beachgoers need a way to warn the public about dangerous ocean conditions.

A 12-year-old boy visiting the beach with his grandparents drowned in rough seas after a wave knocked him off a raft around noon last Thursday.

Logan said the body was found about 19 hours later, more than five miles east of where the boy was playing.

"The conditions were extremely terrible yesterday," Logan said the day after the drowning. "It was not a day for anybody to be in the ocean—not just playing around."

Jaremas Barnes of Knightdale was playing in the ocean on a float with his cousin and foster brother when a wave knocked them into the water.

The cousin and foster brother came up out of the water, but Barnes did not surface. They were swimming near the house where the family was staying for the week in the 1000 block of Ocean Boulevard West.

Holden Beach Police, Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad and Tri-

Beach Volunteer Fire Department responded immediately and searched for the boy from the strand all day.

As word of the drowning spread down the beach, looks of concern replaced smiles on the faces of vacationers. Many picked up binoculars and helped search for the boy.

Two Coast Guard boats and a Marine helicopter from Camp Lejeune arrived several hours after the search had started. An airplane from the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department also assisted.

Coastline VRS President Kathleen Jacobs said the ocean was too rough for the rescue squad's boat. Brunswick County's surf boat was launched but taken out of the water after it flipped.

Logan said two people with life jackets waded into the ocean but couldn't keep their balance. If the sea hadn't been so rough, Logan said rescuers could have formed a human chain where the boy went under.

"We exhausted everything we could get our hands on," Logan said. "I don't really know of much more or anything more we could have done."

Rescue squad members stayed on

the beach until 10:30 p.m. Thursday and the Coast Guard searched all night. Logan said the search from land resumed Friday around 5:40 a.m.

The boy's body was spotted in the surf near the east end of the island shortly after 7 a.m. Logan said a Holden Beach police officer and Coastline VRS member waded into the ocean to get the body.

Rescuers said a strong undercurrent probably contributed to the drowning. "I think the undertow carried him straight to the bottom," Logan said. "He was probably one of those troughs out there."

Logan speculated that the body broke free from the undercurrent and started drifting east following a thunderstorm Thursday night. The ocean calmed down after the storm.

Logan said the county beaches need a system to warn people when the ocean is too rough for swimming. Most vacationers think about the fun of riding waves, he said, but don't consider the potential danger.

Some beach communities use red flags to let people know about potential danger. Yellow flags indicate that people should be cautious, and green flags mean the ocean is relatively safe.

(See WARNING, Page 2-A)



A MARINE HELICOPTER from Camp Lejeune searches for a drowning victim off Holden Beach last Thursday as three visitors watch from the strand.