

EVERYONE CAN HELP OUT

# Brunswick County Program Hopes Tourists Will Recycle, Too

BY TERRY POPE

Tourists may play an important role in making Brunswick County's recycling program successful.

That's why the need to protect the natural beauty of the county's beaches should become more visible, said Rita Hatcher, public health educator with the Brunswick County Health Department.

To achieve that goal, the environmental health staff is busy designing an emblem, similar to a road sign, that will encourage people to recycle glass, paper, aluminum and plastic. The signs will be placed in high traffic areas, such as local restaurants, stores, motels and recreational spots, said Ms. Hatcher.

The plan was unveiled this week during N.C. Environmental Health Week, Sept. 15-21, as proclaimed by Gov. Jim Martin. Health departments statewide will focus attention this week on environmental challenges and possible solutions to those problems.

"Since we are a tourist mecca," said Ms. Hatcher, "not only should the natives be interested in keeping our natural resources in good condition, but the tourists should, too."

The department hopes the design will be catchy, to encourage persons to take pride in Brunswick County's beaches by picking up litter and making sure it is disposed of properly.

Perhaps the design could be approved by the N.C. Department of Transportation and placed on highway signs, she said.

"We'd like to come up with something that good—that they'd want to adopt it statewide," she said.

In the future, she believes recycling education may be an environmental health specialist's most important job. They were previously called sanitarians until their roles as educators broadened.

"Now, the environment is such a critical area to be addressed," said Ms. Hatcher. "These people are becoming more specialized."

It is their job to inspect restaurants, motels, septic systems, supermarkets and public water supplies.

Specialists also inspect child day care centers, rest homes and schools for proper sanitation practices. Animal control officers protect the public from vicious animals who may be carriers of rabies and pro-

vide a place for the adoption of strays.

Health specialists also sponsor a child safety seat loaner program and conduct educational workshops on a variety of topics.

"I believe they will become as

important as our medical doctors," said Ms. Hatcher. "We are at that fragile dividing line, where we can choose to maintain our natural resources and make conditions better, or lose them altogether."

Brunswick County's beaches are

free of the debris and hazardous wastes that have frequently washed ashore in northern states, but residents will have to work to protect the local shoreline, she said.

"Once it happens, that stigma stays for a long time," Ms. Hatcher

said. "We don't want to be known for having a disaster on our beaches. It would label us from now until eternity. If we maintain and do what we're all suppose to be doing, then we can ensure ourselves against that."

Recycling stations are open at Boiling Spring Lakes, Calabash, Holden Beach, Long Beach, Shallotte, Southport, Sunset Beach and Leland.

"We want citizens to make it a habit to recycle," said Ms. Hatcher.

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## Topic Is Learning Disabilities

Brunswick Community College will host a video teleconference, *Identifying and Addressing Learning Disabilities in the Classroom*, Thursday, Sept. 19, at 3 p.m. in the teaching auditorium.

Jane Jerrow, Ph.D., executive director of the Association of Handicapped Student Services Programs in Postsecondary Education, will present the conference. It is targeted at public school teachers and community college instructors as they work with students with learning disabilities.

The program will discuss what a student with learning disabilities experiences in the classroom and will offer some practical guidelines for teachers and instructors on increasing classroom success for these students.

The program is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, call BCC's Learning Resources Center, 754-6900, 457-6329, or 343-0203.

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Transportation will also be provided to Whiteville Sunday Sept. 22 for the ASVAB Military entrance Test.

For more information call 754-6821

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