

# Questions To Be Posed In Optional Exit Polling

BY TERRY POPE

County residents heading to the poll Nov. 5 may choose not to vote on the three non-binding questions Brunswick County Commissioners want answers to.

Votes on county zoning, fire and rescue tax districts and non-partisan school board elections will be counted by hand in an exit poll, rather than cast on the official ballots.

"No person is under any obligation to complete the poll," said Lynda Britt, Brunswick County Board of Elections supervisor.

Ms. Britt said placing non-binding issues on an official ballot concerned both her and County Attorney David Clegg. The Brunswick County Board of Elections decided Monday to have poll workers give the non-binding ballots only to those who

want them.

On the official ballot, voters will elect municipal candidates and vote on two binding issues—one asking if commissioners' terms should be shortened from four years to two and another asking voters to approve a redistricting plan chosen last week.

After voters have marked their official ballots and put them in the machines, they may choose to take a ballot containing the three non-binding questions. Commissioners are not required to abide by the outcome of the non-binding vote.

"They're calling it a non-binding referendum," said Ms. Britt. "In reality, it's a poll."

A table will be marked with a sign at each polling place indicating where to ob-

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Lynda Britt, Supervisor  
B.C. Board of Elections

tain the exit poll. The non-binding issues will be printed on oversized ballots so voters cannot accidentally place them in the machines that automatically count votes, said Ms. Britt.

Instead, those ballots will be dropped into a locked box and counted by hand, after the official votes are all in. Like the regular

ballots, residents will be asked to draw in an arrow indicating their vote.

"We could not really figure out another way," said Ms. Britt. "It's almost locked in where our (poll) workers are going to have to deal with this issue."

Glenda Walker, Board of Elections chairperson, said her main concern with an exit poll is possible public criticism following the vote. People may claim they didn't see the exit poll, or that they became too confused at the time to vote, she said.

Fortunately, the polls should be less confusing during a municipal election year, added Ms. Britt.

"Turnout will not be like it is in a major election," said Ms. Britt. "Normally, in this type of election, we don't have a line, except maybe at Calabash or Long Beach."

Commissioners want input on whether the county should enact a countywide zoning ordinance to regulate land use in all unincorporated areas of Brunswick County, effective on or before Jan. 1, 1993.

Other non-binding questions will ask voters if members to the Brunswick County Board of Education should be chosen in non-partisan elections, as they were at one time.

Another question asks if commissioners should establish five county service districts to fund fire protection, ambulance service, rescue service and emergency medical services effective July 1, 1992.

Such districts would allow the county to levy taxes on property value within a district, with the money earmarked for volunteer units in that particular district.

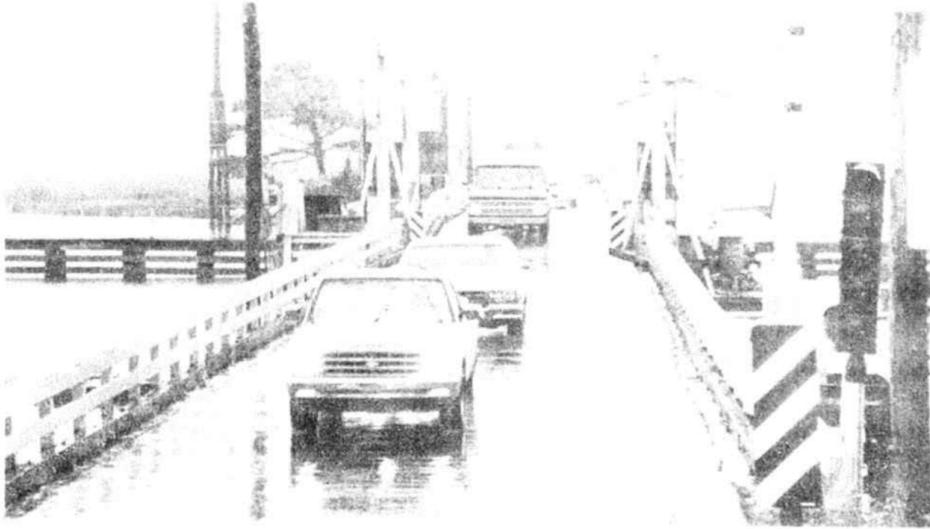
# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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BETWEEN 50 and 60 vehicles leave Sunset Beach around 6:30 p.m. Monday after the bridge was shut down about three hours for repairs. It was the first time a school bus had been stranded on the island since January 1985.

## Sunset Bridge Repairs Strand Union Driver, Three Students

BY SUSAN USHER

Union Primary School bus driver Cynthia Hill was near the end of her route Monday when she and the three remaining children on Bus 174 ran into a delay—an adventure of sorts, though not the kind she'd care to see repeated.

After making two stops on the island at Sunset Beach, the bus was stopped short at the pontoon bridge to the mainland. Before the bridge opened again, the line would grow to more than 50 vehicles transporting vacationers and day workers.

Bridgetender Howard Hirt was closing the span around 3 p.m. when the cable jammed on its "shiv," or pulley and wouldn't budge, said Buddy Scoggins of the bridge maintenance office. The pulley had to be replaced, which took about two hours of work, plus travel time for Scoggins' crew of six men.

Headlights were shining through a heavy drizzle by the time traffic began to move across the bridge again around 6:30 p.m.

The bus stood empty, its driver and passengers temporarily away.

Jeff Potter was anxious. Here was the bus, but where was his daughter? When the bus was 1 1/2 hours late he had called the school bus garage, the first to notify them of the overdue bus.

Suddenly Bus 174 cranked up and headed across the bridge, with Potter hurrying behind through the rain with the child's knapsack he had taken a few minutes earlier from the bus. He met the bus at the foot of the

bridge. Ms. Hill was near the end of the route. Her seven-year-old son Martez and two other children were the only passengers involved in the delay.

"It wasn't too bad," said Ms. Hill, who began driving a school bus nine years ago as a high school sophomore and is on the Sunset Beach route for the fifth year. "It was kids I knew from last year. It makes a difference when you know them and they are used to being with you."

"I just talked to the children about it and then I helped them with their homework. Then they started to get restless and wanted to leave the bus."

She and her charges stretched and walked around a few minutes. By then the youngsters were beginning to wonder when they would get home and if it would get dark before they left the island.

Stranded on the causeway just south of the bridge, Ms. Hill couldn't leave the youngsters to make her way back to the island to call anyone. She had to wait for a ride that could carry all four of them.

About that time workers and island residents came to their aid.

A Sunset Beach police officer got the bus number and radioed the county of its whereabouts. A man named "Mike" from Etheridge Pest Control Co. inquired about their well-being and bought a round of soft drinks and a big bag of potato chips.

After supper Carol Pessolano and her children were

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## Calabash Planners Ignore Pleas To Return

BY DOUG RUTTER

Calabash Planning Board Vice Chairman Pati Lewellyn has agreed to serve on the board a month after signing her name to a joint letter of resignation submitted by seven planning board members.

But the six other appointees who resigned due to conflicts between the planning board and town commissioners have apparently ignored recent pleas to return to the board.

At a joint meeting last Wednesday, Mayor Pro Tem George Anderson and town commissioners asked planning board members who resigned en masse Aug. 27 to put aside past differences and continue serving to the board.

Anderson, who is acting as mayor in the absence of Mayor Doug Simmons, gave planners until the end of last week to decide whether they would return or stick with their earlier decision to resign.

Anderson said Tuesday that Mrs. Lewellyn was the only board member who responded. "Outside that, I haven't heard from a soul," he said.

In their three-page letter of resignation, planning board members

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—Tom Brendgord, chairman  
Calabash Planning Board

said there was a lack of support and guidance from the town commissioners who appointed them and poor communication between the two groups.

Commissioners haven't formally accepted the resignations of Chairman Tom Brendgord, Vice Chairman Lewellyn and planning board members Warren Pienack, Frank Chanler, Bruce Bunt, Forrest King and Jack Hannaway.

In response to the letter, however, commissioners adopted a "statement of direction" earlier this month setting forth new policies and guidelines for the two boards.

At last week's joint meeting,

Commissioner Ray Card encouraged planning board members to continue serving for 120 days to see if the two boards could work out their differences.

"There's a lot of good people, and I would hate to see it all go down the drain over a few words," he said.

Card said the boards would have to keep in close communication and hold joint meetings to keep in touch and work out problems as soon as they arise. "We don't wait until it festers like a mushroom and explodes," he said.

However, Brendgord said last week that the "statement of direction" was a work direction program and didn't address the basic issues in the planning board's letter of resignation.

"I don't see any change in the faith that you have in us and I have in you," Brendgord said.

Based on discussion last week, commissioners and planning board members agreed that poor communication between boards has been the biggest problem.

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## Lewis Replaced On State Commission

Jerry Lewis of Charlotte has been replaced after serving 14 years as a member of the N.C. Environmental Management Commission.

Gov. Jim Martin last week appointed Lawrence R. Zucchini of Raleigh to replace Lewis on the state panel, which establishes rules to protect water and air resources.

"I didn't pursue it," Lewis said of the appointment. "If I had been re-appointed, I probably would have resigned in a year or two anyway."

The semi-retired engineer said he enjoyed serving on the state panel but was "relieved" that he wasn't re-appointed. He looks forward to doing more traveling and fishing now that he has the time.

"I have no problem with it at all," he said. "It's a very time-consuming commission, a lot more so than it used to be."

Lewis said he was hoping someone from

Brunswick County would be chosen to take his place on the commission because many of the issues it tackles affect the coast.

During his years on the panel, some of the accomplishments include adoption of air quality regulations, rules for underground gas storage tanks and stormwater runoff regulations that have effected coastal development.

Lewis' replacement, Zucchini, is a landscape architect and former member of the EMC. He is a member of the Ecological Society of America, the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Urban Land Institute.

Commission Chairman Charles L. Baker, an engineer from Charlotte, was the only member who was re-appointed last week.

Other appointees are newcomers Edwin Andrews III, a hydrologist from Raleigh; Dennis Loflin, a farmer from Denton; and Richard Watkins, director of the Environmental Policy and Studies Center at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory.

All of the appointees will serve until June 30, 1997, except Andrews, whose term expires in 1995.

## Local Big Sweep Volunteers Find Bottles, Cans And Butts

BY DOUG RUTTER

Volunteers who took part in the Big Sweep Saturday found local beaches littered with hundreds of beverage containers and, by one estimate, enough cigarette butts to fill a tobacco barn.

More than 250 people turned out to bag litter in the South Brunswick Islands alone Saturday morning during the statewide cleanup of coastal beaches and inland lakes and streams.

"We were really pleased with the response that came from those beaches," said Lundy Spence, marine education specialist with UNC Sea Grant who help coordinate the cleanup.

Based on early estimates from state and local organizers, volunteers collected more than two tons of trash in Brunswick County, one of 90 North Carolina counties that took part in this year's event.

The 150 volunteers at Ocean Isle Beach bagged approximately 2,000 pounds of trash, according to coordinator Hayden O'Neil.

Sunset Beach attracted 71 volunteers who turned in 37 partially-full

*"There aren't this many butts in a cigarette factory."*

—Winnie Riley  
Big Sweep volunteer

bags of litter. The Holden Beach Beautification Committee had 37 volunteers who gathered about 828 pounds of trash during its private cleanup.

Sunset Beach

Sunset Beach drew about 61 volunteers who helped clean up the strand and another 10 who picked up the bags of litter and prepared a hot dog lunch for participants, said coordinator Cletus Waldmiller.

Richard and Winnie Riley, who recently moved to the Calabash area from Stony Point, N.Y., were among those who found a lot of cigarette butts.

"We want to keep it fresh for our grandchildren," Mrs. Riley said as she scoured the beach on her hands and knees. "There aren't this many

butts in a cigarette factory."

Another volunteer, Dorothy Wilson of Calabash Acres, said she grew tired of counting all the cigarette butts and recording them on her data card. "I finally gave up. I just put hundreds. It's ridiculous."

State coordinators don't know the number of cigarette butts that were found Saturday, but they do know they were a common find.

Ms. Spence said most people think cigarette butts are paper and will go away if they are left in the sand. But filters are actually made from plastic and can be dangerous to wildlife.

Waldmiller said volunteers filled five bags with bottles, cans and other trash at one spot that apparently has been used for partying. "It was kind of hidden behind the frontal dune," he said.

Other finds at Sunset Beach included candy wrappers, a homemade shovel found and a current driver's license that was turned over to the police department. The owner of the license is a Mooresville man.

Waldmiller said nine people



WINNIE RILEY was one of about 60 volunteers who picked up cigarette butts, plastic and other litter at Sunset Beach Saturday.