

## OIB May Require All Owners To Register Propane Tanks

As a result of a recent "sight" count of propane (LP) gas tanks in the community, Ocean Isle Beach Commissioners may decide to require registration of the tanks with the town.

Town Building Inspector Druied Roberson said that he recently drove around the island at the request of Mayor Betty Williamson and counted as many tanks as he could see.

Roberson reported to the commissioners in Tuesday morning's meeting that he counted 46 above-ground LP gas tanks and six underground tanks.

He said he noticed that many of the tanks were not only above-ground, but were also placed directly under the house they served.

While there's little the town can do regarding the tanks as long as they meet state and county regulations, Roberson suggested that because of possible storm hazards the tanks might need to be anchored.

Commissioner Terry Barbee agreed with Roberson that a tank that was pulled loose and washed away in a storm would be dangerous.

Commissioner Debbie Fox suggested that the town require residents to register their tanks with the town, so that emergency evacuation officers and fire department volunteers would know they exist.

Mayor Williamson asked Roberson and Barbee to work out plans for registering the tanks, as well as to continue counting the number of tanks on the island.

## Shallotte Police Checking Suspects In Monday Robbery

Shallotte Police had at least two suspects but had made no arrests as of Tuesday afternoon in connection with a robbery Monday night at the Handee Hugo's convenience store in downtown Shallotte.

"We've got a couple of suspects that we're checking out," Police Chief Rodney Gause said Tuesday. "At this time we haven't been able to locate them."

At around 8 p.m. Monday, Gause said a black man in his early 20s and carrying a knife entered the store on U.S. 17 Business and demanded money from the clerk.

The man fled with a "small amount" of cash and was last seen running across U.S. 17 between the Scotchman store and Shallotte Cleaners, Gause said.

The suspect was approximately 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighed 175 pounds. His hair was slicked back, Gause said, and one of his front teeth was trimmed in gold.

The police chief said nobody was injured during the robbery. Anyone with information can contact the Shallotte Police Department at 754-6008.

## Knapp Wants Governing Rules Changed For Carolina Shores

Carolina Shores resident Warren "Bud" Knapp is seeking changes in the property owners association's articles of incorporation that he hopes will better protect the interests of individual landowners.

Knapp, who last week lost his bid for election to the Calabash Board of Commissioners, presented two proposals to the association in a letter dated Nov. 4, the day before the election.

Knapp, former chairman of the Calabash Planning Board, proposes that no land or buildings owned by the Carolina Shores POA be leased or sold without written approval of the majority of its members. He would like the recommendation submitted to property owners for a vote at their 1992 annual meeting.

He acknowledges the proposed change would affect the Carolina Shores dump site on Persimmon Road, which the town has been leasing from the property owners association.

Knapp also is recommending that a committee be appointed to review the bylaws, articles of incorporation and deed restrictions for Carolina Shores. The committee would recommend appropriate changes at the association's annual meeting in 1993.

Knapp said he expects the two proposals may be discussed at the CSPOA Board of Directors meeting Monday, Nov. 18.

Knapp said the existing articles of incorporation "give the board of directors license to steal. They can do anything."

He said he believes the documents governing the subdivision were originally written to protect the interests of the developer when Carolina Shores was first being developed.

Now that most of the property is held by individual landowners or the Carolina Shores POA, Knapp says the articles of incorporation should reflect that change in interests.

Knapp suggests that the CSPOA bylaws are typical of those in similar residential developments all over eastern North Carolina.

He said it's a natural transition to limit the powers of the board of directors in a maturing community where the developer is no longer the major property owner.

Knapp said the town had received 33 entries through last Friday, including several local fire departments, beauty queens and saddle clubs.

Among the entertainers will be the Arab Choo-Choo, Keystone Cops, Sudan Temple Drum and Bugle Corps and Dunn Clowns.

For safety reasons, organizers are asking that no children be allowed to throw candy from parade entries this year. Adults with candy should throw it away from the floats to reduce the chance of children running into the street and getting injured.

Local businesses, church groups and other organizations interested in participating in the annual Shallotte Christmas Parade have until Nov. 29 to register.

This year's parade is scheduled Saturday, Dec. 7, at 10 a.m. in downtown Shallotte, said town secretary Phebie McLean.

Parade entries will follow the same route as last year, gathering at Shallotte Middle School and following Blake Street to U.S. 17 and then going north to the Smith Avenue traffic light.

Once again, Santa Claus is expected to ride through town at the end of the parade lineup and greet children afterward.

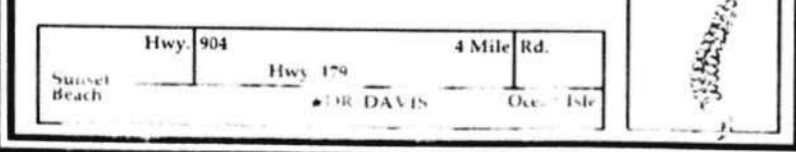
The entry fee is \$35 for businesses. Floats can be rented for \$225, or \$150 for half of a float. There is no charge for non-profit groups such as churches and public schools.

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# Ocean Isle Beach To Apply For Grant

BY DORI COSGROVE GURGANUS

Ocean Isle Beach officials voted Tuesday to pursue a federal grant that could help preserve and beautify the shoreline of the coastal community.

Commissioners agreed to apply for participation in the Hazard Mitigation Grant, a federally funded program designed to benefit communities affected by Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

Building Inspector Druied Roberson said the grant, which is being offered in 32 North Carolina counties, could lower the costs of repairs incurred by local governments.

The 50/50 agreement can consist of in-kind services or actual dollars on the part of the town, Roberson said, and will be matched by the federal government.

Towns can apply for assistance in several areas, but may not be approved for all or any of them, Roberson suggested four areas in which Ocean Isle could use help:

- 1) Removal of debris from the east end of the island.
- 2) Anchoring or removal of tele phone poles offshore.
- 3) "Retro-fitting" certain houses along the waterfront.
- 4) Sealing the sewer system.

Commissioners agreed that "retro-fitting" houses bringing them up to current building standards is a low priority and should not be included on the application.

The top priority, they agreed is to seal the sewer system and manhole covers, so the system could still serve the island with proper drainage in the event of a severe storm.

Also, removal of telephone poles serving as groins would prevent them from popping up as sand is pulled away from them during a severe storm.

Mayor Betty Williamson asked Roberson to fill out the applications and send them to the federal government by the Dec. 15 pre-application deadline.

A member of the audience asked the board what could be done about tourist traffic at the ends of Second

and Third streets at the east end of the island.

The cars, she said, were damaging the already eroding shore, and were presenting property owners with potential liability.

She said she counted 69 cars parked under houses along the beachfront in one day and noted that people walking on the decks were putting themselves in possible danger.

Mrs. Williamson agreed that signs stating "Restricted To Property Owners" would need to be replaced, and that she would make a request to the town water department.

The mayor also announced that 90,000 cubic yards of dredge spoil sand is due to be placed on the east end of the island by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by Thanksgiving.

Also she reported that a Corps study documenting the damaging effects of Hurricane Hugo on the island should be finished in the next month.

Other Business

In other business, commissioners learned from Mayor Williamson that nothing has been heard from Chambers of South Carolina Inc. about the possibility of picking up recyclable waste at Ocean Isle.

Heard a recommendation from a planning board that approval should not be given to the Front Row Center subdivision until developers get a state permit for a driveway and clearly state their plans for a parking area.

Heard from Town Clerk Darcy Ivey that the town has collected 99.99 percent of its 1991 tax levy so far.

Agreed to nominate Joe Johnson, an architect and resident of the island, to the Coastal Resources Commission. All coastal towns can submit nominations for consideration.

Recognized the service of retiring commissioners Pearl Steele and Virginia Gibson by presenting them with plaques of appreciation. The meeting was the last regular gathering of the current board before two newly-elected members take office.

## Board Reviews Doshier Ballot Complaint

BY TERRY POPE

The Brunswick County Board of Elections was to meet today (Thursday) in special session meeting to consider a candidate's complaint regarding the ballot used in last week's Doshier Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees election.

Incumbent Trustee Evelyn Teal Butler of Southport claims she lost her bid for re-election because of the wording on the ballot.

The elections board will decide if enough probable cause exists to carry the complaint to a hearing. Today's meeting was set for 10 a.m. at the Brunswick County Board of Elections office in Bolivia.

In the Doshier race, voters in Smithville Township elected two trustees to six-year terms and one member to the unexpired portion of a third seat, a four-year term, now held by Eugene B. Tomlinson Jr.

Tomlinson, of Southport, was appointed by Brunswick County Commissioners to fill the seat left vacant following the resignation of Doug Ledgett, who has become the county's Emergency Medical Services director.

The Doshier ballot listed four candidates seeking regular six-year terms and instructed voters to

choose two. The ballot listed Tomlinson separately as a candidate for the unexpired term and told voters to vote for one.

Tomlinson was the only candidate to actually file for the unexpired term. A space was provided on the ballot below his name for write-in candidates.

He recorded 940 votes and will join Gib Barbee and incumbent Charles B. Johnson, who won the remaining two seats with 1,424 and 1,113 votes respectively. Debra Amos got 620 votes and Ms. Butler, 805.

Ms. Butler believes voters entered "both" in the race was a phrasing instruction that the top three candidates would win seats on the board.

She has filed a complaint regarding the conduct of the election.

County Attorney David Clegg

who serves as counsel to the elections board, said any candidate could have declared his or her intent to run for the unexpired term or for the six year seats.

"The board of elections is under no obligation to question how a candidate files for office," said Clegg.

Setting the unexpired seat apart on the ballot "is proper and in conformity with the law," he added.

"I think the board of elections is very very open to these issues," Clegg added. "They hit the Yaupon Beach election problem head-on, and I'm sure they'll deal with the Doshier Hospital election in the same manner."

At Yaupon Beach, a ballot error drew instructed persons to vote for two candidates when three seats were actually open. The error wasn't caught until after 36 people

had voted. The State Board of Elections is expected to order another election.

A complaint filed with the elections board, like Ms. Butler's, is handled differently from a challenge.

With a complaint, board members will review the record and facts but will not consider testimony. If enough probable cause exists to determine that an error may have been made, the board will call for a hearing, at which time it will hear testimony.

"No one has challenged the results," Clegg added.

In fact, no challenges were filed relating to any of the races conducted by the Brunswick County Board of Elections. The deadline for challenges passed at noon Saturday.

The elections board is composed of Chairperson Glenda Walker and Secretary Billy Benton, Republicans, and Orie Gore, a Democrat.

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