

South Brunswick Leaders Discuss Their Plans For '92

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the community's streets.

The mayor also said that the N.C. Department of Transportation will resurface First Street before the tourism season begins.

She said she has high hopes for the future of the vacation industry at Ocean Isle. The town distributed brochures at statewide welcome centers last year and is renting a billboard along I-40 in Raleigh to advertise the town.

Shalotte

Shalotte Mayor Sarah Tripp said she doesn't have a lot of plans for 1992, but hopes the town can accomplish more than it did in the last 12 months.

"I just hope that our new year is more productive than our last year has been," she said. "I just hope our new board will work together for the good of the town."

Shalotte Aldermen spent much of 1991 quarreling among themselves. Morris Hall and Roney Cheers were elected in November to replace Jody Simmons and Joe Hewett on the board.

As far as specific projects in 1992, Mrs. Tripp had none in mind. She said she hopes the economy improves this year for the good of the town's businesses.

"I try not to make resolutions that I can't keep," she said. "I do wish everybody a prosperous new year. I hope the economy turns around enough so we can really

do something."

Mayor Tripp said she would like to increase town employee salaries this year so they are closer to the state average.

Calabash

George Anderson, mayor pro tem of Calabash, says that the future of a proposed sewer system for the old Town of Calabash remains to be seen in 1992.

"That depends on if the public wants to pay the assessment on it," he said, "which is not easy to ask people to do in a recession."

A preliminary report on the sewer study was made late in 1991, and more findings are expected in the coming year.

The state DOT plans to widen N.C. 179 through the restaurant district of Calabash with a turn lane and curb and guttering.

Anderson added that the widening of U.S. 17 outside Carolina Shores will impact the community with increased traffic noise and potential danger of accidents.

"I hope they put a traffic light there at Country Club Drive," he said, stating fears that speeding cars through the area could cause more wrecks.

Annexation of outlying areas into the municipality is part of the long-term plan for Calabash, but probably not in 1992. Anderson said he would like to see a "squaring of the town's borders" in the next few years.

The mayor pro tem also was proud of the audit report from S. Preston Douglas and Associates praising Calabash for its improved tax collection for the last fiscal year.

The report said Calabash went from a collection rate

of 92.4 percent in FY 89-90 to a rate of 98.2 percent in FY 90-91.

"Things are looking up," Anderson said of the general condition of the waterfront town, "but there's still a lot of work to be done."

Sunset Beach

Mayor Mason Barber said the Town of Sunset Beach will proceed next year with determining if there's a need for a municipal sewer system.

A study that was begun in 1991 should continue into the coming year, and the mayor said he looks forward to investigating the feasibility of the system as soon as the study can be completed and government loans approved.

Barber added that the town will "complete the annexation process" by looking at adding the new South Brunswick post office and adjacent areas to the town boundaries in the coming year.

A workshop will be held early in 1992, he said, so town officials can discuss further annexations. "Anything that qualifies, we'll look at," Mayor Barber said.

Also set to take place this year will be the resurfacing of several streets in Sunset Beach by the state DOT. Sunset Boulevard, Main Street, and other roads are targeted for a new coat of pavement.

Mayor Barber said he looks forward to implementing a new sign ordinance, which he says is "very much needed."

He said the new ordinance, which will be amended

at a workshop in January, should improve the town's appearance by putting regulations on public signs.

Holden Beach

Holden Beach Mayor Wally Ausley, the only South Brunswick Islands mayor who wasn't in office this time last year, hopes the town can complete several ongoing projects in 1992.

Among them are the burial of all overhead power and cable television lines and the removal of utility poles. "I really like the idea of not having utility poles up. I'd really like to see that completed in 1992."

Ausley also would like to see the town install street lights in the coming year and implement the land use plan update once it's approved by the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission.

The new mayor said he hopes "Mother Nature" treats the town's beachfront well in the year ahead.

After suffering major loss of dunes two years ago during Hurricane Hugo, Holden Beach officials say the dunes seem to be stabilizing and rebuilding.

Above all, Ausley said he wants to build on the accomplishments of the past few years. Promoting safety and enjoyment of the strand are keys.

"I see us continuing in a real positive, friendly attitude among the people who live here and the tourists," he said. "I think a feeling of confidence and pride in the beach is what every citizen wants."



TRIPP



BARBER



AUSLEY

Weather Will Welcome 1992 On Tranquil Note

The week that ushers in a new year will also offer tranquil, cool weather, according to meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Temperatures should be above average for this time of year, and rainfall should remain near normal, he

said. Canady said he expects daytime highs to reach 60 degrees, and evening lows to be around 40 degrees. He predicted that about a half-inch of rain should fall in the next week.

"It shouldn't be either really warm or cold," Canady said, "more pleasantly cool." He added that the South Brunswick Islands should be due more rain "after this spell of nice weather."

For the period of Dec. 23 through 29, he recorded a maximum daytime high temperature of 67 degrees on Dec. 23 and 24, and a minimum evening low of 30 degrees, which he recorded on Dec. 25.

The average daytime temperature was 62 degrees, and the average evening temperature was 43 degrees, making for an average daily temperature of 52.

That reading is six degrees above average, Canady said.

He recorded 1.24 inches of rain at his Shalotte Point home in the last week.



STAFF PHOTO BY DORI C. GURGANUS

Where Did Everyone Go?

Hardly a creature was stirring along Shalotte's usually bustling Main Street Christmas morning. If only the normally busy intersection of Village Road and U.S. 17 Business were always this easy to navigate.

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Calabash Takes Initiative With Program Assistance

BY DORI C. GURGANUS

Since Calabash was selected last January to participate in the Coastal Initiative Program, the waterfront town has apparently done well in planning for future coastal improvements and development.

"Oh, it was an excellent year," Coastal Initiative Committee Chairman T.J. Morgan said of the town's success with the program.

The Coastal Initiative Program is a state- and federally-funded project that helps local governments care for environmentally-sensitive waters while building public interest in waterfront activities and trade.

Towns and counties selected for the program are given access to a team of experts from several government agencies who can assist with various projects and answer questions about development.

Morgan said the local committee, formed to oversee the implementation of the program in Calabash, had been quite active in its first year.

To begin with, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at the request of the committee, is in the process of conducting a study to determine the cost and feasibility of dredging the Calabash River.

The dredging will "definitely happen," Morgan said, but the study was still deemed necessary.

The committee also was able to get a Calabash project on the N.C. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the state Board of Transportation's seven-year planning document.

"It's a big thing to get on the list," said Morgan.

Calabash's portion of N.C. 179 is scheduled for addition of a center turn lane with curb and guttering in 1994, but Morgan guesses that participation in the Coastal Initiative Program will give the town much higher priority.

The project should, according to Morgan, affect N.C. 179 from the state line to Clariday Road.

Coastal Initiative Committee members also helped select Powell Associates of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., the engineering firm that is conducting a study on installing a sewer system in the town's business

district. In 1991, the local group also looked into the feasibility of projects that include developing a waterfront park and boat ramp and establishing an historical society. Morgan said work on these project should continue in 1992.

Membership in the committee has been spread out to include a variety of public interests in Calabash's future. In addition to Morgan, seats are filled by co-chairman Paul Walker, Rich O'Donnell, Mayor Doug Simmons, Commissioners Stu Thorn and Jon Sanborn, Ed Schaack, Rich Johnson and Warren "Bud" Knapp.

Morgan breaks down the membership this way: he works at a marina; Thorn and Sanborn represent the town commission; Schaack is the town building inspector; O'Donnell works as a dock-keeper; Johnson represents the Calabash Merchants Association; Mayor Simmons is working on the historical society and Knapp was instrumental in bringing the Coastal Initiative Program to Calabash to begin with.

Morgan adds that he made room for two representatives from the Planning and Zoning Board, but that the board has not had regular membership very often in the past year. Pati Lewellyn, temporary chair of the planning board, has been attending Coastal Initiative meetings.

"I'm trying to keep everyone involved and informed," Morgan said of the group.

The work the committee has accomplished has not gone unnoticed either. Morgan said that at a recent meeting of Coastal Initiative representatives and administrators in Southport, the team from Calabash was commended for its positive actions of the past year.

Lorraine Shinn, regional manager for the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources in Washington, N.C., attended the meeting, Morgan said, and was "pleased with our progress."

He said Calabash was originally selected due to its positive attitude toward development and that administrators of the program reported that

the town had lived up to their expectations.

Morgan added that Calabash has "done everything on our own," and only recently has asked government officials for advice concerning future plans.

The local committee will meet Thursday, Jan. 16, at 5 p.m. in the Calabash Town Hall to discuss projects for the coming year.

On the agenda are plans to "look into" locating funds to place utilities underground and install sidewalks in the business area.

The Coastal Initiative Program's assistance can last "indefinitely," Morgan said.

However, he is concerned that the forthcoming election will alter the fate of the program. The governor makes the final choice of which towns participate in the program, and reinstates them each year.

For Morgan, the big question is: "Will a different governor pick us up for the program again?"

VA Officials May Help Pick Officer

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cal assistance, support and also help handle difficult cases, said Guthrie. District officers travel to each county in the district at least twice a month. Guthrie said counties should feel "a moral obligation" to maintain a Veterans Service office at the local level.

"They have served honorably in the military, and we think they deserve that extra little consideration," he said.

Brunswick County is also a growing county and should prepare to meet the needs of a growing number of military personnel that the armed services plan to release in the near future, he suggested.

"It has a good number of people moving in," said Guthrie. "I guarantee 20 percent of them are vets."

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