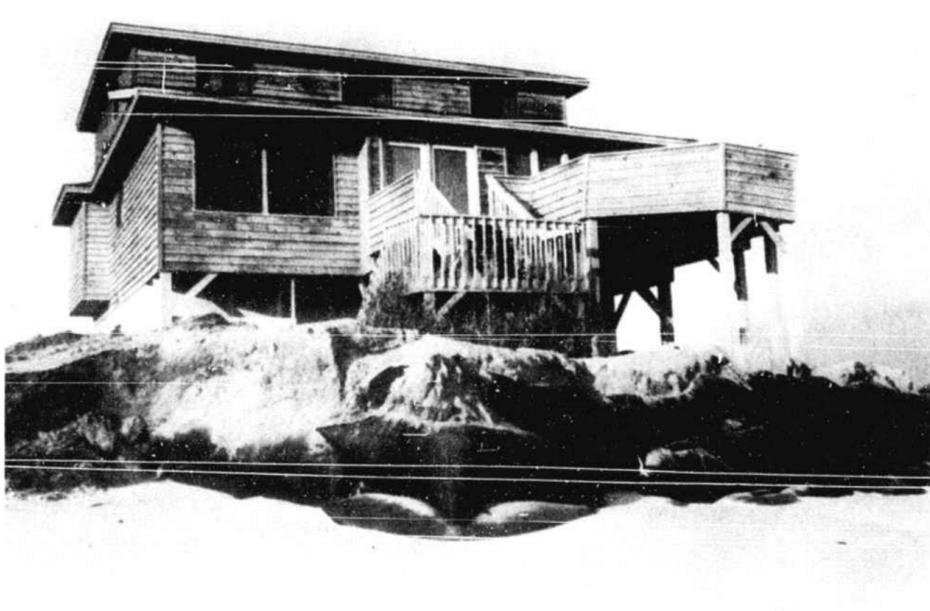




FLOODING ON OCEAN ISLE BEACH'S First Street last Friday forced vehicles to navigate several inches of water. Many drivers detoured down Second Street instead.



BY SATURDAY AFTERNOON, the storm had bypassed Brunswick County, leaving only traces of beach erosion behind. However, high tides at this Ocean Isle east-end waterfront house, Handful of Sand, surged over a protective mound of sandbags.

Northeaster Misses Brunswick, Minimal Erosion Damage Noted

BY DORI C. GURGANUS
Residents of the South Brunswick Islands watched and waited last weekend for a storm that eventually headed north, missing area beaches and leaving only minimal erosion in its wake.

News reports last Friday morning warned of the possibility of beach erosion and damage to property along the coast, but for the most part, the brunt of the storm headed north to the Outer Banks and Virginia. Local officials reported little to no damage caused by the storm, which was distinguished by heavy northeastern winds that boosted already astronomically high tides along the Atlantic coast.

Druied Roberson, building and utilities inspector for Ocean Isle Beach, said that he had made several rounds Friday morning and had seen higher than usual water, but "no real problems". By Tuesday, Roberson said that he had noticed "minor erosion on the east end" of the island. A water line had broken, Roberson said, but it was not serious and could easily be fixed.

Sunset Beach Town Administrator Linda Fluegel reported that the island had experienced "no erosion at all," and that the island was well built up for such storms. "In fact," she said, "we had extra build-up on the west end of the island." Dwight Carroll, building inspector for Holden Beach, said Tuesday that the island sustained "some erosion, but a very nominal amount."

The only erosion he reported was limited to some of the walkways. "The first step may be another six inches off the ground on some of the walkways," he said. Carroll said that most of the erosion was east of the 100 block of Ocean Boulevard East. "We were lucky," he said.

ADDITION TO STAFF APPROVED

Sunset Beach Will Add Second Building Inspector

BY DORI COSGROVE GURGANUS
Sunset Beach plans to hire a second building inspector.

Council members proved the addition to the staff following an executive session Monday night with Town Administrator Linda Fluegel.

In other business Monday, consulting engineers updated the council on a sewer system feasibility study, making several recommendations.

Ms. Fluegel said later that she requested the executive session to discuss with council a candidate she has already taken into consideration for the position. The candidate's name was kept confidential in order to protect his/her current employment status.

Sunset Beach already employs Larry Crimm as building inspector supervisor. But, Ms. Fluegel said, the position of building inspector I needs to be added to the staff.

The new employee will relieve Ms. Fluegel and Crimm of some of their duties, such as filing CAMA permits, storing data on the computer and more of the "menial tasks," she said. Ms. Fluegel said she would like to see the entire building inspection program computerized in the near future.

She credited recent heightened annexation activity for the increased staffing needs.

"We're going to document the need for this sewer system"

—Joe Thomboro, Engineer
Powell Associates of NMB

The position is being advertised, she said, which may also bring in more qualified candidates for the job.

Sewer Progress
Joe Thomboro and Jim Billups, engineers with Powell Associates of North Myrtle Beach, said the company is nearing the end of an analysis of a treatment/collection site.

The engineers said they are looking at a possible location for the treatment plant in an upland area on the outskirts of the town's boundaries that is surrounded by wetlands.

Phase I of the system, they pointed out, will begin with service on the island and crosses over to the mainland. A low-lying, main interceptor running through town, as part of the gravitational network, would pick up the island line at a main pump area and then pump to the treatment plant.

The wastewater would be pumped off the island from four pumps. Pipes would possibly be run down the middle of some of the island's streets, or behind houses as needed.

Billups and Thomboro estimated that the system would serve about 2,000 homes in Phase I, which would have the capacity to pump 500,000 gallons of wastewater per day.

Following up on a previous letter of intent, the firm plans to submit a grant application next week to the Farmers Home Administration.

As part of the state and federal grant eligibility process, they recommended the town hold hearings to receive public input about the proposed system.

Thomboro said he will be receiving environmental information soon concerning the feasibility of the sewer system. That information will be forwarded to Preston Howard at the N.C. Department of Environmental Management (DEM) regional office in Wilmington.

"We're going to document the need for this sewer system," said Thomboro. He said he believes that the information to be submitted will qualify as the required environmen-

tal impact portion of the 201 Study. Such a study would make Sunset Beach more eligible for an increased variety of federal and state funding.

The gravitational system, Billups and Thomboro said, would be capable of expansion to join a regional system if that opportunity arises.

New Provision
A public hearing will be held in advance of the regular town meeting on Feb. 3 regarding the addition of a "Vested Right" provision in town ordinances as recommended by the N.C. League of Municipalities.

If adopted, the ordinance would require that a developer or builder state intentions or plans for development when applying for permits to build on a newly-purchased area.

The provision, Ms. Fluegel said, is intended to protect the town as well as the builder, and "meets each party half way."

Once intent of use is stated and permits have been issued on behalf of the developer, the town would not be allowed to change the zoning of that area for two years. Previously a town could make such a change whenever it pleased, which could hinder the progress of a builder.

Other Business
In other business, council members: ■Heard that Sheldon Caison has been hired by Police Chief D.B.

Buell as the town's newest police officer. The former sheriff's deputy started work Jan. 2.

■Heard from John Carraway, CPA, that the audit for fiscal year 1990-91 shows the town was in "very good financial condition," and that a surplus of \$65,000 existed in the town account for emergency expenditures.

■Zoned Lots 7, 8 and 9 of Seaside Shopping Center (up to the new post office) for business activity. The lots had not been zoned when they were initially annexed. No opposition to the proposed zoning was made at a public hearing.

■Agreed to apply to the Brunswick County Planning Board for permission to extend the town's extrajurisdictional jurisdiction to N.C. 904 and Old Georgetown Road. If the ETA is to be extended more than one mile beyond town limits, special permission must be received from the county.

■Gave final approval to plats for development of the D.B. Stanaland tract and the Lake Shore Woods extension area.

■Accepted the resignation of Joe Policelli as alternate ETA representative on the Planning Board. His re-

Sign Rule Changes Still Under Review

In a two-hour workshop Monday afternoon before their regular meeting, Sunset Beach town council members met with the planning board to review proposed changes in the town's sign ordinance.

The group discussed proposed changes regarding the height of monument signs along roadsides, as well as the number of signs allowed at shopping centers.

The planning board presented its version of a "model" ordinance to council members for their reaction.

The two boards will meet again for more work before a final draft of the ordinance is prepared to take to public hearing.

placement will be named at a future meeting. ■Referred to the Planning Board, for consideration and a recommendation, the proposed rezoning of the water tank site from RI-1 to MB-1 as previously discussed.

BOARD GETS REQUESTS

Point Resident Raises Concern For Deeds Law

BY TERRY POPE
For 10 years, R.C. Eaton of Shalotte Point had a problem that he didn't know existed.

Eaton says a phony deed was filed against his property that confused the Brunswick County Tax Department recently into thinking he had not paid taxes on the land for the past 10 years.

He believes the phony deed should never have been recorded.

But his investigation revealed there is no law on the books that gives the Register of Deeds office authority to refuse to record an illegitimate deed, even when the department knows it may not be a true document.

"There's nothing to protect a man's rights," Eaton told Brunswick County Commissioners Monday night. "The only way he can take that phony deed off is to go to court."

Brunswick County Register of Deeds Robert J. Robinson told commissioners that Eaton is right, that a law is needed to give registrars more power to reject the filing of false deeds.

As legislative chairman of the N.C. Register of Deeds Association, Robinson said he would lobby for a new law with the 1992 N.C. General Assembly. Eaton says State Rep. David Redwine has also agreed to join the battle.

Commissioners voted 4-0 to adopt a resolution supporting the

new law.

Eaton was pleased Monday when the board offered its support. But he says it may still cost him \$5,000 in legal fees to have a court reject the deed placed on his property.

"Right now, it's not hurting me," he said, "unless I may want to borrow some money."

At first, said Eaton, Redwine didn't understand the problem, until presented with a scenario: Suppose Eaton drafted a phony deed and filed it against Redwine's home.

"He was surprised to learn that, by law, I could," said Eaton.

County Attorney David Clegg acknowledged that Eaton's tax bills have been confused by the false deed.

"He's got a problem," said Clegg. "It's an illegal conveyance problem."

Zoning Laws Wanted?
Jim Fincher of the Holden Beach area asked commissioners for a noise ordinance, saying neighbors place loudspeakers in the doorway of homes that can be "heard 10 miles away."

A noise ordinance can't be enforced without zoning laws, said Clegg.

Replicd Fincher, "We're not asking you to go out and crucify them, just to have them turn it down."

In court, said Clegg, some instances of noise nuisance can be viewed as trespassing, "if it starts knocking things off the wall."

District 2 Commissioner Jerry Jones said he heard complaints from

one Holden Beach resident who said a neighbor's "boom box" shook pictures off the walls of her home.

Interjected Clegg, "I think that woman took out a warrant because there was property damage involved. She called me."

Also, Arden Moore of Shalotte Point addressed the board again asking for a law to prohibit neighbors from burning trash.

He asked commissioners last month for an ordinance, but the board said it would first need a zoning ordinance. Towns have such bans on burning because they have zoning rules, said Commissioner Kelly Holden.

"It sounds like there are a lot of advocates of zoning in here tonight," said Holden.

The board has instructed the Brunswick County Planning Department to draft a countywide zoning

Town Will Help Restock Lakes

Sunset Beach Council agreed 5-1 Monday night to help restock two local lakes with carp, as requested by the Twin Lakes Conservation Residents Association.

Member Julia Thomas was the only opposing voice.

In a letter to the town, Association spokesman Walter Hoff said the town would be one of three groups sharing the cost of the \$4,800 project.

ordinance as soon as possible.

Moore said he trespassed on his neighbor's property to remove trash before it could be burned.

Two days after complaining to commissioners with his problem in December, the neighbors were burning garbage near his home again, said Moore, who told the board he has health problems affected by the smoke.

"If this board doesn't do anything about it," said Moore, "you're party to it."

He told the board that if he was a developer wanting relief from an ordinance that had been on the books since 1986, he would probably get action. That was in reference to board action that lifted a subdivision restriction for former Commissioner Benny Ludlum, a vote that was later reversed.

"Mr. Moore, you're barking up the wrong tree," Holden responded.

Supply Democrats To Reorganize Precinct

A reorganizational meeting of Supply Precinct will be held by the Brunswick County Democratic Party Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m.

All voters in Supply Precinct who are registered as Democrats are invited to attend the meeting, which will be held at the party's headquarters on U.S. 17 north of Supply, said Crawford Hart, Brunswick County Democratic Party chairman.

Also, the Brunswick County Democratic Party will hold its regular monthly meeting today (Thursday) at 7 p.m., also at the Democratic Party headquarters building.

Hart is urging all members of the executive committee to attend, as well as other registered Democrats and those who wish to register as Democrats.

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