

**TO ELECT OFFICERS TUESDAY**

**Northern Brunswick County Merchants Plan Association**

**BY SUSAN USHER**  
Merchants in northern Brunswick County may soon have an association to call their own. The fledgling group, tentatively called the North Brunswick Merchants Association, meets Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Leland Sanitary District office on Village Road to elect officers, said Wayne Tharp of First Investors Savings Bank's Leland branch office.



THARP

He said the group hopes to have larger attendance Tuesday than at two previous "brainstorming" meetings held to survey interest in the project.

Tharp and Brad Bruestle of UCB's Leland branch office are doing the "legwork" to get the organization going, said Tharp, making personal contacts with area businesses to promote interest. "We're kind of excited about it," he said. "It appears from talking to the people we've talked with that there's a lot of interest in it. I think that something will come out of it and

that it will be a positive organization."

Tharp said the aims of the group include working to unify the area, promoting the area in a positive fashion and providing a point of contact for new people coming into the area to obtain information.

Also, he said the association will provide a network for sharing information among merchants on everything from individuals writing bad checks to various scam operations.

Getting organized should help the area deal in a positive fashion with the "tremendous amount of growth" expected there, said Tharp. "We're tired of having a negative image."

Proposed boundaries for membership range from the Brunswick River to the Columbus County line and as far south and west as Bolivia.

"We consider anything north of Bolivia to be northern Brunswick County," said Tharp, who said the group hopes to involve merchants in the rural as well as the more urban sections of the target area. "We want an organization that everybody can participate in."

In making contacts for the merchants' association, organizers found out that other community members were making similar inquiries regarding possible organization of a local Chamber of Commerce.

The two groups had "pretty much the same goals," he said, and the would-be chamber organizers have stepped back to see what comes out of efforts to organize the merchants association.

**There Is A Signal: Turn, Turn, Turn**

The automobile manufacturers of this great, wide world have invented some pretty good stuff to make driving our cars safer and more comfortable.

When we sit behind the steering wheel of our car, we are confronted with a number of fancy gadgets and brightly-colored buttons to operate.

Sometimes I think people don't take these gadgets seriously.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think the only gadget in a car that's intended for fun is the stereo.

Well, OK, sometimes I can be entertained by the windshield wipers.

The particular device that seems to be ignored by a large number of drivers appears to be the turn signal.

You might also call them "blinkers."

Here are some scenarios that have caused me frustration for many years, and I'm sure they do the same to many of you out there:

You're driving behind a car that has its right blinker flashing.

You're both going well under the speed limit, so you think that this person is going to make a turn sometime in the immediate future.

**Dori Cosgrove Gurganus**



But, you both keep going on and on, and the driver ahead of you never turns. Just continues blinking at you for miles and miles.

It's as if he/she doesn't realize that the blinker is on.

Or this one:

You're driving behind another car that begins slowing down considerably and then inches over, in the course of about 25 seconds, into the left turn lane to make a turn.

This person never put on a blinker to let you know what they were planning on doing, and never really applied the brakes hard enough to have the brake light come on as a warning.

It was a slow crawl over into that turn lane.

By the time the yellow line is between their tires, you've figured that the driver is probably not drunk, but is just heading over to make a left turn.

And again:

You're idling at a four-way intersection wanting to make a left turn.

A car approaches in the road to the left and has no blinker on, so you think you'd better wait for the car to pass through before you make that left turn.

But instead, he/she makes a right turn and it would have been OK for you to proceed.

I could recite more, but space is a consideration at most newspapers.

Now, none of these is a situation that will halt the progress of world peace or anything, and the planet will not explode if we don't use our turn signals.

It's just irritating.

And potentially life-threatening.

I don't know about anybody else out there, but I really don't want to die for an avoidable reason unless I have to.

It absolutely baffles me how a

person can be driving along with the turn signal on and not be aware of it.

Unless the radio is on too loud and the driver doesn't hear the clicking noise made by the signal.

Or maybe the person doesn't hear that well.

Otherwise, how does it happen? There's a little light that flashes on the dashboard to remind us that the blinker is on.

If a driver can neither see the flashing light on the dash, nor hear the clicking of the signal while it's on, should that person be considered a safe driver?

It's beyond me.

What's really inexcusable is a driver who thinks that signaling is not necessary.

Not to mention that it's against the law to not signal (I called the DMV on this one).

I wish I, too, could register to own the road so that I could drive around without feeling any responsibility to signal to other drivers.

Oh, how I envy those privileged few.

And, how I hope that no harm comes to them for their carelessness.



BRUESTLE

**MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Maintain The Tradition**

To the editor:  
I must disagree with the position put forth editorially to downscale or eliminate Brunswick County Veterans Services.

In my opinion, with due respect, your conclusions reflect little knowledge and understanding of the practical necessity and advantage of your county veterans service program; and invite your county to turn away from its 40-year tradition of moral commitment to the Brunswick County sons and daughters who have borne the rigors of military service.

I submit that, in large part, tangible manifestation of the moral commitment to the Brunswick County veterans community is represented by continued support and funding of your county veterans claims and advocacy service.

Stephen M. Guthrie  
District Service Officer  
Wilmington

**Are Americans Prepared To Participate?**

To the editor:  
At the end of World War II, in 1945, it was an accepted doctrine that when more than 10 million men and women that were in our armed forces were discharged, there would be horrendous unemployment and another great depression. The great minds of that day were unable to grasp the fact that there was a pent-up demand for goods and services

that had been accumulating all during the war-years, and of course, what followed was the great boom of the 1950s and early 60s.

Now that the 45 years of cold war has ended, with the breakup of Russia to 11 confederated states, once again many fears abound at the present time. Let us pause for a moment to look at the other side of the equation.

Hundreds of millions of people in Central and Eastern Europe have had no outlet for spending what they have earned in a lifetime!

There is an insatiable thirst for everything from toilet paper to telephones and TV, from housing to hospitals and highways, from fresh food to fresh air and just plain freedom. In Russia's Georgia Republic we are already observing the beginning of political opposition parties and this will be accelerated by the freedom to dissent through newspapers, magazines, live theatre, motion pictures and satellite TV. All this will spark a truly historic economic boom in the 90s!

Peace through people-power is the password. What does it matter whether the Russian Federation has 10,000 tanks or 40,000 tanks if they can't get drivers for these tanks?

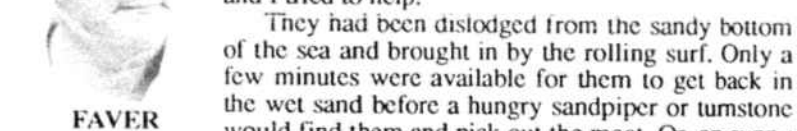
How are we Americans prepared to participate in this great coming boom? I would like to have this question answered by our political incumbents and our community leaders—an open forum—that we can become aware as to where to invest our resources.

Bob L. Johnson  
Ocean Isle Beach

**Helping The Olives**

BY BILL FAVER

The winter beach at low tide gives us a wide expanse of gray sand and lots of space to walk or run. Each time I start out for a "power walk" I end up being attracted to some birds or a shell or some playful porpoises near the water's edge. It was like that several times during the recent holidays when the skies were gray and the sand was gray and the water was gray. On one of those days several live olives were trying to dig back down into the sand and I tried to help.



FAVER

They had been dislodged from the sandy bottom of the sea and brought in by the rolling surf. Only a few minutes were available for them to get back in the wet sand before a hungry sandpiper or turnstone would find them and pick out the meat. Or, on sunny days, they needed to get beneath the sand to keep from being baked in the shell. I rescued several olives by hurling them back into the water and then placed one in a shallow tidepool to await the incoming tide. Olives are some of the most beautiful of our shells. Our lettered olive with its shiny exterior and hieroglyphic-like markings is most often found whole and in good condition. Older shells lose some of the sheen as they roll around in the water, but most appear as if they had been highly polished. This sheen is caused by the animal which covers the shell completely when it expands.

When live shells are placed in water an observer with patience can be rewarded by seeing the body expand and the animal begin digging for cover. A shallow baking dish or a tidepool make a good temporary aquarium but the live shell should be returned when you finish watching.

I'm never sure whether or not the olives need my help. They could probably dig deep enough to withstand the probing of birds and the drying by the sun without me. I guess I'm meeting my needs when I stop to help. At least it give me a chance to learn about the olives, to get outside in the crisp air, and to get some much-needed exercise.

**Region Enjoys Mild December**

Southeastern North Carolina residents didn't see a white Christmas in 1991, but the weather last month couldn't have drawn too many complaints.

The month of December was much warmer and drier than usual, according to the National Weather Service in Wilmington.

Average temperature for the month was 51 degrees, which was a whopping 2.8 degrees above normal. The highest temperature for the month was 75 degrees on Dec. 2, which tied a record for that day that was last recorded in 1982.

The lowest reading for the month was 22 degrees on Dec. 20. The weather service recorded 12 days in December when the temperature dipped to 32 degrees or lower. Heating degree day units totaled

447 in December, which was 74 units below normal. There were 20 cooling degree day units.

Precipitation for the month tallied 2.17 inches, which was 1.26 inches below normal.

The greatest rainfall in a 24-hour period was .73 inches on Dec. 3. The weather service recorded measurable rainfall on nine days.

Sea level pressure climbed to a high of 30.85 inches on Dec. 20, which was an all-time high for the month of December in Wilmington.

Daily average wind speed was 7.6 mph, and the fastest gust was 30 mph from the southwest on Dec. 14.

The weather service reported 13 cloudy days, 11 clear days and seven partly cloudy days for the month. The area received 67 percent of the possible sunshine in December.

**Tax Listings Mailed, Due By Jan. 31**

BY TERRY POPE

Round two has begun for the Brunswick County Tax Department. Some 35,000 personal property tax listings were mailed to county residents last week.

Round one ended Monday when some 90,000 property tax bills for 1991 were due.

It makes for a busy time for tax office employees, who began listing personal property Jan. 2.

Some 1992 listing notices were mailed a little late this year, but all residents should receive their forms by this week, said Ronnie Young, Brunswick County assistant tax supervisor.

"People are coming in pretty steadily to list," said Young on Friday afternoon. "Rainy weather actually helps us. They can't do much else when it's raining."

Brunswick County is one of the few counties in the state to use a permanent real estate listing system, an approach it began in 1989. If someone owns real estate in Brunswick County, it is automatically listed at the tax office.

Real estate owners are not mailed listing forms each year, but residents

must still list personal property with the tax office. Personal property includes cars, boats, airplanes and recreational vehicles.

The deadline for listing personal property for 1992 is Jan. 31. Late filers may still list after Jan. 31 at the tax office in Bolivia or by mail, but a 10 percent penalty will be charged on the amount of taxes to be levied.

Persons who are new to Brunswick County can register at any time in January at the tax office, said Young. Or they may register with tax employees working the field Jan. 30 and 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the following township locations: Leland Sanitary District Office for Northwest Township; Southport Fire Department and Long Beach Community Center for Smithville Township; Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department for Lockwood Folly Township; Shallotte Volunteer Fire Department for Shallotte Township; and Waccamaw Park Community Building for Waccamaw Township.

By the last of July property owners should receive their 1992 tax bills. Taxes will be due again next Jan. 5.

**Ticket Proceeds Go To Moose Lodge Fund**

A Christmas morning fire that razed the Shallotte Moose Lodge on N.C. 130 East of Shallotte also destroyed a shotgun and all ticket stubs related to a lodge fundraising project, said Addison Hayes, lodge administrator.

The drawing was to have been held Dec. 27, he said, but the club has no record now of who gave donations for tickets.

Since the fire, he said, many contributors have asked that their donations for tickets go instead into the building fund to help reconstruct the lodge.

The lodge plans to follow that

plan for all donors who do not request a refund, said Hayes.

Contributors have until Jan. 31 to contact Hayes at 842-3738 with a request to the contrary. Otherwise it will be assumed that they want their donation to go to the building fund, he said.

**AT SHALLOTTE POINT BRING HOME THE BEACON**  
On Sale At VILLAGE MART

**\$5.00 OFF**  
Any New Prescription Over \$10.00 (Coupon Expires 5:30 PM Jan. 11)  
**COASTAL DRUG STORE**  
4802 Main Street, Shallotte  
Across From Camp United Methodist Church  
Open 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Phone 754-6563

BEAUTIFUL HOMES SOLD BY  
**QUAIL RUN HOMES**  
NEW '91 72x14 MUST GO! Dealer Cost  
NEW 4-bedroom doublewide, living room and den with fireplace. Payments under \$300 per month.  
We have other beautiful models and floor plans to choose from at special low prices.  
Hwy. 17 N. Bus., Shallotte, 754-7097

**William Temple Allen, CPA**  
Income Tax Preparation/Representation (federal and all state returns)  
Electronic Filing and Rapid Refund  
Accounting and Bookkeeping Services  
Computerized Payroll  
Secretarial/Word Processing Services  
Medical Practice Management Services (review of ICD-9/CPT coding)  
Tax and Estate Planning  
Former IRS Assistant Director  
Technical Division, Washington, D.C.  
24 Years Tax Experience  
**435 33rd St., Sunset Beach 579-3328**

**Wildwood Village**  
We have it all...  
Location...Price...Size  
Large wooded, restricted lots for permanent homes. Adjoining area for mobile homes.  
**\$7,000 Up—10% Down—10% Financing**  
New 3-BR, 2-bath home with concrete drive on paved street. Home/lot package \$59,900.  
Located just off Hwy. 17 Bypass south of Shallotte.  
**(919)754-4950 or (803)249-2171**

**B. Kirby & Company**  
Clothing For Men  
**SUPER SHOE SALE**  
Sperry Top Siders  
Size 7-13  
**\$49.90**  
Group of Bass shoes in assorted colors. Size 7½-13  
**Now \$69.90**  
754-5000  
Coastal Plaza, Shallotte

Try Us...  
**For The FASTEST TAX SERVICE**  
**Diana Clewis**  
Income Tax Preparer  
\*We'll prepare your tax returns expertly and reasonably.  
\*Computerized Service - Electronic Filing.  
**SUPER FAST REFUNDS**  
IN AS LITTLE AS ONE DAY  
Holden Beach Road (1/2 mile east of US 17)  
Shallotte, NC • Hours-8:30 to 7:30  
754-8979  
100% Dedication to Client Satisfaction. Clip Ad for \$5.00 off Tax Preparation Fee.