



SHALLOTTE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER Bradley Hardee receives assistance from fellow firefighters as he exits a burning house Monday morning on McMilly Road outside Shallotte. He was treated for heat exhaustion.

McMilly Road Home Damaged In Blaze

BY DORI C. GURGANUS
A fire that reportedly started in the kitchen raged through a house on McMilly Road two miles outside Shallotte Monday morning, causing an estimated \$35,000 in damage and sending one firefighter to the hospital with heat exhaustion.

Flames engulfed the middle section of the one-story, brick residence of Perlene Jones, a widow and mother of three children.

"It appeared to have started in the kitchen, around the stove," said Cecil Logan, county fire marshal. A

pot was left on a heated burner on the stove which he said "completely melted the bottom of an aluminum pan."

He said the kitchen and attic sustained the most fire damage, with the rest of the house receiving only water damage.

"We were able to save all the contents of the house," said Logan. He estimated the structural loss at about \$35,000.

Shallotte Volunteer Fire Department put out the blaze, responding to a call from Ms. Jones' brother be-

tween 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., said Fire Chief Tim Carter.

No personal injuries were suffered by any residents of the house, but one firefighter was treated for slight injuries.

Bradley Hardee, a firefighter with the Shallotte Volunteer Fire Department was taken by ambulance to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply and treated for heat exhaustion and hyperventilation and released, Logan said.

"Hardee's doing fine," Carter said Tuesday afternoon.

Holden Land Use Plan Headed For Finish Line

BY DOUG RUTTER
If Holden Beach's land use plan was in a stock car race, it probably would have blown an engine a long time ago.

But the plan that should have been completed and approved 18 months ago now appears to be headed for the finish line.

"It looks like we're coming around the last turn about to get the checkered flag," Mayor Wally Ausley said Monday.

Holden Beach officials will hold what they hope will be the final public hearing on the 1990 land use plan update on Wednesday, March 18.

At their meeting Monday night, commissioners reviewed four proposed changes to the plan that was adopted for the second time in December.

The N.C. Coastal Resources Commission rejected the plan last month after the town board refused to make changes recommended by state staff.

Commissioners now appear ready to make those changes. Town Manager Gary Parker gave the board a draft of the proposed revisions on Monday.

The recommended changes, which are required for CRC approval, involve the Conservation land classification category and the town's policies on jetties and government agency planning.

"We have been assured by several people that it would be approved if



"It looks like we're coming around the last turn about to get the checkered flag."

—Mayor Wally Ausley

we make these changes," Mayor Ausley said.

Among them is Haskell Rhett, planning and access coordinator with the N.C. Division of Coastal Management in Wilmington. Rhett has worked on the land use plan since the update process started more than two years ago.

The two major revisions to the plan would be a new definition for the Conservation land class and the addition of a category known as Conservation Special Use.

Rhett says the changes are needed to allow normal development to continue along the estuarine shoreline. That area includes land within 75 feet of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and finger canals.

Town officials also plan to change a policy in the document which now says the town wouldn't oppose a jetty at the eroding east end of the island near Lockwood Folly Inlet.

To comply with state regulations, the revised policy would say Holden

Beach won't allow new bulkheads, groins, seawalls or other erosion-control structures that harden the shoreline.

Holden Beach officials also plan to add a policy stating that the town wants to be notified and involved in government planning and development that might impact the community.

The proposed policy specifically mentions the Army Corps of Engineers and the town's desire to be notified of any possible changes in the easement line along the waterway.

Commissioners are expected to approve the land use plan update following the March 18 public hearing.

The CRC could then certify the plan when it meets March 26 and 27 at Wrightsville Beach.

Residents interested in seeing the proposed changes or any other parts of the land use plan or the maps can do so at the town hall.

Shallotte To Seek Input On Land Use Plan Update

BY DOUG RUTTER
Shallotte residents will have several chances over the next few months to let town officials know what they think about the community's future growth and development.

Information workshops and public hearings begin next month as part of the 1992 land use plan update process.

Aldermen adopted a public participation plan at their meeting Tuesday night, setting tentative dates for meetings on the land use plan that will help state and local officials guide the town's growth over the next five years.

The planning board, which is taking the lead in preparing the document, is expected to hold public information workshops March 10 and 24.

At those workshops, residents will be encouraged to present their views on issues such as economic development, environmental protection, parks, beautification and waterfront access.

Planning board members and aldermen will review population

trends, land use, economic and environmental issues at future meeting.

The planning board is expected to finish its work on the preliminary plan in August. Aldermen should receive the plan in September before submitting it to the N.C. Division of Coastal Management for its review.

After comments are received from the state, the planning board will adopt the land use document. Aldermen will hold a public hearing before they adopt it and send it to the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission for final approval.

All towns in the state's 20 coastal counties are required to develop land use plans to help officials control future growth. Updates are required every five years, and Shallotte's most recent plan was adopted in 1987.

Proposal Dies

A proposal to meet just once instead of twice a month didn't gain much support, despite a light meeting agenda Tuesday night.

Alderman Morris Hall's motion to cut back on meetings died for lack of a second. Board members Wilton

Harrelson and Paul Wayne Reeves were absent.

Hall said holding one meeting instead of two would save the town \$125 per month in board members' salaries. That adds up to \$1,500 per year.

"I just think a lot of these things could be taken care of in one meeting," Hall said.

But other town officials said holding two meetings a month makes for shorter meetings and makes it easier to conduct the town's business in an expeditious manner.

"It's not the money," Alderman David Gause said. "I prefer two short meetings to one long one. If we go to one meeting it's going to be a long drawn-out affair."

Mayor Sarah Tripp said the town hasn't had a lot of business to conduct since Hall took office in December, but she promised longer meetings this spring.

"If we can operate with one a month then I'm willing to do that," Mrs. Tripp told Hall. "I think you'll see during the budget that we do require more time."

Incumbent Poole Defeated In Yaupon Beach Election

One incumbent was defeated in his bid for re-election to the Yaupon Beach Town Council Tuesday.

Challenger Darrell D. Posey edged out incumbent James L. Poole for one of three available seats on the council. Poole has also served a term as District 3 Brunswick County commissioner.

Joining Posey on the council will be Joseph W. Broyles and May W. Moore, who were both re-elected to the board Tuesday.

They received the highest number of votes of six candidates in Tuesday's makeup election, which reflected the same outcome as a flawed Nov. 5 election.

In all, 247 voters cast ballots, said Brunswick County Supervisor of Elections Lynda Britt.

There were no challenges or problems noted from Tuesday's

vote, said Ms. Britt, which was a new election set by the State Board of Elections after an error was found on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Tuesday's vote totals were as follows: Rhett Blackmon, 38; Joseph W. Broyles, 158; May W. Moore, 133; James L. Poole, 102; Darrell D. Posey, 139; and J.M. Warren, 101.

Residents who registered up to 30 days before Tuesday's election were declared eligible to vote by the State Board of Elections office.

The Nov. 5 election was declared flawed after an error was found on the ballot. The Brunswick County Board of Elections asked the state to set a new election when the outcome of the first race could not be determined.

The same six candidates were on that ballot with three seats open on the council. But the ballot instructed

voters to vote for only two candidates. Thirty-six persons had voted before a poll worker noticed the error.

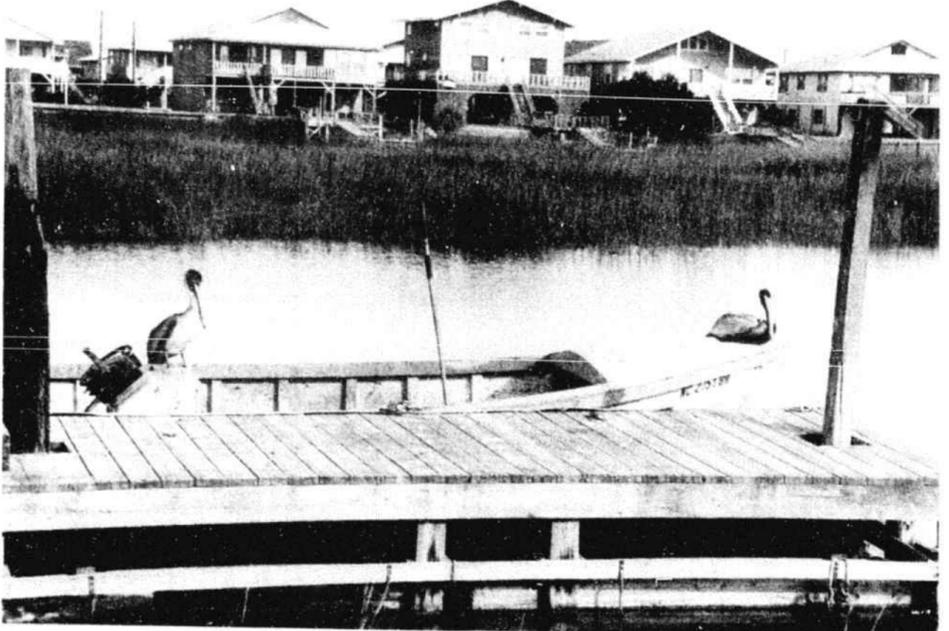
Voters were then told to vote for three candidates and the remaining ballots were counted by hand.

Of the 36 who had voted before the error was found, nine had voted for three candidates anyway. Four had voted for just one person and 23 had voted for two.

Not counting those 23 ballots, persons received votes as follows on Nov. 5: Rhett Blackmon, 53; Joseph W. Broyles, 127; May W. Moore, 123; James L. Poole Sr., 94; Darrell D. Posey, 97; and J.M. Warren, 67.

Tuesday's election revealed the same winners.

At Yaupon Beach, the council selects a mayor from among the board.



Going My Way?

Two pelicans appear ready to hitch a ride aboard a small boat docked on a canal at Ocean Isle Beach last week.

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