

Process To Revalue Property Begins

Potential home buyers are not the only ones keeping an eye on the Brunswick County real estate market this spring.

In keeping with its schedule, the Brunswick County Tax Department began its 1994 property revaluation in April.

A team of measurers and listers will visit each parcel of land to appraise its fair market value before the end of the year. Such values are used to determine the amount of property taxes due to the county at the current 1991-92 fiscal year rate of 68.5 cents per \$100 of valuation.

Plans are to evaluate resort homes along Brunswick County beaches later in the year, during the slower tourist months from October to December, said Tax Administrator Boyd Williamson.

Homes inland and in more rural areas will be visited first, from April to September.

It will then take about 18 months before notices showing new tax values are mailed to property owners in November 1993. An independent Brunswick County Board of Equalization and Review will then hear appeals from property owners who disagree with the tax values.

But how will someone know that their property has been visited?

In the past, the tax office has left door hangers on the homes explaining the process and indicating that the property has been visited by tax listers. This year, the department is working on a tax sticker that will adhere to the electrical meters outside of each home.

A team of eight to nine measurers and listers will canvass the county with the stickers in hand.

Williamson said state law allows tax departments to adjust market values without making on-site inspections, relying instead on computerized programs and manuals in the office.

"It is very highly recommended that we go out and do the inspections," said Williamson.

The bottom line, said Williamson, is that the job can be done on a computer.

"The General Assembly says you can do it that way," said Williamson, "but the general public doesn't think so."

Officials are unsure how the 1994 revaluation will affect values in Brunswick County's resort communities.

Every eight years, counties are required by law to revalue property to obtain fair market values. Home improvements, such as new additions, floating docks or decks, figure into a home's true market value.

Pedigree Pet Taken By Leland 'Cat Burglar'

BY TERRY POPE

A Leland resident told Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy Steve Mason Sunday that a burglar stole her \$500 pedigree cat.

Someone pried open a front door to a home on Appleton Road, Mason reported. The only item missing was the resident's two-year-old Himalayan seal point cat, which is described as silver and gray with a black face.

Himalayans are a breed of domestic cats developed by crossing the Persian and the Siamese. They have stocky builds with long, thick fur and blue eyes.

The front door was pried open at a deadbolt lock, but the home was neither ransacked nor was anything else taken, Mason reported.

"The cat is very docile and gentle," said Mason.

It had been left in a bedroom with the door closed. The cat burglary occurred between 6:45 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.

In other reports on file at the sheriff's department:

■A John Deere lawnmower was stolen from the North Brunswick High School campus between March 18-23, reported Deputy Pete Moore. The \$700 mower was stored in a shed next to the baseball field.

■An outboard motor was reported stolen from a home on Forest Hills Drive in Leland, sometime between

CRIME REPORT

March 22-29, Mason reported. A gas line was cut, causing \$15 in damage, when the \$1,500 Yamaha engine was taken.

■Someone stole a kitchen table from a home on Goose Creek Road east of Brickland between Feb. 22 and March 28, reported Deputy Phil Bryant. Someone pried open a door and took the round, maple table with straight legs, valued at \$100.

■Bryant also investigated the theft of a water pump from a home at Route 1, Ash. The \$175 pump was being installed for a mobile home lot.

■Damage was estimated at \$800 to a car struck by another vehicle while parked on the shoulder of Sawmill Road in the Northwest community between 11 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Sunday, reported Deputy Brian Sanders. Someone drove into the right rear side, breaking a light and leaving a dent in the car.

■While on routine patrol Sunday, Sanders found the front window to the Advance Auto Parts store in Leland shattered by vandals around 4 a.m. The front right window had been broken, but nothing was taken from the store on Village Road, reported Assistant Manager Larry Heuter.

■Another car parked on Sawmill

Road, next to the New World Disco building in Northwest, was stolen Saturday night, reported Moore. The 1987 Chevrolet Celebrity was reported missing by Short Brothers Rent A Car of Wilmington around 2 a.m. The keys were left in the driver's door, Moore stated.

■A car left parked in the Sandpiper Restaurant lot in Leland Saturday was vandalized, Moore reported. Someone used a baseball bat to break the rear and side windows to the 1992 Ford Mustang owned by a Route 3, Leland resident.

Taken from the car were a \$70 pair of sunglasses and an \$85 motorcycle helmet. The seats were also damaged and the bat left in the parking lot, Moore stated.

■Someone may have stolen merchandise from the Family Dollar Store at the River Run Shopping Center in Southport, Deputy Cathy Hamilton reported. Store Manager Phyllis Vaughan told the store's home office March 26 that she suspected theft from the store, Ms. Hamilton reported. The store is checking its records.

■A Maxi Sport moped bike was found in a wooded area behind a home at Route 1, Winnabow, off of Caison Loop Road, Mason reported. The vehicle may have been abandoned there, Mason reported. It was confiscated by deputies.

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