

# School Board Hears Progress Reports On Plans For Comprehensive Schools

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

South Brunswick High School (SBHS) and South Brunswick Middle School (SBMS) faculties were granted an early release from school on two spring days in order to work on Comprehensive Management Plans (CMP) for their schools.

The Brunswick County Board of Education agreed in its Monday night meeting to allow school dismissal at 12:50 p.m. on April 8 and May 13, at the request of the two schools.

SBHS faculty member Karl Tutt, reported that implementation of the comprehensive school program, in the planning stages for the last several weeks, is on schedule and the program will be in place this fall.

"Fifty-five of our 62 teachers have committed themselves to this," he said, "and we have 36 faculty members working on committees." He noted that the newly-formed Parents In Action (PIA) group is heavily involved in supplying parent volunteers.

The program was introduced to the SBHS faculty Feb. 26 and committees were organized March 11. These were on: a safe and orderly discipline policy; identification of at-risk students; staff development; a mission statement; media centers and skills classes; evaluation; and a positive home/school relationship.

Tutt pointed out that a newsletter just sent from the school to parents is the first fruit of the home-school committee. Copies were distributed to board members, along with the mission statement and a time-line for implementing the program.

Superintendent of Schools P.R. Hankins praised the program, saying PIA was its catalyst.

A model encouraged by the State Department of Public Instruction, the comprehensive schools plan includes such features as flexible scheduling, personal advisers, nurturing classes and enrichment activities. The goal is to identify and serve at-risk students.

Les Tubb, principal of South Brunswick Middle School, and faculty member Pattie Gale Price reported that the middle school is not as far along as the high school in its implementation, but is progressing well.

"We have collected surveys from parents," Ms. Price said, "and have conducted a workshop."

Tubb added, "Our motto is 'Teaming for Success'. We are teaming with parents and among our faculty."

He noted that his school is the first middle school in the state looking at this program, which is expected to be in place by fall 1993.

### Parental Complaints

Ironically, the meeting opened on a somewhat less congratulatory note, as two mothers brought complaints to the board.

For a second consecutive year, Jeanie Mintz of Leland asked board members to put a stop to North Brunswick High School holding its Junior-Senior prom on Mother's Day weekend.

"The kids spend a lot of money on the prom, and I think a gift for mother is more important," she said. "Also, after the prom they go off somewhere and get drunk and are up all night."

"Surely, the principals could find another weekend for this prom. I've talked to Mr. Harris (Robert Harris, principal at North Brunswick High School), and he said he couldn't do anything. Maybe he didn't have a Mama."

Board Chairman Donna Baxter told Mrs. Mintz, "We can't change anything this year, and the scheduling is up to the principals, but we can ask them to take this into consideration for next year and we certainly will."

Russ asked Mrs. Mintz if students were upset over the scheduling of the prom on Mother's Day weekend.

"No, they don't care. It's just the mothers," Mintz replied, "but nobody cares about mothers."

Susan Bass had a list of items to discuss with the board, including the fact that In-School Suspension forms have no place for parental signatures; that parents were not advised of upcoming California Achievement Tests in time to prepare their children; and that students changed classes every hour, with resulting clamor and problems in the halls of the schools.

"Why not let teachers change classes instead of students?" she suggested. "I asked a principal about it and he said it would be inconvenient for teachers, but the kids run in the halls and get into drugs and other trouble, while teachers are just sitting in classes waiting for them."

Advised that she could not complete her list during this meeting, since public address to the board is limited to a few minutes per person, Bass asked if that policy had been changed.

Replied Ms. Baxter, "We had such a time problem, we had to put a three-minute limit on everybody."

Bass indicated she would return to the next meeting.

### Driver Education Changes

Nelson Best, who directs the driver education program, reported on changes for the coming school year.

"Back in 1981 the state mandated driver's education to be taught during the school day," he said. "However, this year we've had a 22 percent cut in funds and the state no longer provides the cars or gas for them."

Resulting changes planned starting this fall include the same certified driver's education teachers for the classroom instruction portion of the program, with these classes held after school and on Saturdays, and contracting for behind-the-wheel instruction.

"This part would be done by the bidding process and the contractor would furnish the cars and gas, so it should save money for the county," he said.

Russ asked if the school system would require students to take their classroom instruction at the school and Best replied that they would be free to arrange either classroom or behind-the-wheel as they pleased.

### Dropout Prevention Actions

Wendy Milligan, dropout prevention specialist, invited board members and audience to a family night event on April 14, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Public Assembly Building at the government center in Bolivia.

The event is sponsored by the CBA task force (see related story elsewhere in this issue).

In her role she directs the Jobs Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and Community Based Alternatives (CBA) programs for the system.

She announced the Youth Issues week schedule of speakers in county high schools, including professional basketball player Archie Talley at SBHS on April 14 and West Brunswick and North Brunswick April 15, and consultant Albert Long at SBMS and Waccamaw School on April 15. These speakers will talk about self-esteem and alternatives to drugs, Mrs. Milligan said.

She said the JTPA program serves 90 young people at present and 80 in extended day classes. It is funded equally by state and federal dropout prevention funds.

Mrs. Milligan also called attention to H.B. 148 in the state General Assembly, aimed at finding effective dropout prevention measures. It required the Department of Public Instruction to research longer compulsory attendance, the relationship of the driver's license to staying in school and limiting after-school employment hours. The department was also told to re-evaluate the current attendance law for adequate enforcement.

"The results of this research were to have been reported to the General Assembly by April 1," she said, "but the report has not yet been presented."

### Bus Garage Scores High

Bill Turner, assistant superintendent for auxiliary services, said the state department has given the Brunswick County bus garage an effectiveness rating this year of 95.8 percent, compared with 88 percent last year.

"Our buses have traveled 1.5 million miles in the last year and had only five accidents," he said, "and only one of those was our fault."

He announced that on May 1 a bus drivers award banquet would be held at Bolivia Elementary School to honor the county drivers, the first event of its kind.

Construction of Supply Elementary School is on schedule, Turner said, with 743 prospective students identified for the opening in the fall.

All county schools must be carefully checked, he announced, to insure compliance with the 1990 American Disability Act that requires accessibility for all kinds of handicaps. "We can do that checking ourselves," he said.

### Other Business

In other business: ■Glenda Browning was named as the community member to serve on the county review panel for Brunswick County Teacher of the Year.

■A budget meeting of the board was scheduled 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 13, at the central office conference room. The school budget must be presented to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners by April 15.

## Sunset Eyes Height Limit Tied To Flood Elevations

BY SUSAN USHER

Sunset Beach is looking into tying a height limit on island construction to 100-year flood elevations.

Before the town council meets again on May 11, the planning board plans to review information presented Monday to the town council by a consultant.

If the town were to measure a 35-foot height limit from one foot below flood elevation, said Joe Tomboro of Powell and Associates of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., "the profile as you drive onto the island would not change."

The town council has been asked to consider a height limit similar to that already in place at Holden Beach and Long Beach, one set by the state legislature and subject to change only by vote of the town's residents. The request was prompted in part by the concern of property owners that a proposed sewer system might open up the possibility of higher-density development, though the town currently has a 35-foot height limit ordinance.

A rough survey of the island by the firm, consultants for the town's sewer system study, indicated that most existing homes on the island would fall within several feet of the heights that would result from a limit tied to flood elevations.

The maximum required flood elevation on the island is 18 feet at present, Tomboro said, while the minimum is around 13 feet or 14 feet. Measuring would begin at one foot below the bottom beam of the house, or at a maximum point of 17 feet. That would put the maximum distance from street level to roof peak at about 52 feet. Some existing homes stand taller than that now, he said.

He described the existing height limit ordinance as "very loose," noting that while builders cannot fill in low lots, they can excavate to bring a lot down to street level.

While the planning board hasn't had a chance to look at the proposal yet, Chairman Richard Good said that to him it has potential as a standard that could be defended as well as "aesthetically acceptable" to most people.

Mayor Mason Barber said Holden Beach officials "jumped on it like a June bug" when Sunset Beach discussed the idea with them.

"They thought it might be the solution to their problem," he said.

## Arbor Day Ceremony Includes Pitch For Urban Forest Plan

BY TERRY POPE

Cutting timber or forest land to make way for urban development often stirs up negative images.

Municipalities are eyeing an urban forest program aimed at replacing trees lost each year to development in Brunswick County, where rural communities are rapidly becoming more urban.

While millions of acres are affected each year worldwide, the cutting of timber is just one part of the forest products industry, a \$9 billion per year business in Brunswick County.

"It's a cycle," said Robert Beason, president of the N.C. Forestry Association, "and harvesting is a part of that cycle."

Beason, manager of North Carolina land and timber operations for International Paper Co., was in Brunswick County last week to help observe Arbor Day, a day designated for planting trees.

Officials met at Brunswick County's new 911 emergency communications building to plant the first tree on the new site, a Bradford pear presented by the Brunswick Timber Co. The ceremony was slated to also note the start of the 911 program, which is scheduled to begin April 15.

Beason was appointed last month by Gov. James Martin to head the forestry association, which is holding its centennial celebration this year.

Brunswick County has about 407,000 acres of forest land, with about half of that held by small landowners who have 100 acres or less. Forestry activities include the cutting of forest products for pulpwood, timber, Christmas trees and the harvesting of pine straw for landscaping.

"A forest serves any number of uses," said Beason.

Called Tree City USA and sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, the American urban forest program provides towns with grants to pay for purchase of trees and for their continual care. Communities of any size can qualify, from less than 100 residents to larger cities.

Nine municipal leaders and county commissioners met recently to discuss the impact of such a program on Brunswick County, said Milton Coleman, Brunswick County Cooperative Extension director.

Coleman said \$20 million was put into a federal trust fund to make sure the forest program continues. Grant



OFFICIALS MET in front of the county's new 911 center to plant a pear tree for Arbor Day. Pictured are (from left) Milton Coleman, Brunswick County Cooperative Extension director; Robert Beason, N.C. Forestry Association president; Miss Brunswick County Crystal Williams; and Rex Nash and Fred Jones of Brunswick Timber.

applications in Brunswick County alone will vary, he said.

"What's going to be applicable for Bolivia is going to be different for the beach communities," said Coleman. "Some municipalities have jumped on it already."

Ocean Isle Beach has planted numerous crepe myrtles, a type of tall shrub, in the same spirit of the urban forest plan. But that effort is not actually a part of the national Tree City USA program.

Timber is cut in North Carolina to produce furniture, fixtures, lumber, wood products and paper. The state has about 3,000 forest products manufacturing plants. The industry ranks second in manufacturing employment, giving 145,000 jobs to residents.

The total value of standing timber in the state is estimated at more than \$9 billion. Rex Nash of Brunswick Timber Co. in Bolivia said timber companies do more than just chop down trees.

Arbor Day is a "good opportunity to make the public aware of what we do in the industry," said Nash.

"Not only are we cutting timber,

but we are reforesting, too," he said.

Reforesting is the replanting and caring for trees to take the place of ones which are cut, to complete the cycle of growth. The industry is concerned with planting, watering, pruning, insect and disease control and dead tree removal.

The urban forest program hopes to replace trees lost to development in parks, playgrounds, along railroad tracks, hiking trails, rivers, streams,

in golf courses, open spaces and near houses, apartments or offices.

Towns that want to participate must form a department, board, commission or other authority responsible for tree care; adopt a city tree ordinance to set tree planting, spacing and location requirements; designate at least \$2 per capita to develop a work plan for planting trees; and conduct an annual Arbor Day tree planting ceremony.

## Bird Island Buy Proposed

(Continued From Page 1-A)

land Monday if it felt the density of development should be changed from one acre to four acres.

The important thing, he indicated, is to make sure the town doesn't prevent the island's owner from reasonable use of or a reasonable return on her property.

Presently the portion of the island within the town's jurisdiction is not zoned, but Planning Board Chairman Richard Good said Monday the town is obligated to zone it in some fashion. "If not, in effect we are giving a discriminating condition to that property owner."

Until then, Mrs. Price can do with it as she desires, subject to state

and federal regulations. A portion of the island is within Sunset Beach's zoning jurisdiction, while another section come under the jurisdiction of Brunswick County, which does not have a zoning ordinance. The westernmost part of the island lies within Horry County, S.C.

In February Mrs. Price applied for state and federal permits to replace a former bridge to the island, to build a pier with room for six boats and to accommodate residential use by her and possibly other family members.

The move sparked quick reaction from those familiar with the property, a unspoiled barrier island between Sunset Beach and Little River Inlet.

United Carolina Bank \$1,000 for interest and principal. Five precincts had no representatives at the convention. Twenty-nine persons were selected as delegates to the district convention to be held May 16, 1 p.m., at Leland Middle School.

The following were also appointed: Janis Simmons and Elizabeth Dameron, to the House Select Committee; Marion Davis and Ronald Hewett, to the Senate Select Committee; Diana Morgan and Carlton Sligh to the Judicial Select Committee.

Those delegates are responsible for picking a successor should a seat for State House, Senate or judge become vacant.

## Democrats Rally Behind Plea For Party Unity

(Continued From Page 1-A)

the Democratic primary, proposed by Oak Island II Precinct; and ■Rejected a resolution calling for reduction of the national deficit by 25 percent within four years, proposed by Oak Island II Precinct.

Opponents said there wasn't enough information to pass a resolution on the Pentagon funds issue and the taxing of timber companies. Also, several said reducing the deficit by 25 percent in four years would be impossible without cutting needed social programs.

Treasurer Mark Lewis reported the party has \$3,955 in the bank and owes \$31,000 for the headquarters building still under construction in Supply. Democrats voted to pay

## Temperate Spring Weather Anticipated In Coming Week

Area residents can expect to enjoy moderate, early spring weather over the next few days.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday that the current outlook is "somewhat encouraging," calling for both temperature and rainfall to be about normal for this time of year.

He expects temperatures to average around 50 degrees at night climbing into the lower 70s during the daytime, with no more than a half-inch of rainfall.

"On the whole I think it will be very enjoyable weather, pleasant, early spring weather," he said, "with

no major fluctuations of extreme heat or cold in the offing."

For the period March 31 through April 6, Canady recorded a high of 69 degrees on March 31 and April 1, and a low of 28 degrees on April 3.

A daily average high of 64 degrees and an average nightly low of 37 degrees resulted in a daily average temperature of 50 degrees, which Canady said was 10 degrees below normal.

"We're making up for the pluses we had in February and early March," said Canady.

He recorded only .15 of an inch of rainfall.

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