

Sunset Beach Puts All-Year Ban On Sunday Construction

BY SUSAN USHER

"Never on a Sunday."
That's what Sunset Beach Town Council members decided Monday night in amending the town's noise ordinance as regards construction work.

As changed, no construction work will be allowed on Sundays, not just from Memorial Day through Labor Day as was the case before, but all year round.

Council also adopted new hours in which construction is allowed, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, also year-round.

The previous ordinance provided for construction to begin at 7 a.m. and end at 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday year-round, with work allowed on Sundays except during the summer.

Council adopted the 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. schedule the second time around, after audience member Cletus Waldmiller asked the reasoning behind a change earlier in the meeting to 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"I think you tried to fix something that wasn't broken," said Waldmiller.

One other audience member added that if she were a tourist renting a cottage for \$2,000 a week, she wouldn't "take too kindly" to a buzz saw at 7 a.m.

Council member Julia Thomas said she had thought the 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. schedule a good idea, saying, "I

know a lot of the construction people need to get started early." Also she and several others noted some construction workers had second jobs to go to later in the day.

After discussion, the board compromised, dropping the start time to 7 a.m. and extending the evening cut-off to 7 p.m., with Mayor Mason Barber quipping, "This time we hear from the residents; next time we hear from the contractors."

The noise ordinance does not apply in the town's extraterritorial area.

Sewer Hearing Set

Sunset Beach property owners can find out more about the town's plans for a proposed sewer system at a public hearing set Monday, April 20, at 7 p.m. at the Sunset Beach VFD fire station.

Consultant Joe Tomboro of Powell and Associates of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., consultants for the town sewer system study, said the meeting was primarily for "educational" purposes. After a 45- to 60-minute overview, he and town officials will answer questions from the audience.

"All we're doing is clearing up the procedure," said Tomboro.

Tomboro said he would be available to answer questions about the sewer system in advance of the hearing as well, over the telephone.

In another matter related to the sewer project, a hearing will be held May 11 prior to the town council meeting on a proposed amendment to the town's 1985 land use plan update to reflect that the town may seek to develop a sewer system in the future.

The current document reflects no such plans, citing cost as a primary factor.

The amendment must be approved by the council and the state Coastal Resources Commission before it becomes final.

Other Business

In other business, the council:

■ Gave preliminary and final plat approval for Section 1 of Rice Mill at Seatrial Plantation. Approximately 40 single-family homes are planned.

■ Took no action regarding applying for beach access grant money available through the state. Town Administrator Linda Fluegel said funding was generally available only for regional projects with restrooms and other amenities.

■ Rescheduled the next council meeting from May 4 to May 14 and set a joint workshop with the town planning board at 6 p.m. that same day to discuss a proposed professional district in the zoning ordinance and zoning of Bird Island.

■ After about seven months of negotiation, approved a

contract with Kanoy Communications for locating of equipment on the water tower at a cost of \$50 per month, with concerns regarding liability and responsibility addressed to the council's satisfaction.

■ Amended the underground utilities ordinance so that the town can require neighborhoods which install their own underground utilities independently of the town to also disconnect and remove the old service poles.

■ Annexed the four lots at Seaside Center owned by the U.S. Postal Service following a hearing at which only one question was asked. The annexation clears the way for voluntary annexation of adjacent properties.

■ Following a public hearing at which no one spoke, amended the zoning ordinance to add as audio/video stores, delivery services and office supply stores as permitted uses in the business district.

■ Adopted resolutions thanking the community's recycling volunteers for their hard work and asking that a law be extended that prohibits the Brunswick County ABC Board from operating a store within seven miles of a town that already has an ABC system. Several other local towns have already adopted resolutions identical to the latter in an effort to protect existing revenues.

■ Took no action in open session after meeting behind closed doors approximately 20 minutes with Police Chief J.B. Buell on a personnel matter.

Deputy Sheriff Spoils Burglar's Clean Getaway

BY TERRY POPE

The burglar got away, but he left behind a stolen truck and goods after Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy Charles Crocker acted quickly to check out a suspicious vehicle last week.

Crocker noticed a pickup leaving the Beach Road Mini Storage buildings near Long Beach Thursday, April 1. After spotting the patrol car, the suspect drove the truck back to the storage area, Crocker stated.

The deputy then saw a man running from the scene and found that two nearby businesses had been broken into.

Windows at Sabra's Gift Shop and at Brunswick Computers on Long Beach Road had been smashed, Crocker stated. Damage was \$500 at the computer store, which was also missing \$1,286 in computer equipment.

A basket containing small items and three boxes were found outside the gift shop, Crocker stated. The 1984 Datsun pickup had been reported stolen from a home in Long Beach.

According to Long Beach Police Officer J.T. McSwain's report, the owner had taken his dog for a walk on the beach and noticed the truck missing from his 17th Street home around 10:30 p.m.

The owner had left the keys in the truck, which was impounded by Detective Larry Joyner pending further investigation.

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

CRIME REPORT

■ A Canada Dry drink machine, demolished by vandals, was found in a wooded area off of Governor's Road at Winnabow Saturday, reported Deputy William Hewett.

■ A Leland woman told Deputy Brian Sanders Friday that a man she hired to rebuild the engine in her car stole parts from it, including an air conditioner, stereo system and CB antenna. The rear door of the station wagon has also been dented, she said.

■ Three men who offered a pedestrian a ride on Lanvale Road in Leland Sunday beat him with a tire iron and cut his face with a knife, Deputy Pete Moore reported. The Pink Hill resident said the suspects took \$260 from his wallet and struck him on the head and back with the tire iron. He was transported to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington by Leland Volunteer Rescue Squad.

■ A Woodburn resident told Sanders that his 1988 Thomas moped, valued at \$125, was stolen from a friend's garage Friday.

■ Shots were fired into a Route 2, Bolivia home early Saturday by a man who had been drinking and was asked to leave, Deputy Marshall Evans Jr. reported. Damage was \$750 from the 12 shots fired into a skylight at a mobile home, with bullets hitting the ceiling and wall behind a couch around 2:50 a.m.

■ Warrants were drawn against a

suspect accused of shooting a Sunset Harbor man in the ankle Saturday morning. Evans reported that five shots were fired during an argument between two men around 11:30 a.m. A bullet passed through the left ankle of the victim.

■ Four homes in the Tropical Shores subdivision have been broken into. Someone had set up residency in one home between March 2 and April 1, Deputy Cathy Hamilton reported. Damage was \$415 to a door, pump house and electrical box.

Damage was estimated at \$65 to another home where the front door was kicked in between Nov. 30 and April 3. Vandals caused \$100 in damage and took a \$250 bicycle from another home between Feb. 10 and April 3. The bike was later found behind a home in the subdivision.

■ Someone broke open a safe at a home on Race Track Road in Leland Saturday, causing \$25 in damage, Sanders reported. The safe contained papers.

■ Two planters and plants were stolen from Andy's Landscaping at N.C. 179 and Camelot Drive Saturday, Deputy J.M. Adams reported. The \$200 set contained flowering cabbage and pansies.

■ Someone sliced a golf ball through a window on the 11th hole at Carolina Shores Golf Course in Calabash Friday afternoon, Deputy R.W. Long II reported. The homeowner was unable to get the name of the golfer, but damage was listed at \$150.

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