

# What's In A County Road Name? Everything From A To Z

BY TERRY POPE

From A Street to Zion Hill Road. What's in a Brunswick County road name?

There are an estimated 4,000 county roads named after different items, famous people or families. Some are named after seashells, animals, birds, fish, towns and plants.

If you're building a road, chances are that a name relating to the Atlantic Ocean is taken.

Don Eggert, a Brunswick County planner, said he checked minutes of Planning Board meetings held two years ago to compare how things have changed.

"We estimated then that we would have about 2,000 road names," he said. "We've grown that much."

To prepare for the county's 911 program that began this month, each road, trail or cartway with three or more homes or structures has been named. Some cartways were so small they did not show up on maps.

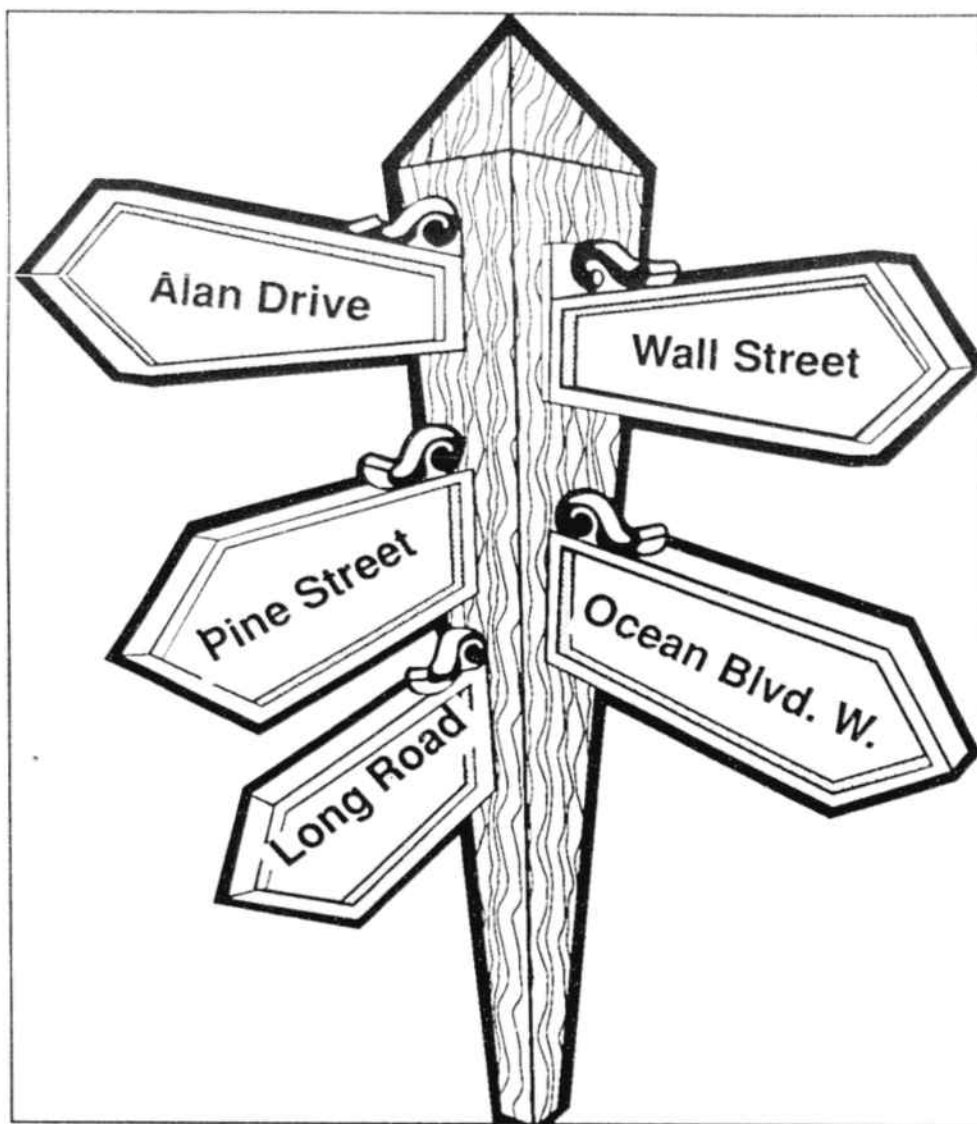
Workers in the field found the "discoveries" and had to give them names.

"What we try to do is get in contact with the property owners along the road to get a name from them," said Eggert. Names are often picked from a family, a geographical feature of the area or a historical name.

It has also been a year of road name changes. Duplicate names within the county's postal zones had to be eliminated to make way for 911. When planners first studied the list they found 17 Pine Streets.

For visitors, driving along the county's roads may make them feel right at home. There may be a reason for that.

After all, there are Charlotte Avenue, Chapel Hill Road, Carrboro Street, Asheville Road, Atkinson Street, Durham Road, Cherokee Drive, Dunn Road, Burgaw Street, Fayetteville Avenue, Greensboro Road, Greenville Road, Jacksonville Road, Bahama Place, Bermuda Road and others named after towns and countries.



"THESE ROAD NAMES come from a little bit of everywhere," said Don Eggert, a Brunswick County planner.

When naming roads gets stressful, why not doodle? Someone did. There's a Doodle Drive off of Stella Road, which happens to cross a railroad track. Was someone watching A Streetcar Named Desire or had Marlon Brando famous words in mind?

There are some really big road names, as in Big Buck Trail, Big Macedonia Road, Big Neck Road, Big Oak Road and Big Poplar Court.

Or should I say, there are some long road names? There are Long Bay Court, Long Beach Road, Long Circle, Long Leaf Court, Long Leaf Drive, Long Leaf Hills Drive, Long Road, Longleaf Drive, Longview Drive, Longwood Drive and Longwood Road.

But the longest name is Old Wil-

mington-Georgetown Road, which is a dirt road in Dove's Nest subdivision at Lanvale. That must be one long street sign.

"They had to make very small letters," said Eggert. "That's probably one name that should not have gone through. I think we're doing the public there a disservice. We had to abbreviate it here to get it in the computer."

When a developer goes to the Planning Department with a proposed subdivision, planners cross-check street names with ones already on file. If there are no conflicts, the names are reserved for the development. Being a coastal community, there are plenty of names already on file relating to the ocean and its creatures.

Hungry for seafood? Try Baracuda Street, Blue Crab Court, Blue Fish Street, Blue Gill Court, Blue Heron Court, Blue Marlin Drive, Clam Bay Drive, Dolphin Court or Crab Street. There is Driftwood Acres Drive, Anchor Drive and Atlantic Avenue.

"The main thing we try to give them is a distinctive sounding name that's easy to say and fairly short," said Eggert. "We're trying to get away from long names. Most people would rather live on a short-named street."

How about the ABCs of local street names: A Street, B Street and C Street? Some other shorties are Al Street, Amy Drive, Bow Court, (when you say) Bud Street, Coot Street, Dix Lane, Dry Street, Gum Road, Ice Court and how about (nightmare on) Elm Street.

Brunswick County is also a historical county with the first settlements dating back to the 1700s. There must be some really old streets around. In fact, there are 34 that begin with "Old".

Such as Old Baldy Court, Old Blue Banks Road, Old Fayetteville Road, Old Ferry Road, Old Georgetown Road, Old Maco Road, Old River Road, Old Town Creek Road and Olde Towne Wynd.

To honor famous people, there are Andrew Jackson Highway, Blackbeard Drive, Captain Adkins Drive, Captain Kidd Drive, Earle of Craven Court, King George II Highway, Joe Baldwin Drive in Maco and Governor's Road, named after Gov. Daniel Russell in Winnabow. But there are not many named after colonial figures or early presidents. Eggert has a list of colonial names with ties to the area if a developer is interested.

"We would like to encourage more of that," he said, "to give a little more attention to the history of the county."

With the county's growing golf community, there are some road names that are right on par, such as Birdie Court, Birdie Lane, Dog Leg Drive, Golfcrest Drive, Golfview Drive and 10 others beginning with

Fairway, Nicklaus Drive in Calabash and Palmer Drive at Boiling Spring Lakes were named after famous golfers Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer.

Hunters say deer are plentiful this year. They are also popular for street names. There are Deer Drive, Deer Run Drive, Deer Street, Deer Track Court, Deer Trot Road, Deerfield Drive, Deerpark Drive, Deerpointe Court, Deerwood Circle, Doe Run Drive and Buck Road.

Other animals are represented, such as Bear Street, Beartrap Road, Beaver Circle, Beaver Creek Drive, Bird Drive, Bird Song Court, Black Bear Run and Black Bear Hollow.

Numerous bird names are perched on county roads, including Blue Jay Court, Bluebird Land Road, Bluejay Road, Bob-White Road, Brown Pelican Trail, Canary Way, Cardinal Avenue, Chickadee Street, Whippoorwill Land, Eagle Court, Herring Drive, Seagull Road, Lark Trail and many relating to Doves.

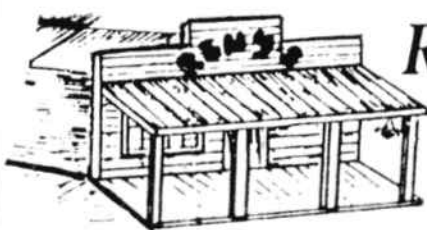
There are three Tarheel Roads in the county, but no Wolfpack Roads, Blue Devil Courts (sorry, basketball fans) or Demon Deacon Drives. There is a Yellow Jacket Court in Carolina Shores for Georgia Tech fans.

Bald Head Island should win the most originality award for its road names. They have Creeping Cucumber Court, Elephant's Foot Trail, Black Skimmer Trail, Buffalohead Court, Captain Charlie Court, Clapper Rail Court, Ditcher Trail, Edward Teach Wynd, Flycatcher Trail, Ibis Roost, Horsemint Trail, Leopard Frog Court, Laughing Gull Trail, Mourning Warbler Trail, Partridge Berry Court, Poor Man's Pepper Trail, Sandwich Tern Trail and Three Flipper Trail.

Will the names endure the test of time? Knott's Landing Place will be around long after Knott's Landing ends its episodes on CBS.

"These road names come from a little bit of everywhere," said Eggert.

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