

# Three Programs Will Serve County's Elderly Next Year

BY SUSAN USHER

A private agency instead of the Brunswick County Department of Social Services will provide in-home services to county seniors starting July 1 under a funding plan approved Monday by the county commissioners.

This year the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners had to assume direct responsibility for delivery of services to the aging. Monday night it approved a plan that provides for three agencies to provide a variety of services, with top priority given to meals, in-home care and transportation.

Funds for services during the 1993 fiscal year will be provided under a Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults, instead of in separate grants. The approach allows the county to allocate money in a way that reflects the county's priorities in services to older adults and their families. The new funding plan will go into effect with adoption of the county budget.

Accepting the recommendations of an advisory committee, commissioners voted unanimously Monday to contract with Well Care & Nursing Services Inc., of Wilmington for in-home services now provided by DSS. The project is funded at \$51,080, of which the county provides a \$5,108 local match.

The Well Care bid proposed serving 28 clients with aides at a cost of \$8.09 per unit, while DSS Director

Jamie Orrick said the department could serve 15 clients at a cost of \$7.96 per unit. The advisory committee opted for the higher number of clientele served, rather than the lower cost per unit bid by DSS.

Other service providers will be the county's Department of Older Adults, which will provide congregate meals, home-delivered meals, transportation, case assistance, minor home improvements and senior center operations, at a total cost of \$366,993, including a local match of \$22,992.

Brunswick Adult Day Care will serve an estimated 13 clients at a total cost of \$68,090, of which the county's local match is \$1,834.

#### Fired Worker Complains

Sheila Gore, a former county solid waste department employee, complained Monday night to commissioners that she was fired Saturday by Waste Industries, the company the county contracted with this year for trash collection.

She said she was fired with any advance warning "because I was not wearing my uniform properly." Ms. Gore contended the county employees hired by the company were guaranteed employment past 90 days, and that there was to be no probationary period. She also said the group was without insurance for two months, but had been "guaranteed" insurance.

She cited the incident as another example of why

the county should not have contracted with the private company.

However, after the meeting County Manager David Clegg said the group, in the county's contract with Waste Industries, was guaranteed employment for 90 days only. "Our agreement was they would not fire anyone during that period even if they did something inappropriate," he said.

Also, all had an opportunity to extend their county insurance coverage until Waste Industries' insurance began coverage, by assuming payment of the premiums.

The 90-day guaranteed employment period ended Friday. Unlike county government, he said, private employers can terminate workers without having first issued warnings.

#### Other Business

In other business, commissioners:

■Following a public hearing at which no one from the public spoke, named or renamed roads as advertised, with one exception. A portion of Tart's Trail, off Mt. Misery Road, was renamed Rebel's Trail.

■Forwarded property owners' petition to the N.C. Department of Transportation requesting the state take over maintenance of Indian Creek Drive off of Mt. Misery Road.

■Designated the Volunteer and Information Center (VIC) to serve the distribution agency for USDA commodities, at VIC's request and with support of the Department of Social Services.

■Adopted preliminary assessment rolls for the Jennifer Subdivision water project in northern Brunswick County and SAD 12, setting a public hearing July 13 at 6:30 p.m. on the SAD project, which includes Shady Oaks, Seaside Heights and the Calabash Acres II area.

■Reappointed Commissioner Pinkerton and Alton Milliken of Shallotte to the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority and appointed Richard Marshall of Leland to replace Gary Shoemake, who did not seek reappointment.

■Appointed William Newnam of Long Beach to the Dosher Hospital Board of Trustees until the seat vacated by William Sizemore can be filled by election. Sizemore moved outside Smithville Township.

■Delayed appointment of a physician to the Southeastern Area Mental Health Board to replace Dr. Charles Locke of Shallotte, and of a member to the Nursing Home/Domiciliary Advisory Board to replace Jonathan Hankins of Southport, who resigned because of a conflict of interest.

■Accepted dedication to the county water system of Phases III, IV and I-B of the St. James Plantation water system.

## Commissioners Will Meet Monday To Review Proposed County Budget

Brunswick County Commissioners will take another look at the proposed 1992-93 budget Monday at a work session that will begin at 9 a.m. in the Administration Building at the county government center.

Among other items, the board is expected to reconsider a proposed cut in funding for the Southport Maritime Museum.

That item brought the majority of citizen input during a brief public hearing last Thursday night on the county's \$45 million proposed budget.

Four of the 11 speakers at the hearing came to voice support for the museum. Others asked increased funding for volunteer fire departments, the Resources Development Commission, the Volunteer and Information Center, Hope Harbor Home and the proposed Oak Island Library.

At the commissioners' regular meeting Monday, one other agency appealed to the board. The Bruns-

wick County Literacy Council thanked the board for including the same \$1,500 allocation as it received last year, but Coordinator Gladys Wagenseil said the not-for-profit agency had hoped for an increase.

Albert Huff of Leland, a disabled, single parent of three and a student in the council's one-on-one tutoring program, said other members of his extended family need similar services. He told commissioners, "The more help they get from you the more help they can give my family to get out of the gutter. We need to put more into means of learning so they can better themselves and get off (public assistance)."

Before the close of Monday's meeting, Commissioner Gene Pinkerton referred to the Maritime Museum, Literacy Council and requests for a fourth library branch and urged fellow board members as they study the budget, to remember that "a lot of what we are hearing is a cry for more education of the people in Brunswick County," he said.

"I feel we need to support the schools, but I don't think that is the only form of education in the county. I would like to see some of these other things supported."

After the budget hearing last Thursday, Kelly Holden, chairman of the county commissioners, said he would recommend that the board maintain its \$10,000 allocation for the Southport museum instead of reducing it by 50 percent as recommended in the budget plan.

"I think they're due another 10," Holden said.

He said he felt the county should give the same level of support to the Southport museum that it gave the Museum of Coastal Carolina in Ocean Isle Beach during its first two years of operation.

The first to request restored funding for the maritime museum was Susan Kaufman of Southport, who said she felt the facility was one reason the city had been selected as one of 30 finalists in competition for the "All American Cities" award. She said Southport was the smallest city ever considered and felt much of the reason was its varied cultural attractions, such as the museum.

"We may be unable to open if these funds aren't restored," she said. "Can you imagine the abject humiliation we would suffer if we get into the top three with no museum?"

Pauline Swain of Southport, an elementary school volunteer, said "The children of Southport are very anxious to have this open."

The museum should be considered a resource for the entire county and supported as such, she said.

Another Southport resident, Cecil Rhodes, said the county "will more than get its money back" on its funding for the museum. He said a recent visit to the city by two cruise ships indicates increased tourist interest in the area, which will be enhanced by the maritime museum. A

similar attraction in Beaufort has done much to attract boaters to that city, he said.

"The potential is very, very large," Rhodes said. "I don't see how we can let this opportunity pass. To reduce funding at this time would snatch the rug out from under the museum effort."

Scheduled to open June 27, the Southport Maritime Museum is the result of a non-profit effort to create a repository for information and artifacts relating to the history of shipping and other maritime activities in the Cape Fear area.

Also speaking at the hearing were:

■Volunteer firemen Warren W. Frazier and Al Nord, who asked the commissioners to increase the county's planned allocation of \$13,500 to each of Brunswick's volunteer fire departments. Frazier said Leland firefighters needed upgraded equipment to properly protect their rapidly growing community. Nord, who is a Civetown VFD member said the county's new 911 communications program required his department to spend \$1,000 for equipment. He asked the county to appropriate \$1,000 more to each department.

■Robert Williams, vice chairman of

### Brunswick Items On Board Agenda

Requests for more money for two projects related to the widening of U.S. 17 through Brunswick County is on the agenda when the State Board of Transportation meets Friday in Raleigh.

Staff is asking for another \$50,000 in state money for construction on the U.S. 17 bypass of Shallotte from west of Old Shallotte Road (S.R. 1316) to east of Red Bug Road (S.R. 1136), a distance of 4.8 miles.

Spokesman Bill Jones said the money is needed to cover cost overruns. The board had previously allocated \$4.8 million for the project.

Also, another request seeks an additional \$10,000 to reflect the new estimated cost of preliminary engineering work on U.S. 17 from N.C. 211 at Supply to the South Carolina state line, a distance of 21.3 miles. Previously \$1.6 million had been approved for this work.

In other business, the board is expected to approve a \$45,000 line item for regrading of a section from Blue Bank Loop Road (S.R. 1422) to the Columbus County line.

Funds for paving and related work on a 2.1-mile section of Town Creek Road (S.R. 1413A) are to be reduced by \$40,000.

The board meets at 9 a.m. in Room 150 of the Highway Building in downtown Raleigh.

the Resources Development Commission, who asked the board to restore the proposed \$23,815 reduction in its funding. He said the commission was directly responsible for attracting more than 500 new jobs to the county.

■Cathy Swain, director of the Hope Harbor Home domestic violence shelter, who requested increased county funding to offset \$25,000 in losses suffered when grants to the program were not refunded. She said more money also is needed for a planned batterers' counseling program.

■Oak Island Library Boosters President Ann Hines, who asked the county to appropriate "our fair share" of the library budget to help establish a fourth branch on Oak Island.

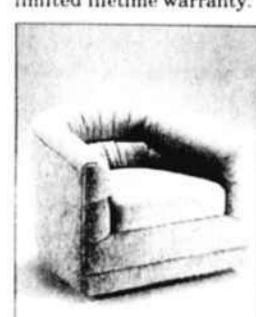
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Dear Friends,

Over the last 4 1/2 years I have had the pleasure of serving this community as a physician. I brought with me a desire to practice the highest standard of medicine, as a loving and caring human being who was also trained in the specialty of Family Practice.

My philosophy of medicine holds the doctor to be an educator—the true definition of the word doctor. I have attempted in that role of educator to practice preventive medicine, as well as therapeutic intervention. I have an abiding belief in the biblical phrase that tells us it is better to teach a man to fish than to give him a fish.

I have attempted to demonstrate my belief in good health maintenance by practicing that which I preach. There have been occasions in which my alliances have been in discord with this philosophy; projects started that will not be completed. Yes, there are some regrets.

For the most part, it has been extremely gratifying to experience the warm acceptance of what appeared to be in this area at least, a non-traditional medical practice. In the end, it is clear that we all share the same goals of an improved quality of life.

It now becomes necessary for me to move the basis of my practice, and my office in Village Pines will be closing effective July 1, 1992. For the honored patients in my practice who wish to continue with me, I welcome the opportunity to discuss these plans further. Please contact my office or my home at your convenience. For those individuals with whom my association in a patient-doctor relationship shall end, I thank you for the pleasure of that acquaintance. With my most sincere regards...

Marilyn Boehm, MD, PhD