

# Proposed New County Land Use Policies Bound To Planning Board

BY ERIC CARLSON

Better schools, increased tourism and more protection for estuarine waters are among the items proposed by the Brunswick County Planning Department in its latest policy update of the county land use plan.

The county planning board was scheduled to discuss the draft proposals for development at its June 17 meeting.

Under the Coastal Area Management Act, counties are required to update their land use policies and land classification maps every five years.

While most of the policy statements are what he called "boilerplate," County Planning Director John Harvey said changes in the plan reflect a downscaling of growth expectations due in part to the recent economic downturn.

The amount of land expected to develop into urban

or suburban areas has been significantly reduced, he said.

"This gives us more accountability over ourselves," Harvey said. "We aren't just saying that we'd like to see something happen without accepting that we have to provide the infrastructure."

In general, the 48-page statement of policy supports current growth trends and calls for Brunswick County to "plan for and accommodate future growth while simultaneously maintaining and improving the quality of life for current and future residents."

One item not previously addressed by previous land use plans is the formal support of state efforts to restore the water quality of the Lockwood Folly River and other estuarine waters to the status of Outstanding Resource Waters.

The river was once eyed for ORW designation, but

was removed from consideration due to periodic high levels of bacteria. The state blamed failing septic tanks and stormwater runoff from nearby subdivisions for the high bacteria count. However, the state gave the river special protection similar to that provided ORW waters, restricting development within 575 feet of its waters, but no farther, for example.

Another new policy encourages a "high quality tourism trade as a primary element of the county's economic future." The plan recommends increased investment in services, facilities and controlled growth to foster "a high caliber of tourist clientele." It warns that too much emphasis on "cheap t-shirt shops, fast food outlets and other lower end attractions" will keep county wages low.

Harvey said this is the first time the land use plan has acknowledged the existence of tourists.

"We used to call them seasonal residents," he said. Brunswick County should also encourage recruitment programs to attract "higher income, more highly educated" retirees to the area, the plan says.

The policy also recommends improvements in the county school system. It calls the need for a quality education system "a critical factor" in future economic development. It supports programs emphasizing parental involvement and assistance from the business community.

Harvey said an updated land classification map should be ready for planning board review next month. Once the map and policies are approved by the board, they will be presented to the public at a workshop sometime in August or September, he said.

Ultimately the update must be approved by the Coastal Resources Commission and county commissioners before it goes into effect.

## Shallotte Will Pay Off Sewer Bond

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shallotte officials expect to save more than \$5,000 in interest payments by paying off the town's sewer bond seven years early.

Aldermen voted unanimously Tuesday night to pay the \$14,000 in principal the town still owes Farmer's Home Administration.

The money will be taken from the capital reserve fund and transferred to the water fund to make the payment, which totals \$14,130 with interest.

Town Clerk Mary Etta Hewett said Shallotte was scheduled to continue making annual payments through 1999.

By paying off the sanitary sewer bond early, she said the town will save \$5,110 in interest over the next seven years.

"Farmer's Home asked us to pay off the bond early because they said the town was in good financial shape," said Mrs. Hewett.

### Parking Woes Worked Out

A potential parking problem at St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church was resolved just two hours before Tuesday night's meeting.

The Main Street church had planned to ask aldermen for a variance from the zoning code Tuesday, but ended up securing enough parking spaces to meet town regulations.

Town code requires that one parking space be available for every four seats in a church, with at least half of the spaces on church grounds.

The new St. James Church will need 40 spaces, and 21 will be provided on the church property.

The other spaces required will be available at the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce office, which gave its written permission late Tuesday afternoon.

Bill Potts, chairman of the church building committee, said there are about 30 spaces at the chamber. The church also has verbal permission to

use the 35 spaces at United Carolina Bank.

Construction of the new sanctuary, which will seat 140 people, should start in two or three weeks. The original structure was built in Shallotte in 1962.

### Budget Meeting Set

Aldermen plan to amend the current year's budget and adopt the 1992-93 budget when they meet Tuesday, June 30, at 7:30 p.m.

The proposed budget for next year features no change in the 47-cent tax rate. Water rates will be increased 5 cents per 1,000 gallons and sewer rates will jump 50 cents under the proposal.

Aldermen met in executive session for 1 1/2 hours at a budget meeting last Wednesday to discuss salaries. No action was taken at the meeting.

### Other Business

In other business Tuesday, aldermen:

- Set a public hearing Tuesday, July 7, at 7:30 p.m. on the proposed annexation of one acre located next to East Gate Square on Holden Beach Road. The Shallotte Planning Board has recommended the tract be annexed as requested by landowner Robert Williams.

- Tabled consideration of a planning board recommendation to give full voting privileges to board members who represent the extraterritorial area (ETA). An existing ordinance only allows ETA members to vote on matters that affect the ETA.

- Adopted a resolution supporting the Cape Fear Council of Government's request for state legislators to pass laws restoring local revenues.

- Voted to refund \$19.41 in taxes paid by property owner Robert Brooks. Mrs. Hewett said the town erroneously charged the homeowner interest on taxes for a house.

## LOCAL CLINICS SET JUNE 27

### Rabies Is Coming: Inoculate Pets

State health officials believe it is just a matter of time before Brunswick County sees its first case of rabies.

So far this year there have been 11 animals found to have rabies in neighboring Horry County, S.C. Other cases have been discovered in northeastern North Carolina.

"You have been extremely lucky so far," said Dr. Lee Hunter, state public health veterinarian. "There have been cases found all along the North Carolina line and there's absolutely nothing to keep them back."

Hunter said the greatest danger of human infection comes not from direct contact with wild animals, but through pets who have had encounters with rabid animals. Consequently the best way to protect yourself is to have your pets inoculated Hunter said.

Brunswick County Animal Control, in conjunction with local veterinarians, will offer a low-cost rabies vaccination clinic Saturday, June 27, at three locations in the county.

All rabies, parvo and distemper shots will be available for \$5 each from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Brunswick Animal Hospital on U.S. 17 in Supply, Companion Animal Hospital at East Gate Square on N.C. 130 in Shallotte and at Leland Veterinarian Hospital in Clairmont Plaza, Leland.

Hunter said people should take other precautions to avoid infection. Those who spend time in the outdoors should beware of any wild animal exhibiting unusual behavior. Children should be strongly discouraged from playing with any wild animals.

The greatest danger of a wild-animal bite comes from foxes, Hunter

said. They have been found to become extremely bold and aggressive when infected with rabies.

In Perquimans County recently a child was playing in a swimming pool when a rabid fox climbed on his chest and began biting him on the face, Hunter said.

Untreated, rabies is almost always fatal to humans, Hunter said. There is only one documented case of a person surviving rabies after exhibiting symptoms, he said.

The treatment for rabies, while not as painful as in the past, is extremely expensive. A series of five shots are administered over a one-month period.

"Having your pet vaccinated is much cheaper and a lot less painful," said Hunter.

Anyone bitten by an animal should see a physician even if the animal has had a rabies shot, Hunter said. Animal bites frequently cause infection.

For further information on the local rabies inoculation program, call Brunswick County Animal Control at 754-8204.

### No Wreck Report From State Patrol

The N.C. Highway Patrol office in Wilmington was unable to compile a report of traffic accidents in Brunswick County this week.

A dispatcher at the highway patrol office said Tuesday that Ruby Oakley, the official spokesman for the office, was on vacation and would return next week.

Traffic accidents that occur on state roads are investigated by the highway patrol.

**Good Water...**  
 You deserve it!  
 Call Coastal!

Coastal Water Systems, Inc.  
 1-800-252-0223 Ask for Buck  
 (Nights Call 919-452-9312)  
 In Brunswick County  
 Call 754-4399



Announcing the opening of  
**RIVERSIDE CLINIC**  
**Chris Savard, Ph.D**  
 Psychological Services

- Individual, Family and Couple Therapy
- Psychological Testing - Academic, Intellectual and Personality

341 Whiteville Rd. (in Langston Clinic) • Shallotte  
**754-2969**

**NOW YOUR AD CAN REACH ALL OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR ONLY \$200 25 WORDS \$6 each additional word**

**N.C. STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS**

**BLANKET NORTH CAROLINA OVER 120 NEWSPAPERS**  
 (For more information, call this newspaper or...)

**SIMPLY FILL OUT THIS FORM AND SEND WITH YOUR CHECK.**  
 (No Phone Orders. Larger order forms are available from this newspaper.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Advertising Copy: \_\_\_\_\_

25 Words—\$6 each additional word over 25.  
 Word count: Telephone numbers (including area code) equal one word. Post office box numbers as two words, box numbers and route numbers as two words. The name of the city, state and zip code each count as one word. Other customary words count as one.

**SEND TO:**

**THE BRUNSWICK BEACON**  
 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DEPT.  
 P.O. BOX 2558, SHALLOTTE, NC 28459  
 (919)754-6890