

# Calabash Festival To Highlight River's Heritage, Environment

BY LYNN CARLSON

Organizers of the first Calabash Town Festival say they're planning an event whose process and purpose will differ from the typical street fair.

Visitors to this festival, set for August 14-16 on the town's waterfront, won't have rows of out-of-town vendors and craftspeople vying for their dollars. Any business to be done will be kept "in the family" of Calabash merchants.

The event is not being designed around its commercial potential, but to draw attention to the village's rich river heritage and to heighten awareness of the Calabash River's environmental future, according to Warren "Bud" Knapp, chairman of the Calabash Town Festival Committee.

"If people want to spend money, they're going to spend it with Calabash merchants," Knapp said. Toward that end, businesses are being encouraged to decorate their storefronts for the occasion and to plan special festival activities and offerings.

The festival idea was conceived when the U.S. Power Squadron District 27, encompassing most of North Carolina and a little of South Carolina, expressed interest in the Calabash area as the site of its 1992 "Rendezvous." Plans started taking shape for an event which, although it will welcome visitors, is targeted at involving local residents and Power Squadron boaters in a celebration of the uniqueness and charm of the famous seafood restaurant mecca.

"This is our town, and we're proud of it," Knapp told reporters at a Monday media briefing for the festival.

"We want to emphasize the impact the river has had on the town, and the importance of being concerned about the quality of the river."

A committee representing both commercial and volunteer interests is guiding the festival, which Knapp says will begin on Friday morning with a flag-raising and end with a "semi-military" closing on Sunday afternoon.

"I can't tell you how enthusiastic everyone is about being involved," Knapp said, adding that groups as diverse as the Coast Guard, Elks Club, Carolina Shores Garden Club, volunteer rescue workers and firefighters and the local electric membership co-op will be involved.

The fire department and rescue squad volunteers will demonstrate their skills, and local amateur artists will compete for honors. The works of professional artists also will be exhibited. A group of local quilters will show their handiwork on Saturday. A diverse offering of music is planned, and boat rides will be available from the river to the Little River jetty.

Knapp said the quilters have designed a poster depicting the late comedian/singer Jimmy Durante in bed with a quilt pulled up to his chin and saying "Good night, Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are," the closing line to Durante's radio and television broadcasts.

Clete Waldmiller, past commander of the Shallotte River unit of the U.S. Power Squadron, said he expects some 200 squadron members to attend the festival on 50 to 60 boats. Waldmiller says the squadron, a group which promotes and teaches boating safety and courtesy, is a natural complement to the riverfront festival.



BUD KNAPP, chairman of the Calabash Town Festival Committee, takes visitors on a tour of the Calabash River. In the background is Paul Walker, who is assisting Knapp with the planning.

## Schools Get New Assistant Principals

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who have worked toward administrative positions," she said of the teachers and coordinator who were moved into these roles. "We believe they deserved this opportunity."

"Also, in some cases there was a person who was strong in a particular area that we felt would help a particular school. Then, too, we thought about the strengths of certain principal-assistant teams working together." She said no principals would be moving.

In other action Thursday, the board approved the transfer of Deborah Lemon, an AG/math teacher at Supply Elementary, back to Shallotte Middle. She had been moved to Supply, but the final re-drawing of lines decreased enrollment at Supply, while boosting it at Shallotte Middle, thereby affecting the teacher requirements.

When the meeting adjourned, the board set its next regular session on July 13, a week later than the usual date because of the July 4 holiday.

## Norris Is New Town Clerk

Luellen Norris, a former Varnamtown alderman, has been selected to succeed Paul Vealey as town clerk and finance officer.



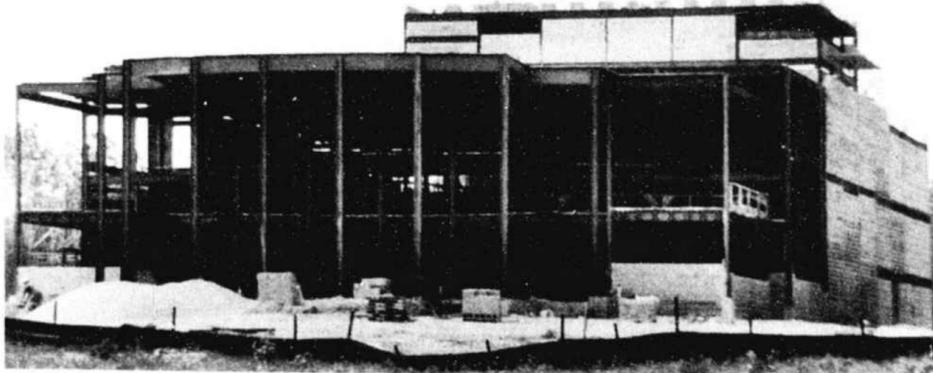
NORRIS

over a big job, but I'm sure she can do it," Mayor Judy Galloway said at Monday night's meeting.

Vealey, who has served as town clerk since shortly after the community incorporated in September 1988, had planned to retire three months ago.

The board voted in February to hire Edward McLelland as the new clerk, but he decided later he couldn't serve due to the responsibilities of the job.

The budget for the coming year provides approximately \$250 per month for the clerk's post.



THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR for BCC's Odell Williamson Auditorium is asking for a 2 1/2-month extension, but college officials say they need a better reason than they've heard so far to grant more time. The current schedule calls for completion of the auditorium by late October. There was little activity on the job site Monday afternoon.

## Varnamtown Bumps Tax Rate To 5 Cents

BY DOUG RUTTER

Varnamtown officials approved a budget Monday featuring the first tax rate increase in the town's short history and decided to do more to collect overdue taxes.

The 1992-93 budget was balanced using a tax rate of 5 cents per \$100 of property, which means the owner of a \$50,000 house will pay \$25.

The tax rate had been 4 1/2 cents since the town incorporated in 1988 and is still one of the lowest municipal rates in Brunswick County.

The new budget, which takes effect July 1 and features \$84,000 in revenues and expenses. The town expects to collect \$4,347 in taxes.

Other major sources of income expected in the upcoming fiscal year are \$38,000 in sales tax from the state and \$35,273 from the town reserve fund.

Some of the larger expenses planned next year include \$10,810 to help pay for the Bobby Caison property on Sabbath Home Road.

Aldermen voted Monday to take \$11,073 from the current-year reserve fund to make a \$10,000 down payment and cover closing and survey costs.

Varnamtown plans to close on the 2.83 acres before the end of the month and will pay \$40,000 in all. The board wants the land for a future park.

Other expenses in the 1992-93 budget include \$7,600 for street lights and \$7,500 for town hall building and grounds improvements.

The town plans to give \$2,500 to Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department

and \$1,600 to Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad. The clerk's salary is \$3,000.

Varnamtown also plans to keep \$34,640 in its unappropriated reserve fund for use in the future.

Nobody spoke during a public hearing on the budget Monday. The only change aldermen made from their proposal was taking \$600 designated for membership of the Cape Fear Council of Governments and putting it in the debt service fund instead.

In other budget-related matters Monday night, aldermen approved the transfer of \$4,800 from reserve to building and grounds.

The money will be used to pay for a bulkhead that was recently built across the back of the town hall property to control erosion.

### Time To Pay Up

Keeping a promise they made a month ago, board members also voted Monday to advertise the names of people who owe taxes from 1989, 1990 or 1991.

There are 35 property owners who owe the town taxes and interest totaling \$795. The collection rate this year was only 88 percent.

This is the first time Varnamtown has advertised its overdue taxes. In the past, board members have personally contacted residents in an attempt to collect the money.

Alderman Will Mumford said the Brunswick County Tax Department, which collects taxes for the town, has sent out three notices for 1991 taxes that were due in January.

### Zoning Needed?

Varnamtown's planning committee expects to discuss zoning when it meets today (Thursday) at 1 p.m. at the town hall.

Alderman Ada McDonald, who chairs the committee, said the board will talk primarily about mobile homes.

At Monday night's meeting, Mayor Pro tem Ennis Swain urged the committee to develop minimum requirements for mobile and manufactured homes.

"There's some concern in the area that some pretty shabby stuff will come in," Swain said.

The town presently doesn't have any employees who could enforce zoning regulations. Officials don't think county building inspectors would enforce town rules.

The five-member planning committee also will meet Wednesday, July 8, at 1 p.m. in the town hall to talk about zoning.

### Project Supported

The town board of aldermen will send a letter to the Corps of Engineers district office in Wilmington supporting removal of a large shoal in Lockwood Folly River.

Swain said the sandy shoal is located about one-half mile upstream from the town and cuts off access to boaters seeking refuge from storms and slows water flow in the river.

"I think we should push for some results," he said. "Whether we achieve it or not we must be optimistic."

## College Hoping For Road Compromise With DOT

It's been said, "Never look a gift horse in the mouth," but Brunswick Community College is doing just that.

College officials are taking a second look at an offer from the State of North Carolina to pave a road from the U.S. 17 bypass into the campus.

BCC had asked the N.C. Department of Transportation last year to consider an access to the college off the U.S. 17 bypass of Bolivia. The college fully expected to have to build the access road at its own expense.

Last Wednesday, consulting architect Ken Phelps of Boney Associates of Wilmington told college trustees the good news, and more: The state has approved the access and plans to pave an access road—but not the road the college planned to build.

A draft of the new BCC master plan created by the firm shows a gently curving road leading from the bypass into the heart of the campus, with future buildings tucked into the curves in an aesthetically pleasing arrangement.

However, DOT plans to pave a 2,250-foot former logging road as a connector from existing U.S. 17 to the bypass, taking less than the usual 60-foot-wide easement. The old road, part of which now serves as access to the auditorium construction project, cuts across BCC's property in a narrow, straight line about 420 feet from the southern-most property line, indicated Phelps.

While the master plan can be redesigned to accommodate the route, Phelps recommended against it.

So did Chairman David Kelly, noting it would cut the BCC property into three parcels, making it even

more difficult to develop as a campus. The bypass itself divided the original tract into two parcels.

Phelps said any attempt to get DOT to change its route needed to be done right away, because the construction crew was on site.

While taking no formal action, trustees reached a consensus Wednesday that Phelps should investigate the college's options with DOT, to see if a compromise is possible.

Trustee Jerry Munn urged pursuit of the desired changes, saying, "I think we're underestimating DOT." Said Phelps in his conclusion, "The worst that could happen is that we end up with a straight road through the campus."

While recognizing that the DOT plan would save money, members expressed concern about having a main road through campus that connects two other public roads and is not a campus street in the traditional sense, that is, designed with pedestrians in mind with speed bumps and a lower speed limit.

Better options include persuading DOT to agree to build and pave the curved road, which would be more costly, or to take the money it would have spent on the straight road and apply it to the cost of the preferred road.

"Any distance they came would be more than we thought they would do," noted Kelly.

While the construction crew is on site, Phelps will also ask DOT to cut through the control for access on the north side of the new road as well as the south, to accommodate future development of the rest of the campus.

Turn lanes for both campuses are in the DOT plans, but not the cut-through.

## AREA ENDURES STORM

### Cool, Wet Weather Continues

It looks like another week of cool, wet weather for the Shallotte area, which endured one of its most severe thunderstorms of the year Sunday.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady expects cooler than normal temperatures and above average rainfall over the next several days.

Temperatures should range from the mid-80s during the day to mid-60s at night, with at least one inch of rainfall.

"It looks like a continuation of the same pattern with no foreseeable change in the next week to 10 days," Canady said Tuesday.

For the period June 16-22, he recorded 1.07 inches of rain and a daily average temperature of 74 degrees, which was about 3 degrees below normal.

The maximum high for the period was 90 degrees June 21, and the minimum low was 60 degrees on the 18th.

Canady said the daily average high was 89 degrees and the average nightly low was 65 degrees.

Other than more damage at area farms, the county reportedly had no major problems caused by a lightning and hail storm Sunday night.

Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan said he didn't know of any storm-related property damage.

"I think we were pretty fortunate with all the lightning we had not to have any serious problems," he said Monday.

Lightning strikes caused scattered power outages throughout the Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. service area, said spokesman Phil Morgan.

A circuit blew out at the Supply substation, temporarily cutting off electricity to the Royal Oak community. Other areas that lost power during the storm included Longwood and Ash.

"We didn't have any major problems, more or less inconveniences from the lightning," Morgan said.

However, the storm was yet another blow to area farmers who have suffered great losses this spring due to excessive amounts of rainfall.

"Probably a good hail storm is not the best thing in the world at this point," Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Director Milton Coleman said facetiously.

Coleman said he knew of some damage to tobacco fields and other crops, but he wasn't sure of the extent of the damage as of Tuesday afternoon.

"I know there was some damage sustained and some fairly substantial," he said. "When I say substantial I'm talking up to 90 percent damaged."

## Planning Board Takes Heat

(Continued From Page 1-A)

tended as a way to increase the standard of living for county residents.

"We know that everybody in Brunswick County can't afford to pay \$75 to play golf," Barbee said. "But if all we have are people working in T-shirt shops making \$4.50 an hour, they won't be able to pull themselves up by the bootstraps. They won't even have boots."

The new land use plan encourages the development of industry throughout the county, provided such development "is compatible with surrounding land uses and that potential environmental impacts can be effectively mitigated."

At the same time, it notes that "the educational system remains poor, causing local area workers to have a difficult time competing for job openings." As a result, there is concern that new industries will bring employees from outside the area.

For the first time in any local land use plan update, three policy

statements are included calling for Brunswick County to improve its educational system, which it recognizes as a "critical factor" in future economic development.

Tom Pope commended the plan for its emphasis on education, saying it was "a very serious problem that we need to aggressively get behind."

Planning Board Chairman Mich-

ael Schaub suggested that audience members take home a copy of the complete policy draft and invited them to return to the board's next regular meeting July 15 to discuss it.

In other business the board approved a minor plat for a four-lot addition to the Breezewoods II subdivision on Seaside Road (S.R. 1162) near Sunset Beach.

Breezewoods developer Wilbur McLamb requested a modification to the subdivision ordinance requirement for a minimum lot width of 60 feet. Three of the lots are 55 feet wide, while the fourth is 50 feet wide. Three of the lots already have septic tank permits.

The board agreed to approve the plat on the condition that it include a statement that one of the lots may not be suitable for human habitation.

The planning board will take part in a special joint meeting with the county board of commissioners Monday, July 6, at 4 p.m. to discuss the proposed county zoning ordinance.

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