

# Seaside Residents At Meeting Voice Support For Incorporation

**BY SUSAN USHER**

A group of Seaside area residents will continue their move toward incorporation after receiving an overall positive response at a meeting of about 60 local property owners last Thursday night.

Another general meeting is set Thursday, July 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Coastal Auction building on N.C. 179, with Rep. E. David Redwine expected to attend and answer questions.

Steering committee Chairman Gary Hendrix and member Joe Huber fielded questions at last week's meeting and offered additional details about plans for the proposed village.

While several abstained from a show-of-hands vote, saying they needed more information, most of those present said they favored the incorporation effort.

Ronder W. Barbee of Schooner's Pointe moved to Brunswick County March 1 from Mecklenburg County. The retiree made an impassioned plea for the community to support the move to incorporate the community, one of the oldest along the coast.

"If you people don't take what you've got now, you're going to lose the whole ball of wax. If you want for the other towns to act, then you have to do what they want. You have a chance to do for yourselves now.

If you don't, someone else is going to tell you what to do. It's a unique opportunity you have here."

Barbee said later that he had just completed a tour of 20 states, seeing some small communities that were dying and others that were on the rise. Many of the latter were capitalizing on their past, bringing history to life. "It's a unique situation here and we're just letting it go by," he

concluded, referring to numerous questions about details of the proposed town's operation.

Lee Herring of Elizabethtown and Marlee Acres was the only person present to take a position against incorporation, questioning what would be lost by failure to incorporate and what would be gained by doing so.

"Other than historical value, what are we going to lose if we are annexed?" he asked. "If there is historic value, what would we be doing to enhance it?"

"What it is going to be like, what you do (as a town) will be up to you," responded Huber.

Catherine Milazzo of Seaside Heights, undecided on the issue, said she isn't sure if incorporation were the answer, but that the people in the community need to work together better than they have in the past.

Citing instances where the community didn't fight decisions affecting it, such as new postal addresses and water assessment, she said, "We've got to really stand firm and tell people we're not a stepsister to Ocean Isle Beach or Sunset Beach."

The stated reason for the proposed incorporation of Seaside community is to preserve the community's name and heritage as a former fishing and trading center.

"There is historical value," said Huber. "We are not a beach community, we are not a golf community. Our needs are different."

"We're trying to make it a community of Seaside in reality as well as in name. We want to preserve the flavor we've got."



MILAZZO

At one time a turpentine distillery, post office, cotton gin, pulpwood dock, warehouse and other businesses were clustered at or near Seaside Landing at the foot of the N.C. 904 extension, according to information provided by Horace Floyd.

The border of the proposed town would roughly follow those of the area served by Seaside in its heyday, running from the the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway at the foot of the N.C. 904 extension at Seaside intersection north to the south side of Dale Drive, then generally east to Kennedy Drive and south to the waterway.

Steering committee member Huber, a former member of the Matthews (Mecklenburg County) Planning Board, said the town would have a tax base of roughly \$20 million, with a projected tax rate of 5 cents to 5.5 cents per \$100 valuation, and a rate cap of 10 cents set by charter and changed only by popular vote. The committee anticipates that property tax revenues would be the town's smallest source of revenue, with other sources including Powell Bill road money and sales tax revenues.

"We would maintain a very basic community," said Huber, using a modified mayor/town council format with provision of services, and all major expenditures and business determined by popular vote at town meetings. The town would contract with Sunset Beach Volunteer Fire Department for firefighting services; the entire proposed municipality lies within that district. "We're going to support them better than we ever have," he said.

Hendrix said he is exploring use of a village constable to supplement existing law enforcement provided by the sheriff's department; the



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

LOOKING OVER A MAP of the area proposed for the new municipality are (from left) Edward Bryan, steering committee member Malcolm Long and Ben Bryan.

area's crime rate was a concern mentioned at last week's meeting.

He said he didn't foresee sewer service for the community in the near future but told questioner Lee Herring that the community might have the option of participating in a regional system five to 10 years from now. Herring was the only person at the meeting to publicly voice opposition to the proposed incorporation.

"At this point I can't see being able to justify it," he said. "But if we

don't incorporate we won't have a choice. We'll be told what to do."

Huber said the establishment of extraterritorial jurisdiction does not conflict with incorporation of the town, but that annexations by the town could affect the area included in the town of Seaside.

"There's nothing we can do about that," he said. "We're limited by time."

However, he said it is important for Seaside to establish a "good working relationship" with the neighboring towns of Ocean Isle

Beach and Sunset Beach.

The soonest Seaside could be incorporated is sometime after the General Assembly convenes for the 1993 session. Incorporation would require not only approval of the General Assembly but of the registered voters of the proposed town as well.

Promoters of the incorporation efforts also plan to poll non-resident property owners, who would be eligible to submit proposals to the proposed town government, but would not be eligible to vote.

# Library Board Plans To Move Quickly

**BY ERIC CARLSON**

The fledgling Brunswick County Library Board of Trustees held its first meeting Thursday armed with \$1.5 million in tax money and a shopping list of new buildings, renovations, personnel, computer systems and books.

Unity was the watchword as members pledged to set aside regional rivalries, to forget past conflicts and to create a library system with four equal but unique branches.

The library officially became a county department July 1 with a \$1.5 million budget to fund new branches at Leland and Oak Island and to renovate the Shallotte and Southport branches.

"We have four children and we want to clothe them all correctly and feed them all alike," said trustee Gene Pinkerton, the county commissioner who last month recommended that the county dip into its reserve funds to upgrade the library system.

Moving quickly on a number of fronts, the trustees:

- Named Pinkerton, an at-large member from Southport, chairman of the library board. District 2 representative Marie Harrison of Shallotte was appointed vice-chairman. Library Director Maurice (Reecie) Taylor, who is not a member, will serve as secretary to the board.
- Set their regular meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Emergency Services Center at the county complex in Bolivia. The first meeting of the month will begin at 3:30 p.m. The second will be at 7 p.m. The board's next meeting will be July 27.
- Asked Tate to recommend a new schedule for the library to include evening and Sunday hours. The board discussed using part-time temporary employees to extend the schedule as soon as possible.
- Agreed to move quickly to be-



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

CHARTER MEMBERS of the newly formed Brunswick County Library Board of Trustees meet for the first time at the county complex in Bolivia. Attending were (clockwise from left) members Don Eggert and Ralph Frazier, Library Director Maurice Tate, members Marie Harrison, Edith Tillman, Pearl Stanley, Gene Pinkerton and Margaret Harper. Members not attending were Anne Hines and John Jacobs.

gin the building and renovation program, with the selection of an architect as a first step. The board will seek proposals from firms experienced in library design.

There was a proposal from Harrison that the board hold its meetings at one of the library branches, but several members strongly disagreed. Pinkerton said a central meeting site would be an important symbol that the library is now a county operation.

"Everyone has to realize that someone else has bought the company," he said.

District 1 member Don Eggert agreed, saying the board needs to "seize the moment" and demonstrate to county residents that "a new day has dawned" for the library system.

"We don't want to throw the baby out with the bath water, but we also want to make sure we're not grinding with the same old stone," Eggert said.

The trustees chose to set both day and night meetings to allow greater public access to the library board.

Both Eggert and District 5 representative Edith Tillman spoke strongly in favor of quickly extend-

ing the library's opening hours. Tillman said the libraries were underutilized because of the schedule. She said the lack of evening hours prevented children from using the library.

Pinkerton agreed, saying an extended schedule was one of the first priorities set by the board of commissioners for the new library system.

At-large member Margaret Harper of Southport was the first to be nominated as vice-chairman, but she asked to be removed from consideration.

"I would rather see someone from out in the county nominated," Harper said. "In the past there has been a misperception that Southport was trying to run the system, and I want that behind us."

During a discussion of the building program, Pinkerton stressed that the selection of an architect would be one of the most important decisions the board would make. He said firms from across the state had expressed interest in the project.

As an example, Pinkerton presented materials from architect John Sawyer of Wilmington, who has designed numerous libraries in the area, including the Myrtle Grove branch of the New Hanover Library System and Pender County branches in Burgaw and Hampstead.

Pinkerton said his discussions with architects indicated that the county could build a "first class" system for the amount of money allocated for building and renovation.

The budget earmarks \$400,000 for each of the new branches and \$125,000 to upgrade the Shallotte and Southport branches.

Tillman said preliminary architectural work for the Leland branch already had been done and was concerned that the effort would be wasted. She doubted, however, that the architect would want to take on the complete four-branch building and renovation project.

Noting that the county budget provided for a bigger branch at Leland, it was suggested that the old plans be incorporated into whatever design was selected for the branch. Pinkerton said he assumed that the four branches would not be alike, with each designed to suit the needs of their community.

Tate said that a previously approved \$50,000 state grant for construction of the Leland branch still would be available despite any changes in the submitted plans.

In a discussion of computerizing the library's book files, Tate cautioned that the process would take at least a year to complete. She said the board needed to be sure to purchase computers and software compatible with the state library system.

Saying he would like to "see them start building the foundations tomorrow," Pinkerton urged the board to come to the next meeting with ideas for the new library buildings and to be prepared to consider selecting an architect for the project as soon as possible.

# Weather's Normal Again: Hot

Local weather conditions are back to normal and it looks like they may stay that way for a while.

Local meteorologist Jackson Canady said the outlook for the upcoming week is for temperatures to range from around 70 degrees at night to near 90 degrees during the daytime, with about three-quarters inch of rainfall.

"At least for present time we've gotten into a more normal weather pattern," he said, "and it looks like it will continue for the immediate future, anyway."

For the period June 30 through July 6, he recorded a maximum high of 92 degrees on June 5. He recorded the minimum nightly low of 70 degrees on June 30.

A daily average high of 90 degrees combined with a nightly average low of 73 degrees for a daily average temperature of 81 degrees, about two degrees above average.

He measured only one-third inch of rain at his Shallotte Point residence.

# Police Rule Three Deaths Suicides, One Attempted

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Sunday afternoon at 4:31, deputies responding to a 911 call found Daniels' body outside a residence on Marlowtown Road. They found a .38-caliber revolver nearby, Perry said.

An autopsy determined that the wound was self-inflicted, however an investigation is continuing. Perry said police are interviewing a witness to the shooting.

The sheriff's department Monday completed its investigation into the death of George Franklin Blizzard, 50, of Leland who apparently jumped off the Cape Fear River Bridge Wednesday afternoon, July 1.

According to the autopsy, Blizzard died of drowning. His blood alcohol content was .17, police said.

At about 3 p.m. Wednesday, workers on a barge off Eagle's Island spotted Blizzard's body floating about 100 yards from the bridge near the Battleship North Carolina.

The body was retrieved, but no identification was found.

The body was taken to The Brunswick Hospital, where Deputy Charles Miller removed a Leland High School ring from the class of 1960, bearing the initials G.F.B. This and other evidence helped police identify the body.

Blizzard was a retired engineer who was living with his mother in Leland, Miller said. The mother said her son had been despondent for some time and had left home Wednesday morning to go to Wilmington.

A vehicle later identified as Blizzard's was found beside U.S. 74-76 at the base of the bridge, Miller reported.

"A subject was interviewed who spoke to a man walking on the bridge who we feel was the victim," Perry said. "The driver asked if he could be of assistance and the man said no."

Maps list the clearance of the Cape Fear River Bridge as 65 feet.

# Land Plan Author Explains Wording, Offers To Revise

(Continued From Page 1-A)

work of making the tourist industry work for the people we already have," Harbeck said.

After the commissioners adjourned, Patty Young, a candidate for county commissioner and a mobile home owner from Winnabow who criticized the land use plan at the planning board meeting, said she was less than satisfied with Harbeck's explanation.

"I don't think he changed his mind," Young said. "He was more sorry about it being published than about saying it."

In other business the board:

- Met with the planning board to hear a formal presentation of the draft county zoning ordinance from County Planner John Harvey. The plan proposes eight zoning districts outlining how land can be used in the unincorporated areas of the county. Copies of the draft plan are available for review at the planning department. The proposed ordinance is expected to be a topic of discussion at the planning board's next meeting Wednesday, July 15.
- Heard a brief year-end report from Tax Collector Nancy Moore, who recorded a 1991 collection rate of 94.15 percent, down .91 percent from last year. Moore blamed the decline on a lower collection rate for taxes on vehicles. The board voted to appoint Moore to a second term.
- Reappointed Chuck Lanier of Mill Creek to the Brunswick County Community College Board of Trustees.

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