

# Ocean Isle Board Sets Hearing On Proposed Parking Lot Switch

BY LYNN CARLSON

The Ocean Isle Beach Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing next month on a request by Ocean Isle Partners to relocate a public parking lot the developers dedicated to the town as a courtesy.

The partners—developers of the new Ross, Crouse and Summerplace subdivisions—on April 13 asked to change their original plans for a parking lot on West First Street between Shelby Street and Duneside Drive, in the oceanfront Ross subdivision.

Instead, they offered to provide public parking on two 25-by-100-foot streetside strips about a half-block farther back from the ocean in the Summerplace subdivision.

Summerplace lies between the Ross subdivision and the soundside Crouse development. Partners in the three projects are Phil Holcomb, Stuart Cooke and John Sutton.

The commissioners and town attorney in April expressed concerns about allowing the partners to make the change, which would require rescinding the town's rights to the tract and returning it to the developers.

The town's current subdivision

ordinance does not require public parking in new subdivisions, but the partners agreed to set aside property for parking after being requested to do so by town officials. They later asked to move the parking area to the less valuable tract in Summerplace.

A resolution prepared by Town Attorney Elva Jess and approved unanimously Tuesday by the town board, sets a public hearing on the issue at 8:45 a.m. Tuesday, June 8.

The commissioners' resolution would take no action other than to "close and release any interest in" the original parking lot and replace it with the two parking areas in Summerplace. However, the board indicated it will require a 99-year lease of the new parking area, instead of a dedication.

Commissioner Debbie Fox asked the partners to send registered letters to everyone who has bought property in the new subdivision informing them of the plan. The board did not vote on the suggestion.

Cooke asked the board act quickly on building an overwalk on an eight-foot public beach accessway serving the subdivisions.

In other business, the board:

■Approved two subdivisions proposals, one by the Odell and Virginia Williamson Irrevocable Trust and the other, an addition to Shady Oaks.

The Williamson subdivision includes 13 18,000-square-foot oceanfront and soundfront lots on the extreme west end of the island.

The Shady Oaks addition is in the extraterritorial zone adjacent to Laketree Shores. Developer James Rush plans to add residential and commercial lots.

■Reconvened to a budget workshop set for May 25 at 8:30 a.m. in the town hall.

■Agreed to seek federal reimbursement for damages incurred in the March 13 storm, since Brunswick County was included in a presidential disaster declaration two weeks ago.

Building Inspector Druid Roberson said oceanfront property owners who have not installed any sandbags may be eligible for help with berm replacement. "For some reason, if you help yourself, they won't give you any more assistance," Roberson said.

Commissioner Kendall Suh

quipped, "God helps those who helps themselves. The government does not."

■Honored Police Chief Curtiss Pritchard with a five-year service pin. Mayor Betty Williamson praised the chief for "loyalty, dedication, hard work and his effort toward making our police department the best."

■Turned over to the planning board a proposal by Roberson to amend the town zoning ordinance to allow outdoor portions of air conditioning, ventilation and heating systems to be placed in the rear yards of dwellings and to require the units to be above the flood level established by the federal flood insurance program.

Roberson said the change will help the town comply with its repetitive flood loss plan, which lowers federal flood insurance premiums for Ocean Isle Beach property owners.

■Reappointed Martha Benton, Pat McClure and Tom Woodson to the town's elections board.

■Agreed to seek a \$15,000 grant from the N.C. Office of Waste Reduction.

## SONS WERE ASLEEP ON NEARBY COUCH

### Burglar Steals Calabash Man's Microwave

A burglar entered a man's home in Calabash last Wednesday night (May 5) and stole a microwave oven while his sons were asleep on a nearby couch, according to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department Monday.

The owner told Deputy Robert Long that he had left the door to his home on McLamb Road unlocked when the thief came in some time between 1 a.m. and 4:30 a.m.

The microwave oven, which was located in the kitchen area, was valued at about \$700.

In other crime reports on file at the sheriff's office Monday:

■More than \$3,000 worth of jewelry and old coins were reported stolen from a trailer in Old Mill mobile home park, Leland, early Saturday morning. The victim told Deputy William Hewitt that a male friend of her daughter's entered her home shortly after midnight and left a short time later at her request. At about 9 a.m., the woman noticed that a diamond ring, an emerald ring, other pieces of jewelry, miscellaneous papers, a bottle of pain medication and some old coins were missing.

■Someone stole two chain saws from a shed behind a home on Amos Road, off Bricklanding Road, sometime in the past few weeks. The

## CRIME REPORT

owner told Deputy Randy Robinson that he discovered the theft Saturday evening. The saws were valued at about \$600.

■About \$420 worth of car stereo equipment was stolen from a 1984 Toyota Camry parked at a home on Holden Beach Road Saturday night. The owner told Deputy Cathy Hamilton that the car was locked and secure when he went inside his home at about midnight. The next morning he discovered that someone had broken the trunk lock and removed his stereo speakers and amplifier.

■A West Brunswick High School student reported that someone stole the bed liner from his 1989 Mazda pickup truck while it was parked in the school parking lot Wednesday afternoon. The boy told Deputy Shelton Caison that the theft occurred sometime between 1:30 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.

■Two hitchhikers reportedly stole a .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol from the seat of a truck in which they were given a ride on N.C. 211 near St. James Plantation last Monday night (May 3). The victim reported the theft Wednesday morning. The gun was valued at about

\$100.

■A .22-caliber survival rifle and a .22-caliber revolver were stolen from a home on Maco Road, Leland, last week. According to Hewitt's report, the victim said there were no signs of forced entry to his home. The stolen guns were valued at \$400.

■Someone broke in through the back door of a mobile home on Green Loop Road and stole a video-cassette recorder, a 35mm camera and several pieces of jewelry last weekend, Deputy Brian Sanders reported. The owner said she had been working out of town and returned Sunday to discover the break-in. Sanders estimated the value of stolen goods at \$850.

■About \$400 worth of fishing tackle was stolen from the garage of a home on N.C. 133 sometime between Wednesday and Saturday of last week. The owner told Deputy Michael Weldrick that he was missing a tackle box, two rods and a reel.

■A thief or thieves crawled in the bedroom window of a trailer in the Boardwalk Mobile Home Park in Southport and stole a video cassette recorder Friday night. The victim told Hewitt that she had left the back door unlocked. He valued the VCR at about \$250.

■Someone stole a chain saw from an unlocked shed at a home on Old

Town Creek Road, Leland, some time in the past two months. Detective Steve Mason estimated its value at \$250.

■Deputy Mark Snowden was called to investigate the discovery of a go-cart found abandoned on Green Loop Road, Leland, Monday morning. A passer-by reported seeing several young men around the vehicle fleeing the area in a maroon station wagon. The owner said the thieves probably were unable to get the go-cart started due to a malfunctioning carburetor.

■A Holden Beach man caught one of three juveniles who had ridden recreational vehicles through his garden Saturday, uprooting his corn, beans and watermelon plants. The homeowner detained the young man, who identified the two other boys. According to the report filed by Deputy Marshal Evans Jr., the father of the captured youth "has spoken with (the owner) to make arrangements for his son's portion of the damages."

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## Homeward Bound

A familiar sight these days on the intracoastal waterway are vessels making the annual spring trip from Florida back home to northern ports. The Sea Cue, above, was photographed recently between Ocean Isle and Holden Beach.

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## Drivers Charged Following Two One-Vehicle Accidents

Several injuries were reported and two drivers charged in one-vehicle accidents last week, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol office in Wilmington.

On Thursday, May 6, at 11:05 p.m., Michael Alan Lane, 22, of Leland, was traveling west on Mt. Misery Road (S.R. 1426) about 6.6 miles west of Leland at an excessive rate of speed, reported Trooper B.C. Jones.

His 1983 Honda motorcycle ran off the pavement on the right side of the road and Lane lost control of the vehicle. It ran into the ditch and struck a driveway culvert. Both Lane and his passenger, Shelley Lynn Bennett, 22, of Wilmington, were thrown from the Honda.

Lane had complaints of injury and Bennett received serious but non-incapacitating injuries. They were transported to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington.

Damages to the Honda were estimated at \$3,000.

Jones charged Lane with exceeding a safe speed, no registration and no insurance.

A driver involved in a single-vehicle accident Friday, May 7, at 5:45 a.m. said he didn't see a stop sign because of heavy fog.

Terry McCoy Stone Jr., 41, of Bolivia, was driving a 1988 GMC van east on Green Lewis Road (S.R. 1512) in heavy fog, about 4.3 miles west of Bolivia.

According to the report filed by Trooper T.W. Caulder, Stone failed to stop at a stop sign and ran off the road straight ahead into a large ditch, striking several trees before coming to rest in the ditch.

Stone was charged with a stop sign violation.

He had complaints of injury, but did not receive medical treatment. Damages to the van were estimated at \$5,000.



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