

# It Keeps Going And Going And...

BY DEBBIE RUPP

Vice-President For Organizational Development  
South Brunswick Islands Chamber Of Commerce

As I write this article it is just before daybreak on day one of the 1994 King Classic King Mackerel tournament. With more than 130 boats and nearly perfect weather predicted, we are looking forward to an exciting and fun-filled tournament. No time to relax after it is over however. The staff and various volunteer committees never seem to rest and have a full slate for the remainder of the year that just keeps going and going and going....

A friend asked me the other day what their business gets by investing in the Chamber of Commerce. I'm always surprised by a question like that because when you are knee deep in chamber activities, it seems so obvious. But it's certainly a valid question that I'll answer with just some of the activities that are currently under way.

Special events like the King Classic tournament and the upcoming N.C. Oyster Festival are designed and timed to attract businesses and visitors from outside our local area to bring additional revenues into the community and extend the busy season beyond Labor Day weekend.

Through the efforts of our Tourism Committee with publication of the Visitors and Business Information Guide, national advertising in Southern Living and AAA magazines and participation in Brunswick County Travel Pack, the South Brunswick Islands are promoted and attract new business, tourists, retirees and young families. The chamber receives an average of 2,000 inquiries each month requesting information on our area and distributes more than 60,000 information packets each year. Every dollar spent by a visitor or new resident translates into increased revenues and employment for the people who live and work in the South Brunswick Islands.

The Business Development Committee coordinates the quarterly business breakfasts that feature guest speakers who focus on issues affecting our local businesses. The next breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 27, with Fred Jans Jr., director of the Small Business and Technology Development Center at UNCW. The topic is small business finance and other issues facing small businesses today.

In addition to its work with the Committee of 100, which promotes the development of new industry in Brunswick County, the Business Development Committee is also making plans for the 1994 Hometown Holidays promotion. The primary focus of this event is to promote local businesses and keep our holiday spending dollars within the area.

The Community Development Committee covers a wide range of issues including government, health care, education and small business recognition. Some of the actions they are currently planning include a legislative forum to be held Nov. 17 with elected officials meeting with chamber members to discuss legislation that affects our business and community, publication of an emergency medical insert for the 1995 Visitors and Business Information Guide, and Career Day for local middle and high schools.

The list goes on with each activity on it intended to promote the economic and civic progress of the South Brunswick Islands. But not one of these activities is possible without the financial and physical support of this community. Through your annual investment and volunteers our battery gets recharged and we can keep going and going and going.



RUPP

## Seminars Focus On Varied Needs Of Small Businesses

A computer operating system and a popular software package, construction bid procedures and income tax filing are topics of four upcoming seminars sponsored by the Brunswick Community College Small Business Center.

All the seminars will be held on BCC's main campus north of Supply. They are offered at no charge to participants, though pre-registration is recommended by calling the college at 754-6900, 343-0203 or 457-6329.

The sessions are as follows:

**MS-DOS/WINDOWS:** This Saturday, Sept. 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., presenter Peter Lee will give an overview of the MS-DOS/WINDOWS disk operating system software. He will show how it works and explain the uses of main features such as the program, file and print managers.

**Construction Industry Update:** Presenter Andy Anderson will encourage participants' questions during his Tuesday, Sept. 27, update on construction concerns, a program aimed at building business owners and managers. During the 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. session, he will discuss bidding practices and requirements, collection deadlines for public-funded projects, lien and bond laws, and other recent legislative and judicial decisions that involve the construction industry.

**Electronic Tax Filing:** Income tax electronic filing will be the topic of a Small Business Center seminar Thursday, Sept. 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the IRS and N.C. Department of Revenue. Participants will learn about the IRS Electronic Filing Program.

**Which Word Perfect?** On Saturday, Oct. 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., presenter Peter Lee will compare the basic features of Word Perfect 6.0 and Word Perfect 5.1 and help participants make a decision about which is the right version for their use.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

### Realtors Present Check

Peggy Stanley (left), president-elect of the Brunswick Islands Board of Realtors, presents a check Monday for \$18,268 to Doreen Alloway, chairperson of Brunswick County Habitat For Humanity. The check represents the cash raised during the board's recent "No More Shacks" benefit for Habitat, along with land and in-kind services that bring their total contribution to improving housing in Brunswick County to approximately \$35,000. The local Habitat group is preparing to build its first home in Brunswick County.

## Pesticide Use Survey To Include Local Farmers

Livingston Roberts of Bladenboro will be contacting some Brunswick County vegetable producers over the next several weeks to gather information about their use of pesticides and commercial fertilizers.

The Agricultural Statistics Division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture will conduct the survey in October and November.

Interviewers will contact vegetable growers in 14 states that account for 80 to 85 percent of the nation's vegetable production; information will be collected on 30 vegetable crops, ranging from asparagus to watermelons.

Growers selected to participate will be notified by letter. A typical interview lasts about an hour.

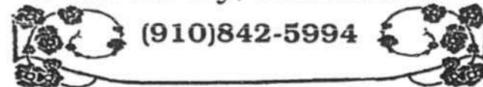
Information about individual grower operations will be treated with "absolute confidentiality," according to a news release from the

Agriculture Statistics Division. State and national estimates will be published on vegetable growers' use of agricultural chemicals in June 1995.

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### BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Thomas Named Advertising Director

Morrey Thomas has joined *The Brunswick Beacon* staff as advertising director, it was announced by Edward M. and Carolyn H. Sweatt, publisher.

Thomas, 39, is a North Myrtle Beach resident who previously was employed by the *Sun-News* of Myrtle Beach. He has 10 years' advertising experience and has also worked for his father, publisher of the *Darlington News and Press*.

He earned a bachelor's degree in education from Southern Illinois University and did graduate work at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. He served 9 years in the Navy as an officer on nuclear submarines.

His wife Melissa is a first-grade teacher at North Myrtle Beach Primary School.

Carolyn Sweatt, who previously was the advertising director as well as co-publisher, will continue in her role as publisher.

"Neither of us is retiring," explained Edward Sweatt, who earlier this month gave up his job as editor to his daughter, Lynn S. Carlson.

The newspaper's growth in recent years has greatly expanded the duties of the publishers of the locally-owned newspaper, Sweatt said.

### New At CP&L

Jackie Gawron has joined Carolina Power and Light Company's Brunswick Nuclear Plant as manager of Environmental and Radiation Control.

Before coming to Brunswick, Gawron worked for the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, where she was a radiation protection evaluator and assistant team manager. Her work took her across the U.S. and throughout the world, evaluating nuclear power plants for safety, reliability and efficiency.

Gawron, a native of Saginaw, Mich., began her career in the nuclear industry with Michigan's Consumers Power Co. Before that, she has worked for Dow Chemical. She has also worked at Gulf States Utilities' Riverbend Nuclear Station in Louis-

iana. She lives in Southport with her husband Paul and two children.

### Terry Joy, COA

Terry Joy of Shallotte, an employee of Carolina Eye Associates, has successfully completed the examination to become certified as an ophthalmic assistant.

She is now entitled to use the credential COA (certified ophthalmic assistant) following her name. She is among 13 Carolina Eye Associates employees who were awarded the certification from the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology. JCAHPO is the national certifying agency for ophthalmic medical personnel.

### Frink Joins Group

Barry Frink of Coastal Tire Company, Shallotte, recently became a member of the N.C. Retail Merchants Association.

Formed in 1902 to represent retail issues before the N.C. General Assembly, the association has 20,000 store members from all trade divisions of retailing and from all over the state.

### Gets Raleigh Post

David E. Kelly, Carolina Power and Light's director of external rela-

tions for Brunswick County, has been appointed director of external affairs in the Public Affairs Department at CP&L corporate headquarters in Raleigh.

In his new role, Kelly will coordinate development of governmental relations programs through local employee community relations councils across the utility's system in North and South Carolina.

A Brunswick Nuclear Plant community relations council will assume CP&L's public affairs responsibilities in Brunswick County.

Mac S. Harris, manager of site communications for the Brunswick plant, will coordinate council activities as well as Kelly's previous governmental relations responsibilities.

Harris, 51, is a former college teacher, newspaper reporter and manager of CP&L's news bureau. He and his wife, Sharon, are residents of the Carolina Shores community in Calabash. They have two grown children and two grandchildren.



THOMAS



KELLY



GAWRON

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