

## City: Resolving jail issue may take time

By EMILY STRANGER  
The Brunswick News

Brunswick Mayor Bryan Thompson doesn't know if the new county commissioners will vote to move the county jail out of the city when they take office in January. It's not his concern. Their vote is not an issue and never was, he said.

The city simply will not discuss giving the county the portion of I Street it needs for the expansion of the Glynn County Detention Center on Newcastle Street until the new county commission is seated in January.

Three new members will join the board: Bob Coleman, Amy Callaway and Tom Sublett.

The county needs the upper portion of the street, which separates

the present jail from the adjacent block, to expand the facility.

"The city isn't holding this out in hopes that the new commission will vote to move the jail when it is seated," Thomas said. "We essentially wanted to move the city commission from the process because it was a process that we were not comfortable with."

Thompson said Wednesday that the current county commissioners are ignoring the voice of the community.

In July, 70 percent of Republicans and 75 percent of Democrats favored moving the jail from downtown, according to the results of a straw poll in the Republican and Democratic primary ballots.

"The whole time we were trying to put together the Joint Water

and Sewer Commission, where the straw poll showed that 52 percent in the city and 75 percent in the county wanted the commission, all we heard from the county was repeatedly that the straw poll showed that the (Joint Water and Sewer Commission) is what the citizens wanted, and that we should vote for it because that's what we were elected to do," said Thompson. "The straw poll on the jail was obviously ignored."

Thompson said the issue came to a head for the city commission when the county commission put the jail expansion out for bid even before a special master gave permission to condemn the private property needed.

"We felt it was disrespectful to the community as a whole and this city commission did not want

to be a passive partner in the process," he said. "By removing the city... and by not looking at the transfer of the road until the new commission is seated, then we at least have the ability to let the new candidates - who were obviously elected by very wide margins on this jail issue - to at least have a seat at the table when these discussions pick up again."

Jail opponents hope that two of the newly elected county commissioners - Coleman and Callaway - will be successful in reversing the county commission's decision to expand the jail downtown instead of building a new one outside the city when they take office next January.

But it could be a long time before the jail expansion issue is revisited. The county cannot make

plans to expand on the adjacent property until an eminent domain lawsuit is heard by the Georgia Supreme Court. The county is trying to acquire the two remaining pieces of property needed for the expansion, owned by Brunswick businessman Bob Torras Sr., at 1914 Newcastle St. and 406 J St.

A Superior Court judge ruled last month that the county has the right to condemn the property after a special master's ruling.

Brunswick attorney Todd Brooks, who is representing Torras in the lawsuit, has appealed the judge's ruling.

Thompson said it could be months before the case makes its way through the court system.

"Whatever we do is contingent on what the Georgia Supreme Court decides," he said.

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### FAST NEWS

#### Police arrest man who grabbed wife

A Brunswick man was arrested Monday after he grabbed his wife and threw her to the floor of their residence in the 170 block of Godley Road.

The woman told police that her husband grabbed her by both her arms, threw her to the floor and put her in a head lock. Police noted in their report that the man's wife had marks on the right side of her neck and redness on her upper left arm.

#### Ga. Power reports stolen brass

Georgia Power Co. reported the theft Tuesday of brass and copper switch parts from an outside storage shelf in the 170 block of Key Circle Drive.

The complainant, an employee with the company, estimated that items were worth \$500, according to the Glynn County police report released Wednesday.

#### Thieves strike local storage unit

A Brunswick woman reported the theft Tuesday of various items from a storage unit at 117 Center Drive.

She told police that someone stole her storage key and used it to get inside her unit. Taken were a 40-inch TV, a Xbox 360 gaming system, a DVD player and two video games.

The items were valued at \$1,458, according to the Glynn County police report released Wednesday.

#### CORRECTION

**to time**  
An editorial Saturday included incorrect information in regard to the contract between the Jekyll Island Authority and Linger Longer Communities. The contract between the two is for 25 years.



Michael Hall/The Brunswick News

Salvation Army bell ringer Larry Coleman, right, thanks a contributor outside the Winn-Dixie on St. Simons Island on Wednesday.

## Salvation Army looks to boost kettle efforts

By LINDSEY ADKISON  
The Brunswick News

Capt. Glen Queener is hoping for a Christmas miracle this year.

The head of the Brunswick unit of the Salvation Army says the charity's red kettle campaign, traditionally its largest annual fundraiser, is 3 percent behind.

The proceeds are used to buy Christmas gifts for children, as well as food for families in need.

"The kettles have been out since the Friday before Thanksgiving at select locations, so we are about halfway through the season," he said.

"We're still about \$27,000 away from the goal of \$55,000. We raised \$51,000 (last year), which was great. Right now, we have \$29,981."

He attributes the shortage to several factors.

"There is not really a firm explanation of why it's down a bit," he said. "Of course, there is the

#### To volunteer

There is still time to volunteer as a bell ringer.

• For details, call the Salvation Army at 265-9381.

economy, and also we made the decision to not do as many locations."

There are only 13 kettles out this season. They are located at Winn-Dixie stores, Harris Teeter, Wal-Mart, Chik-Fil-A restaurants and Glynn Place Mall.

"If we had put more out, I think we may even be further behind," Queener said. "Sometimes volunteers go to all 13 locations but most days we try to keep at least our top five fundraising sites out. Those are at Wal-Mart and the three (St. Simons) island kettles. We don't have an abundance of bell ringers. We try to limit the number of paid bell ringers."

"If we had more volunteers,

we'd put them all out every day."

The kettles are at locations from noon to 8 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

The campaign will run until Christmas Eve.

Queener plans to step up efforts in the coming weeks.

"We'll keep it up until next week, and we'll be putting out as many as possible," he said. "It's a huge shopping weekend."

"We have 12 days left. But I'm not disappointed or discouraged. We forecasted that we would see a downturn, but I still think we can reach our goal."

The red kettle drive is not the only Salvation Army campaign lagging behind this year. As of Monday, with only four days left to go, there were as many as 225 angels - names of needy children - on the organization's Angel Tree at Glynn Place Mall.

Each angel includes a gift idea for a needy child.

## Group keeps nonprofit event going this year

### First Noel strives to raise funds for 18 organizations

By EMILY STRANGER  
The Brunswick News

Lisa Norton, president of the Citizens for Humane Animal Treatment, says this year's First Noel benefit on St. Simons Island will be the best one ever.

On Saturday, 18 local nonprofit organizations will gather at the Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, 615 Mallery St., for the third annual fundraising event.

Norton's organization, which provides low-cost spay and neuter vouchers to pet owners, is the host for the event.

"The church was going to discontinue the First Noel due to lack of manpower and budget restraints, so we volunteered," she said.

Norton said attendance at the event the past two years was low and hopes that will change with the addition of bake sales and more than 10 local arts and crafts vendors.

The idea of First Noel is to attract donors to nonprofit organizations, all of which are suffering from the economic slowdown.

People can make donations in honor of friends and families.

"Those who make a donation will be given a card that says a donation has been made in their friend or family member's honor to the individual organization to help promote that organization's well being in the community," said Norton.

Browsers can pick up refreshments as well as information at the table of each nonprofit.

Participating charities will include the STAR foundation, Amity House, Manna House, Sparrow's Nest, Heather House, The

#### First Noel

The First Noel will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Holy Nativity Church, 615 Mallery St., St. Simons Island.

• For questions or for more information, call Michelle Lane, CHAT secretary, at 256-3025.

Salvation Army, Second Harvest, Habitat for Humanity, Shepherds for Seniors, Safe Harbor for Children, Safe Hollow Animal Sanctuary and Morningstar.

Norton said CHAT, the Humane Society of South Coastal Georgia and Glynn County Animal Control will also have animals available for adoption.

"We're trying to get all of the animals into a home for Christmas," she said. "I think anybody who has an opportunity to let a pet come home for Christmas this year will want to come to the event."

"I also think people who are interested in homemade baked goods would definitely want to come out because we'll have great food and beautiful arts and crafts for those who want to shop."

Ellen Murphy, director of the STAR Foundation, said she is thrilled that CHAT is hosting the First Noel this year.

She said the STAR foundation, which offers training in computer literacy, life skills and job readiness for Glynn County residents, has seen a drop in donations this holiday season.

Hopefully, that will change on Saturday, Murphy said.

"I can't tell you how great it is for CHAT, which has to make money for itself, to extend an invitation to all of the other nonprofits," she said. "I think it's great and I think it will be a lot of fun for everyone."

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