



# BCFSE

## The Newsletter for Citizens of Cape Fear

October 2, 2006

Vol. I, No. 10

### Protect the Cape Fear River Cruise Fundraiser To Stop the Dump

Friday, October 27, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

**On the Henrietta III** (begin boarding at 7p.m. at Dock & Water Streets)

**\$50 per person**



Sponsored by Brunswick Citizens for a Safe Environment (BCFSE). Proceeds go toward fighting the Sims Hugo Neu landfill. A portion of your donation may be tax deductible; please consult your tax advisor.

**NATIONALLY KNOWN MUSICIANS WILL PLAY A VARIETY OF MUSIC.**

**There will be dancing, buffet, and cash bar.**

North Carolina Coastal Federation's Cape Fear COASTKEEPER®, Mike Giles, and Cape Fear River Watch's Joe Abbate, Greenfield Lake Supervisor, will explain the great diversity and ecological significance of the Cape Fear region.

A sell-out crowd is expected.

**Get your tickets now.**

### River Cruise Extravaganza!

Our Fall season fundraiser will take place on the *Henrietta III* October 27, 2006, 7:30-10:30 p.m. A portion of the donation may be deductible for tax purposes. In addition to dining on board, there will be dancing

and a cash bar. North Carolina Coastal Federation's Cape Fear Coastkeeper Mike Giles, and Joe Abbate of the Cape Fear River Watch, will be giving talks during the cruise on the great diversity and ecological significance of the Cape Fear region.

*We would encourage members to cut out the poster on the front page and place it where it might best be seen by the public.*

## Letters to the Editor:

Article published Oct 2, 2006  
Wilmington *Star-News*

### Hugo Neu a real threat to health

**EDITOR:** Your story about North Carolina ranking 40th out of 50 states regarding health of its citizens is shameful. I fear we're on a downward spiral. North Carolina has been targeted to be home to five landfills. A moratorium on building landfills provides a temporary time-out, but these companies vow they'll persevere. Consider these facts: The proposed Sims Hugo Neu landfill could release PCB's, mercury, cadmium and other dangerous chemicals ..., endangering our drinking water and the wildlife that inhabit our rivers; 50 dump trucks going one way per hour will carry a gross ton of trash along our traffic-clogged roads; (there is a) high risk of fires on this landfill ... Mercury and noxious odors could be released into our atmosphere. As North Carolina slips even farther from its 40th ranking in coming years, don't blame cigarette smoking and obesity for our problems. Blame pollutants and traffic accidents. ...

Bill Rector  
Leland

Article published Sep 24, 2006  
Wilmington *Star-News*

**EDITOR:** Sims- Hugo Neu once again appears to have influenced the opposition in the recent announcement of appointments for the Committee on Environmental Justice. House Bill 1797, "Landfill Moratorium and Studies," was passed on July 26, delaying construction for 12 months to study the landfill controversy and report back to the legislature. House Speaker Jim Black, true to form, rejected an earlier version of the bill ... (that called for) an 18-month moratorium. Sims-Hugo Neu and the other landfill operators spent, as reported

by this paper, more than \$92,000 in attempts to buy votes against the House bill. Speaker Black, not one to be put off by the legal process, appointed Reps. Thomas Wright and William Wainwright to the (Environmental Justice) committee. Wright helped Navassa, then in his district, annex the property outside the town limits (where the Hugo Neu landfill would go). Wainwright, co-chairman of the new committee, killed a bill proposed by Rep. Bonner Stiller to rescind the annexation ...

Mike Roberts  
Leland

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Two committees are studying the issue. The Environmental Justice committee is focusing on whether waste companies disproportionately target economically disadvantaged areas; a second committee will study the environmental impacts of the proposed landfills.

### Town wants landfill, but state moratorium may put plan in limbo

The Associated Press  
October 2, 2006 9:05 am

NAVASSA, N.C. -- A landfill that would hold byproducts from a scrap metal recycling plant is being welcomed in this poor North Carolina town, but a temporary ban on such development has put the plan in limbo. The town has tried to recruit Sims Hugo Neu, a U.S.-based company that would recover appliances and shredded cars then sell the recycled metal. Unusable material would be placed in a landfill on the outskirts of Navassa, which sits across the Cape Fear River from Wilmington. The \$25 million investment would attract about 40 new jobs, Mayor Eulis Willis said. The project would help pay for a fire station, extend water and sewer lines through town and provide a steady stream of revenue. "We figured if we could get that kind of boost, we ought to go for it," Willis said. The project, along with similar plans elsewhere in the state, was put on hold earlier this year when state lawmakers approved a one-year moratorium on the building of new landfills.

Environmental advocates said the state needed time to assess how the trash would affect North Carolina's waterways and habitats

before six privately owned landfills were built in eastern and Piedmont counties. Some said the planned landfills would turn North Carolina into one of the top five garbage-importing states in the country. Officials also wanted to study economic factors behind the trend of building landfills in low-income and minority communities.

"It's something we want, versus something that was forced down on us," said Willis, whose town of 1,600 is predominantly black. "You can call that environmental racism. But we asked for it, and we still want it. Heavy industry doesn't scare us at all."

The town was once home to several fertilizer plants, and at least three industrial sites have arsenic, metals or other pollutants contaminating the ground. Much of the town remains undeveloped, an oddity in fast-growing Brunswick County. Navassa has the lowest per-person annual income in the county, only \$11,328. "People here need jobs," said Bobby Brown, 77, a longtime community leader and director of a community development program. "When they finish high school, they have to go somewhere else to get work," Brown said. "We have to grab at anything we can get, even if it was a landfill."

Some residents are opposed to the plans, including Brunswick Citizens for a Safe Environment. The grass roots organization argues the project poses environmental risks and would leave a 350-foot-tall mountain of debris.

"They are trying to go into a poor, uninformed community and hand out a carrot," said Ella Beatty, 58, a retired machine operator. "But they don't tell you what is on the end of the carrot."

Sims Hugo Neu was still pursuing the project, but the moratorium and uncertainty about changes in state regulations has the company looking at other potential sites, said Robert Kelman, the company's senior vice president. "We're still committed to the town of Navassa and the economic development of our property there," he said.

## Coming Events:

**October 2 and 16, 7:00 p.m.** – General Meeting of BCFSE at Leland Senior Center, Leland, NC. Public invited!

**October 27, 2006** – Cruise the Cape Fear, Depart from Dock & Water Streets, 7:30- 10:30 p.m. (begin boarding at 7:00 p.m.) Deli buffet, tickets - \$50@.

## Support the BCFSE:

**T-Shirt sales:** "Stop Hugo Neu" on front, website on back of shirt - \$10.00. Available at regularly scheduled meetings at Leland Senior Center.

**Yard signs & bumper stickers:** Free, available at regularly scheduled meetings at Leland Senior Center.

**Donations:** All donations are tax deductible and official letters for donations can be prepared upon request. Call Walt Chmielenski, 383- 0374, for assistance.

**Petitions:** If you belong to an organization that supports the goals of BCFSE and would like to circulate a petition to get signatures to stop the landfill, contact Mike Roberts at 547-9833 for either a hard copy or email attachment that can be printed from your computer.

## About the BCFSE:

The Brunswick Citizens For a Safe Environment began its efforts in 2003, after Hugo Neu and Navassa public officials engineered the satellite annexation of the proposed site without a full public hearing. Originally a handful of concerned residents living in the vicinity of the site, the group soon swelled its ranks with new members and registered as a chapter of the non-profit Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL). The group has attracted people from all walks of life who do not wish to see the degradation of the environment so close to a major southeastern NC population center. Meetings of the organization are held at the Leland Senior Citizens Center, Village Road adjacent to the RR crossing, at 7:00 p.m., on the first and third Monday of the month. For comments or suggestions regarding the website or the newsletter, contact Mike Roberts at: [mroberts11@ec.rr.com](mailto:mroberts11@ec.rr.com).