

Dennis Barbour
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Joel Macon
Councilman

Jack L. Lynch
Councilman



Pat Eflird
Mayor Pro Tem

Gary Doetsch
Councilman

Calvin R. Peck, Jr.
Town Manager

TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH
1121 N. Lake Park Boulevard
Carolina Beach, North Carolina 28428

News Release

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JOSEPH RYDER LEWIS, JR. SELECTED

AS CITIZEN OF THE QUARTER

BY TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH

CAROLINA BEACH, NC---In a unanimous vote, the Town Council of Carolina Beach has selected Joseph Ryder Lewis, Jr., 77, as Citizen of the Quarter for April 2004. Mr. Lewis will be recognized at the regular Town Council meeting on April 13, 2004 at 7:30 pm at Town Hall.

“We selected Ryder Lewis for his many outstanding contributions to the community, public service and generosity,” said Mayor Dennis T. Barbour.

Mr. Lewis has lived on the island since around 1928 and his family history is deeply rooted here. He grew up in a one-story, yellow and white house that stood right across from what is now Town Hall on Highway 421/Lake Park Boulevard. After his parents died, Mr. Lewis donated the house to the Carolina Beach Fire Department to use as a live burn during a fire training session.

His grandparents owned about 130 acres of land here and they left the land to their children - Mr. Lewis' aunts and uncles. Mr. Lewis bought the parcels of land he currently owns from his relatives over the years including his spectacular property on St. Joseph's Street that he “loves dearly.” It is a 3 and 1/2 acre place on the Sound adorned with lots of giant shady oak trees. Many consider it among the loveliest pieces of property at Carolina Beach. Because of Mr. Lewis' willingness to share the property with others, it has become a favorite picnic ground for not only Mr. Lewis' family and friends, but also for local churches and civic groups.

Mr. Lewis' generosity doesn't stop with the property. In 1999, he donated 10 acres of land to the Town to help town officials find a place to build a municipal well. For 30 years, he was a member of the Carolina Beach Lions Club and served several terms at the group's president. During his tenure, the Lions established the Boys and Girls Home of North Carolina Inc. at Lake Waccamaw for orphaned children, provided eyeglasses for the poor and developed a recreation area for the blind. During Mr. Lewis' long professional career with the US Army Corps of Engineers, which was largely spent in Wilmington, he worked on many projects that benefited the Cape Fear region. In addition, he served on various Town Committees over the years.

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In the picture below, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis pose for a photograph with Mayor Barbour.

