



Town puts stipulation on easement

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Caswell Beach commissioners want at least two more stipulations before they grant neighboring Yaupon Beach an easement to install sewer lines to service Oak Island Beach Villas.

The property owners association of the 172-unit complex decided in late 1991 it wanted to abandon its on-site package wastewater treatment plant in favor of tapping-on to a proposed public sewer system planned by Yaupon Beach. While unable to block the move by the villas homeowners, commissioners said owners will pay tap fees to Yaupon Beach and may have to pay similar fees to Caswell Beach if it ever decides to build a public wastewater management system.

The Yaupon Beach public system may be available as soon as Spring, 1993.

Caswell Beach attorney Elva Jess said Yaupon Beach has asked for an easement extending the length of Robert L. Jones Drive in a 20-foot section of its western right-of-way to Throckmorton Street and the Yaupon Beach boundary.

Under scrutiny by commissioners, Jess was asked to make clear in the agreement that the easement was not "exclusive" and that underground piping which services an existing nitrification field off Robert L. Jones Drive would be replaced by Yaupon Beach if disturbed. Yaupon Beach already has agreed to repave any street surface it destroys and return the project area to usable condition.

Commissioner Bill Boyd asked if the nitrification field -- serving the Oak Island Beach Villas complex -- would "go away" if the complex tapped to the Yaupon Beach sewer system.

"That's up to them if they want to abandon the field," mayor Jack Cook said.

Commissioner Duncan Stuart was more concerned the move would pave the way for additional housing units at the villas complex.

"The only thing that concerns me is this would allow -- if that is no longer a repair area -- there is going to be pressure to build more buildings there," Stuart said.

Town clerk Linda Bethune said property managers at the villas had expressed interest in constructing

See Easement, page 6

Miss Annie Mae

Southport lady has helped our fishing friends the past 58 years



By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Announcing her retirement to a visitor on the front porch of her Brunswick Street home Mrs. Annie Mae Watts sounds very much like somebody getting ready for business again at the same old stand.

"It's been an enjoyable life," she says, then in virtually the same breath remarks, "I booked five or six trips yesterday."

In fact, the only thing Mrs. Watts is retiring from is ownership of the charter boat Idle On, the fifth in a venerable line of sportfishermen bearing that name.

She sold the present, and only remaining, Idle On to its veteran skipper Jake Jacobson in February, but with an important understanding: "I'll continue booking the boat for Jake. And as long as I can continue booking it I'll feel like I'm in it still."

She's been in it from the start. Sportfishing as an industry began in Southport 58 years ago when Capt. Hulan Watts came home one night and said, "I've booked a charter tomorrow on the Little Joe," and Mrs.

Watts said, "You booked a what?"

She learned fast, and took the second Watts charter booking on the telephone of a neighbor a few days later, and that became a career.

From that time the charter business in Southport grew on the strength of success by Capt. Watts initially and by the able work of Mrs. Watts at the telephone, taking reservations, giving assurances, spreading the business to others as the charter fleet grew, and always being scrupulously attentive to the weather prospects. If the forecast was bad the party got a call at home from Mrs. Watts, telling them not to come.

The Watts fleet built on the twin pillars of Mrs. and Mrs. Thomas H. Watts went through the Little Joe, Eva Mae and Sea Girl before World War II. Then after the war came the first Idle On, a great bear of a sportfisherman that solidified the family taste for large, competent boats, and the nucleus around which the Southport charter fleet began to grow.

When the original Idle On was sold in 1952 and replaced by the Idle Ons II, III and IV the local fleet

See Annie Mae, page 6

Long Beach to maintain its ETJ zone

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Long Beach will stand by its extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction ordinance as it applies to the St. James Plantation subdivision on the mainland, commissioners decided Tuesday night.

The affirmation of a stance taken by a previously seated board comes as St. James Plantation owners seek to severely limit the area which may fall under the town's jurisdiction for zoning, building control and land use regulation.

Kent Smith of Homer Wright, Inc., a principal developer of St. James Plantation, told commissioners existing extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) plans would adversely impact that mainland development.

"It seems the most important corridor ... would be the corridor coming over to the new bridge through the development," Smith said.

As early as 1985, discussion was begun between Long Beach, the St. James developers and the N. C. Department of Transportation to build a second bridge to Oak Island linking Middleton Street with a portion of land owned by Wright and others lying on the mainland. Under the terms of initially floated agreements, the town was to award right-of-way

'It seems the most important corridor ... would be the corridor coming over to the new bridge through the development.'

Kent Smith
St. James representative

on the island side and the consortium of developers was to donate land for eventual access to N. C. 211 at its intersection with Midway Road. The landowners, it was also understood, would participate in the cost of construction of the bridge.

Prospects of a second bridge linking Long Beach and the St. James Plantation area prompted Long Beach commissioners to claim extraterritorial jurisdiction last year over a section of the property running one mile parallel to the town's border.

At stake in the St. James request
See Long Beach, page 24

Woman falls from third floor, critically injured

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Long Beach police are looking into the circumstances by which a woman fell Tuesday from a third floor balcony at West Beach Villas, across Beach Drive from Long Beach Pier.

The incident occurred shortly after 5:15 p.m.

Debbie Guadagnoli, 26, of the villas complex, sustained critical injuries in a fall from her residence.

She was attended first by members of the Long Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad and later Brunswick County EMS, which intercepted the Long Beach ambulance at 23rd Street and began administering advanced life support (ALS) assistance, including the administration of intravenous fluids.

"At this time we are going to rule

it an accident," said Long Beach detective Barbara Harvell.

Ms. Guadagnoli was treated initially at Doshier Memorial Hospital's emergency room and was later transported to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, where she was listed in critical condition with neck and head injuries, detective Harvell said.

Harvell said information gathered as of late Tuesday night indicated Jeffrey Yates, 31, who gave the same address as Ms. Guadagnoli's, was in the apartment at the time Ms. Guadagnoli fell from the balcony.

"At this time it is still unknown what happened," Harvell said. "He (Yates) has provided Long Beach police with no evidence. We have no definitive proof of a dispute."

Harvell admitted police were investigating the circumstances surrounding the accident.

See Woman hurt, page 24

Library transfer is complete

Southport gives up claim, obligations to Moore Street facility

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

With little discussion Thursday night, Southport aldermen adopted a resolution transferring rights to the Southport library branch to Brunswick County.

The county is to receive use of the building and a portion of the lot on which the building is placed. The city will retain much of the rear-yard portion of the lot.

Under the terms of the joint resolution of the two governments, Brunswick County will have continued use of the building "so long as it is used as a public library."

"We're not really transferring anything," city attorney Michael Isenberg said. "We're not actually giving a deed."

The move is a milestone in the effort to restructure the historic Southport-Brunswick County library system into a system completely run

by Brunswick County. The move to do this was begun in a series of meetings of an ad hoc committee composed of two city aldermen and two county commissioners beginning in December, 1991. Earlier this year a public hearing was held on library management and an almost unani-

mous public told local government officials it made more sense for the library system to be run as a department of county government.

Even Southport residents saw the move as a way to shave city costs. Last year, the city paid about \$22,000 to the library system.

Residents of Shallotte and Leland said it made little sense that the City of Southport owned 50-percent interest in library branch buildings built in their communities.

Before the beginning of the budget year, county commissioners likely will have to design a new library system governing board. Currently, county commissioners appoint six members to the city-county library board of trustees and Southport aldermen appoint an additional six members.

While it is likely a replacement board will also be comprised of 12 members, Southport will lose its power of appointment. Commissioners have said, however, some consideration in the appointment procedure should be given to communities which have libraries in them.

Mayor will speak

Long Beach mayor Joan Altman will address the Oak Island Lions Club luncheon meeting on Thursday, March 26.

A question-and-answer period will follow her talk.

Southportable may be our permanent solution

City aldermen didn't feel at all trashed Thursday night when they got a look at a model waste receptacle, several of which may find their way to city streets.

Mark Robinson of Southportable Furniture presented the wooden receptacle of attractive design.

"This is what I consider to be a city of picket fences," Robinson said of Southport, "so I put that idea into the container." The wooden receptacle is made of a series of fence pickets about three feet high.

City manager Rob Hites said concrete receptacles sold by other manufacturers would cost about \$300 each. Robinson can produce the wooden receptacles for \$75 each.

Robinson was asked to refine the container to include a top and to figure a way to anchor the container on city streets.

"To make it 'Southportable,'" Hites said.

OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for a Thursday high in the mid-60s with thunderstorms likely. Partly cloudy on Friday with a high near 60, low near 50; partly cloudy again on Saturday with a high reaching the low-50s and a low near 40.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, MARCH 19	LOW
8:14 a.m.		2:03 a.m.
8:44 p.m.		2:19 p.m.
HIGH	FRIDAY, MARCH 20	LOW
9:01 a.m.		2:51 a.m.
9:30 p.m.		3:03 p.m.
HIGH	SATURDAY, MARCH 21	LOW
9:45 a.m.		3:39 a.m.
10:18 p.m.		3:47 p.m.
HIGH	SUNDAY, MARCH 22	LOW
10:31 a.m.		4:26 a.m.
11:06 p.m.		4:31 p.m.
HIGH	MONDAY, MARCH 23	LOW
11:17 a.m.		5:13 a.m.
11:54 p.m.		5:19 p.m.
HIGH	TUESDAY, MARCH 24	LOW
12:08 a.m.		6:03 a.m.
---- p.m.		6:08 p.m.
HIGH	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25	LOW
12:45 a.m.		6:57 a.m.
12:59 p.m.		7:04 p.m.

The following adjustments should be made:
Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Caswell Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.