

# BEMC Checks To Total Nearly \$1 Million

Checks for almost a million dollars in capital credit refunds will be mailed by Dec. 15 to over half the membership of Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation.

The electric cooperative announced this week that 17,170 members who received service from 1966-1972 will receive refunds totaling \$966,419. The average refund check will be \$57.57. The amount of each member's refund is in proportion to the amount

the member paid for electric service during those years.

Capital credits represent member ownership and equity in the electric cooperative, which operates as a non-profit company. The difference between the company's income and expenses is recorded as capital credits, which eventually are distributed to members.

"The mutual efforts of the cooperative membership and

management create an efficient operation that exemplifies what a cooperative is all about," Batten said.

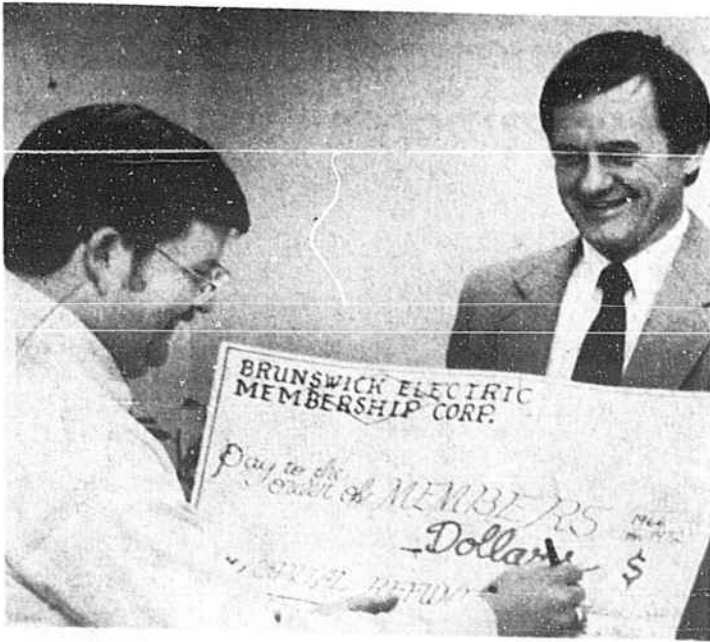
As the fastest-growing electric cooperative in North Carolina, BEMC membership has increased to over 30,000, with 2,000 new ones added in 1985.

In previous years the policy has been to pay capital credit refunds on a 20-year rotating basis. A study is

being conducted by BEMC's board to consider a policy change that would refund these credits by percentage amounts on an annual basis.

Such a change would make refunds to members who have received service for even one year.

Family representatives needing information about a deceased member's estate and others who have questions regarding the capital credit refund should call BEMC.



ALL SMILES as they contemplate mailing checks for almost a million dollars to members are, at left, Frederick A. Tedder of Whiteville, president of BEMC's board of directors, and David Batten, general manager.

## Sunset Bridge Lights On Hold 'Til Spring

BY SUSAN USHER

Motorists at Sunset Beach have been asking, "Where are the lights they promised?" for several months.

They're talking about traffic signals the State Board of Transportation voted in mid-August to erect to regulate vehicular traffic to and from the island.

They're coming—but like the tourists, not until spring.

In the meantime, motorists will have to follow their own instincts as to proper bridge protocol, that is, which vehicle should cross first—the one on the island or the one on the mainland.

"The protocol used to be the people on this side (the mainland) waited for the people on the other side, but not any more," said beach property owner Joe Majette at a Saturday meeting of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association. "My wife suggested raising one gate before they raise the other."

"But that's too easy," he concluded with a laugh.

Though power poles for the \$16,000 signal project were erected in July, a work order wasn't issued until August and the equipment didn't arrive until October—after the end of the 1985 season.

"Rather than paying a power bill through the winter, we'll install them in April or May of next year, before the next tourist season begins," said Roger Hawkins, a field engineer with the DOT division office in Wilmington.

Traffic slacks off so much at the close of the season, he said, signals aren't needed at local beaches. Like those at the Holden Beach Bridge, during the winter months the Sunset Beach signals would have been set on a continuous flash.

"Once the local traffic gets used to them, they're fine. They've worked rather well at Holden Beach," said Hawkins.

## Candidate Belk Stumps Locally

U.S. Senate candidate William Belk of Charlotte was to campaign in Brunswick County Wednesday, Dec. 4, with stops scheduled in Bolivia, Southport, Shallotte and Ocean Isle

Beach starting at 1 p.m.

He was to leave the county courthouse at about 3 p.m. for Southport, with a stop at the Shallotte Town Hall at 4 p.m. before proceeding to Ocean Isle Beach at 5 p.m.

He planned to meet with elected officials, businessmen, Democratic party leaders and the news media.

## Club Makes Christmas Party Plans

Plans for the Christmas party were finalized at a meeting of the Guys and Dolls Extension Homemakers Couples Club Nov. 25 in Bolivia.

The party is to be a covered dish dinner Monday, Dec. 16 at the Agricultural Extension Office beginning at 6 p.m.

President Edith Hoy presented the program on "Quick and Easy Entertaining Ideas" and "Christmas Holiday Ideas." After adjournment, Edith and Jack Ogden served homemade cake, chessball with crackers, cider and coffee.

Presenting mini-reports on the program of work were Bill Dunn, Americanism; Ed Robinson, Home, Energy and Environment; Al DiCarlo, educational TV broadcasting on the public broadcasting system; and Jean Robinson, the Hospice Festival of Trees.

Volunteer hours served by club members totaled 182 to Doshier Hospital, the Bloodmobile, Special Olympics, Laubach Training Course and at the polls on election day.

Members attending the meeting were Jean and Ed Robinson, Alice and Russ Perkins, Edith and Jack Ogden, Alda and John Lewis, Edith and Harold Hoy, and Thelma and Bill Dunn. Jo and Al DiCarlo of Boiling Spring Lakes attended as guests.

## Candlelight Tour Announced

The twelfth Old Wilmington Candlelight Tour will be held on Dec. 7 and 8 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. each evening.

Historic homes and buildings are opened to the public for the tour, sponsored by the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society.

Carolers and candlelit streets will set the scene as visitors view Wilmington's historic homes, churches and architecturally distinctive buildings. Costumed hosts and hostesses will greet guests, and Confederate-uniformed sentries will patrol the streets.

This year's tour will emphasize Victorian architecture, with such varied styles as Italianate Revival, Queen Anne and Gothic Revival. For the first time on the tour, the Northside, an area of several restoration projects, will be open to the public.

Tickets are \$10 per person and may be used both evenings. For tickets and brochures write or call Old Wilmington by Candlelight; P.O. Box 813; Wilmington, N.C. 28402; 762-0492.

## Zoning Tops Lists Of County Needs

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County needs zoning to pattern its future growth and a sanitary sewer system and a better road network to support that growth.

At least that's what residents told county planning officials in a series of seven workshops held recently to gather material for updating the county's CAMA land use plan.

Zoning may be what one county commissioner described as a "dirty word," but as he predicted, it popped up at almost every workshop in one form or another.

"If we don't do something while we still have open space," said farmwoman Mary Earp of Winnabow at the Towncreek Township meeting, "it will be like closing the barn door after the horse is out. It will be too late."

Ernest "Chuck" Shelton of Town Creek offered another perspective. "The county's being so laissez-faire, no fair to everybody," he said, "it's actually being unfair."

In addition to zoning and subdivision regulations, he also suggested the county hold a public hearing on any major development that would deviate substantially from the land use plan as approved. As an example, he cited the shift in location of the county water line from along the river from Leland to Southport to along U.S. 17—a change he happened to favor.

Friday night, at the last of the meetings, two local chamber of commerce representatives said a sewer system and better roads are needed, echoing two major needs expressed at earlier meetings.

Anne Marie Schettini, co-director of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce, also supported the need for a sewer system, speeding up of construction of a county water system and the U.S. 17 four-laning from Shallotte to the South Carolina line, a welcome center at the Shallotte bypass, more boat accesses, artificial reefs and general support for sports fishing, and a county campaign against litter.

Zoning was the major need expressed by Ron Shannon, president-elect of the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce.

"We think countywide zoning is necessary to control the growth and to make sure it is the type of growth we want," he said, adding that a countywide sewer system is needed to support that growth.

When he asked County Commissioners James Poole, Grace Beasley and Frankie Rabon their views on a sewer system, Poole replied.

"We've got our plates full with the water system."

He said the county is encouraging municipalities to develop sewer

systems and that a county "partnership" is highly possible when those systems can be expanded outside town limits.

Shannon also proposed widening of Beach Road, a second bridge to Oak Island, traffic signals at local schools, expansion of the Southport-Fort Fisher ferry operation and expansion of the Brunswick County Airport to include more commuter services.

Michael deSherbinin, county resources development director, sent the Resources Development Commission's recommendations in writing. He urged planning officials to include sufficient future areas in the land use plan for "anticipated manufacturing growth" and said waste treatment facilities will be needed to support that growth.

Groups often on opposite ends of the pole on growth-related issues shared something in common during the meetings, both supporting county zoning.

They cited it as a means of preserving property values, protecting sensitive environmental areas and regulating density.

Speakers at several meetings urged better enforcement of the land use plan, including adoption of a stronger subdivision ordinance.

A need for parks was mentioned at several hearings. At the Shallotte Township meeting, for instance, Miller Pope urged an aggressive campaign to make sure the state or federal government acquires Bird Island near Sunset Beach as a park.

Some townships had problems unique to their area. At Waccamaw, former Commissioner Pearly Vereen, a farmer in Exum, said farmers are over-regulated and need the same exclusions to the Coastal Area Management Act allowed paper companies. He called for a more aggressive industry and job recruiting and keeping a closer eye on the school board.

Attendance at the workshops had improved over land use plan hearings held four years ago in all townships but one. Four years ago, 40 persons attended a land use hearing in Waccamaw Township compared to the smallest turnout in the county this year. Vereen was the only private citizen at the meeting Friday a week ago.

Concerns and recommendations discussed during the seven workshops will be incorporated into a draft land use plan that will be presented to the planning board and county commissioners.

"What we hear at these meetings will play an important part in what the county does," Commissioner Frankie Rabon explained at a meeting in Town Creek Township Thursday attended by seven citizens.

The Coastal Area Management Act requires the county to update its plan every five years, taking a look at its natural, human and economic resources; its problems and constraints on growth, and how it wants to develop in the future.

In the plan, the county classifies land by broad usage categories, describes how various areas should be developed and how it intends to implement the plans—such as through ordinances, regulations and policies.

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## Birthdays And Anniversaries

Thursday, Dec. 5

Hattie Osborne, John Freitas, Candy Hampton, Erika Hickman, Reggie Hewett, William Milligan; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Varnam, Sr.

Friday, Dec. 6

Diana Deaver, Don Evans, Ila Jane Batten, Robie Todd.

Saturday, Dec. 7

Gloria T. Norris, Timothy Kyle Sellers, J. Gary Poulos, Mary Leonard, Robert Long; Mr. and Mrs. Aleck Alexion, Mr. and Mrs. Lake Fulford.

Sunday, Dec. 8

Connie Woodard, Tara Bryant, Rhonda Evans.

Monday, Dec. 9

Nichole Reeves, Elwood Cheers; Mr. and Mrs. Dale Clemmons, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Bryant.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Randy A. Stanley, Linnie Royal, Beth Caison, Janet Holden, Stella Jenrette; Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Robbins.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

Bill Limer, David Reeves, Gordon Winfree, Elaine Wright, Kenyan Hopchas, Jencie Varnam, Bobbie Dillard, Phyllis G. James; Mr. and Mrs. Leon Phelps.

## Sheriff's Office Reports Activity

During October, Brunswick County sheriff's deputies drove 65,522 miles on 4,808 gallons of gasoline and 16 quarts of oil.

Deputies made 30 arrests as prosecuting witness, and summoned 54 witnesses and five jurors.

They served 429 civil papers, 191 local warrants and 70 foreign warrants. Two mental and inebriate papers were served.

Officers spent two court hours on duty, 21½ hours off duty, and 320 hours as duty officer.

Investigations totalled 220 for the month.

Deputies answered 741 calls, found 23 doors and windows open, and recovered \$2,604 in stolen property.

Five trips were made out of the county.

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