STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Ocean Isle POA Cited

The Ocean Isle Beach Property Owners Association won recognition last week from the Long Bay Garden Club for its October 1987 crape myrtle "Plant Around" project in which 205 of the shrubs were planted on the island. The garden club is promoting planting of the popular flowering shrub across the county. Above, from left, club Arbor Day Chairman Betty Watt presents a plaque to Gladys Goldsmith, POA beautification committee chairperson and board member. Looking on was garden club President Sibyl McLamb.

Preparer Says New Tax Laws Are 'No Problem'

BY RAHN ADAMS

If the local response to free tax assistance is any indication, Brunswick County residents aren't having problems filing their income tax returns despite changes in federal tax laws.

And according to Larry Nielsen, assistant coordinator of the local AARP-sponsored tax assistance program, taxpayers here aren't waiting until the last minute to seek help and file their federal returns, with the deadline less than a month away.

"Basically, the program is keyed to the elderly, but we do help others," Nielsen said Friday. "This is the best response we've had.

"We've had a good response from February on," he added. "I think really the elderly people like to get their income taxes out of the way."

He noted that the busiest time for the program's 11 local volunteers is early in the tax season, while business actually drops off in early April.

"During the last two weeks we don't have much activity," he said. "It's generally all in February and March."

Nielsen estimated that volunteers in the countywide program serves about 20 taxpayers each week, whether by filling out federal returns or by simply answering questions.

The increased response is due, in part, to the new tax laws, he noted. However, even with the changes, "it's actually not too difficult."

Most people who seek help "just want to have their tax forms done is all," he said. "They don't want to tackle them themselves. They think they're too complicated."

The tax assistance program, which is in its sixth year here, began Feb. 9 at four sites in Brunswick County and will continue until the April 15 deadline.

Nielsen said individuals needing tax help can obtain assistance without appointment at the West Brunswick Branch Library in Shallotte on Wednesdays from noon until 4 p.m.; the Long Beach Community Center on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and the Brunswick County Library in Southport on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Assistance also is available, by appointment only, on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. until noon at the program office in the Brunswick County Courthouse in Bolivia. Individuals can call the Brunswick County Volunteer and Information Center (253-4441) for an appointment.

Persons who visit the sites for tax help should bring along their W-2 forms and "all pertinent information" dealing with their income and expenses, as well as a copy of their 1986 federal tax return, Nielsen said.

Free assistance with state income tax returns also is available at the N.C. Department of Revenue office at the courthouse in Bolivia. The office is open on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to Revenue Officer Andy Erkes.

"We're not really having any problems this year," Erkes said last week, noting that state tax laws are unchanged.

He said his office has not been too busy preparing state tax returns for local residents so far this year.

"We offer the service every year," he said, "but not many people know we're here."

Home Expects To Open In April

Hope Harbor Home, a local shelter for battered women and their children, will not be opening its doors in March as anticipated.

Last week, Director Cathy Guidry said the shelter board's personnel committee is still in the process of hiring additional persons to staff the center.

At present the shelter is expected to be ready for its first occupants in early April, she said. When the home opens, it will offer a 24-hour crisis line for women and their families as well as a secure shelter.

In addition to Guidry, the shelter will be operated by a shelter manager/advocate, night supervisor and trained volunteers.

A voluntary effort, the shelter is being funded by a combination of grant funds and local contributions from individuals, churches, civic groups and businesses.

VRS Slates Dinner Sale

Town Creek Volunteer Rescue Squad will serve fried chicken and barbecued pork dinners Saturday, March 19, starting at 11 a.m.

The squad building is located on U.S. 17 at its intersection with N.C. 87 South in Winnabow.

Served with the chicken will be potato salad, green beans and rolls. The pork plate will feature pork, cole slaw, candied yams and hushpuppies. Cost is $3.50 per plate.

Proceeds will be used to support the squad, said Secretary Laura Coulter.

State Treasurer Could Have 'Forgotten' Money For You

The State of North Carolina has $152.30 waiting for Ed and Pearl Steele of Ocean Isle Beach.

It also has $17,049.78 for someone named Arthur Piper. And it may have some money that rightfully belongs to you.

The annual "escheats" list, compiled by the Department of the State Treasurer, includes a number of persons with Brunswick County addresses for whom it has money from unclaimed or abandoned bank accounts, utility deposits, uncashed checks and other assets.

Once the money is turned over to the treasurer's office it is invested. The interest goes to the State Education Assistance Authority, which provides loans to needy college-bound students to attend state-supported schools.

Last year, the state refunded more than $1 million to 3,711 people.

Inquiries regarding unclaimed money should be made to the N.C. Department of State Treasurer, Escheats and Unclaimed Property Office, 325 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27611, or (919)733-6876.

Listed from Brunswick County are the following: James N. Cox, $87.97; Archie Gore, $88.96; G.K. Lutz, $143.12; McVicker, $50.20; Arthur J. McCay, $136.48; Danny B. McIntosh, $58.05; Marilyn K. FormyDuval, $55; Mr. and Mrs. Wayland D. Hood, $55; Brian E. Lemmonds, $55; John W. Maggard, $55; Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie E. McFee, $55; Bernard C. O'Connell, $53.82; Raymond P. Roberts, $55;

Also, Robert Sell, $74.57; Jimmy Sessoms and L.E. Sessoms, $137.57; Jimmie Lee Sessoms and Mrs. J.L. Sessoms, $70.61; James Bolton, $85.08; Ira D. Butler Jr. and Evelyn N. Butler, $145.39; Betty J. Phelps and Daniel W. Phelps, $314.40; W. Boyce Smallwood and Sue S. Smallwood, $73.45; Marion Davis, $61.89; Robert Lee Doane, Barbara H. Doane and Bridgio R. Doane, $287.88;

And, James C. Bowman, $50.98; Pearl Steele and Ed Steele, $152.30; Mrs. R.W. Doble, $272.29; James A. Williams, $453.80; Henry Von Deadwyler and Henry L. Deadwyler, $59.45; Virginia W. Thompson, $314.30; Alan L. Upchurch, $161.69; Ruth Wrenn, $130.90; Estate of Essie M. Bryant, $180.31; Robert E. Edwards, $499; William E. Fisk, $100; Phyllis J. Henry, $105; Eugene G. McDonald, $7,798.92; Arthur Piper, $17,049.78.;

Roderick N. Ryan, $652.82; Ervin D. Simmons, $123; Mickey Strickland, $299.70; Vereen, $258.30; Titus Williams, $200; Sheila D. Coffee, $68.28; Jeanette W. Smith, $51.84; Joanna L. Swangerwittwe, $187.95; Belville Beverage, $52.50; G.H. Clark, $179.06; Richard W. Skipper, $63; and William T. Todd Jr., $97.

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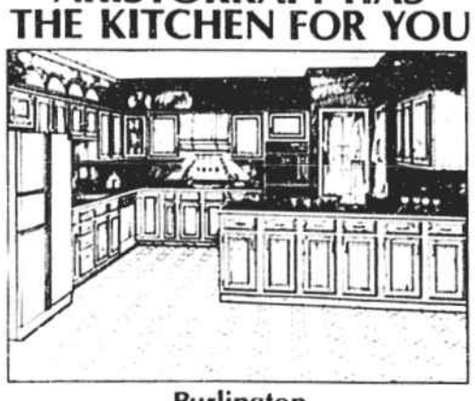

Burlington

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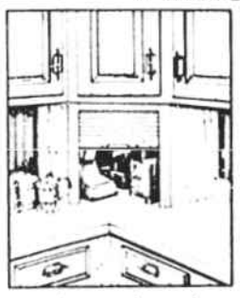

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