



EXAMINING SOME OF the wares to be offered during next Saturday's garage sale are Almeta Crowe, left, and Judy White, president of this year's Fourth of July Festival. The garage sale,

which will be held at the Crowe residence at the corner of Moore Street and Atlantic Avenue in Southport, will benefit the Independence Day celebration here.

## Step To Consolidate Sought From Board

The Long Beach Board of Commissioners will be asked Thursday night to help establish a Commission to bring about consolidation of Oak Island into a single community.

In its final action, the Consolidation Committee for Long Beach unanimously approved a motion recommending to the town board that it (1) request the mayor, together with the mayor of Yaupon Beach, to write a letter to the League of Municipalities asking professional help in planning for consolidation; (2) work with Yaupon Beach and the unincorporated Caswell Beach area in naming a 6-member Consolidation Commission; and (3) work under provisions of Chapter 153 A, Article 20, of the North Carolina General Statutes concerning consolidation.

Article 20 states that "two or more cities that are contiguous or that lie within a continuous boundary may create a commission to study the consolidation of the cities or of one or more functions and services of the cities."

Present for the Monday night Consolidation Committee meeting were Chairman Woody Vennel, Virginia Christenbury, Ellis Dudley, Hannon Templeton and secretary Carole Greene. Member E.W. Morgan was out of town and unable to attend.

The only matter of new business discussed was the "Charter Commission" approach to merger, revealed two weeks ago by an unofficial visit to Raleigh by four Oak Island residents and reported in last week's State Port Pilot.

## Hughes Handed Walking Papers

Brunswick County Personnel - Purchasing Department Director Steve Hughes was fired Friday allegedly because of "political pressure."

Hughes told The Pilot that Interim County Manager - Board Chairman Franky Thomas came into his office in the Hood Building around 12:30 p.m. Friday afternoon and put the dismissal letter on his desk.

Templeton said Article 20, brought to his attention by one of the Raleigh delegation,

"has some good points, and teeth" that would expedite consolidation. He said that by working together with Yaupon Beach - and Caswell Beach - to appoint a joint commission "maybe people would leave (the commission) alone for awhile" as work towards consolidation progresses.

"It would be really putting us on a firm foundation," said Templeton.

Chairman Vennel noted that the Long Beach committee was a "one-sided" with no input from Yaupon or Caswell beaches. "There's no point trying to consolidate unless it's the whole island," he said.

The motion asking Long Beach commissioners to work with commissioners from Yaupon Beach and representatives of Caswell Beach was introduced by Dudley, who also asked for the dissolution of the Long Beach consolidation committee.

The recommendation suggests that Long Beach name three members, Yaupon Beach two and Caswell Beach one to the proposed 6-member Consolidation Commission, and that the members be named by early next month.

Following are provisions of Article 20: as they relate to Oak Island

A commission established pursuant to this Article may be charged with any of the following purposes:

(1) To study the powers, duties, functions, responsibilities, and organizational structures of the cities that established the commission and of other units of local government and public agencies within those cities;

(2) To prepare a report on its studies and findings;

(3) To prepare a plan for consolidating one or more functions and services of the governments that established the commission;

(4) To prepare drafts of any agreements or legislation necessary to effect the consolidation of one or more functions and services;

(5) To prepare a plan for consolidating into a single government some or all of the governments that established the commission;

Thomas denied that he fired Hughes for political reasons. "I would be willing to swear on a stack of Bibles ten miles high that no politics was involved in the decision," he told The Pilot. "I don't care what party affiliation a county employee has. All I want to see is that they do the job. I heard that Steve is a Republican, but I never checked it because it did not matter."

Thomas said he fired Hughes as interim county manager and not as chairman of the board. "If I thought he was doing a good job, I would never have fired him," he stated.

Thomas said he did not want to elaborate on the three reasons given for the

dismissal. "If the people will remember after the 1970 election, which ended 38 years of one-party government in Brunswick County,"

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## Asking \$5.7 Million Local

# Education Budget Is Considerably Higher

By BILL ALLEN  
Brunswick County Board of Education members began preliminary discussion of the proposed \$6,677,459 budget for 1975 - 76 during a special meeting Monday night.

The proposed budget calls for current expenses of \$2,595,759, capital outlays of \$3,809,975 and a debt service of \$271,725 for the grand total. Since \$939,747 will come from available funds, a total of \$5,737,712 in county money

will be needed to balance the proposed budget. Brunswick County schools operated on a \$4,660,104 budget during 1974 - 75 with \$2,853,956.24 coming from local tax funds.

Supt. Ralph King said most of the increase over last year comes in the field of capital outlay since the board plans major construction work at elementary schools. Capital outlay is proposed to be increased from \$2,450,954 to \$3,809,975 in the new budget.

## County 'In Good Hands,' Says Chairman Thomas

By BILL ALLEN  
Franky Thomas said Tuesday he has the experience to serve as both chairman of the Board of Commissioners and interim county manager.

"People who know my background have told me they feel that the county is in good hands," Thomas declared.

Thomas said he accepted the position of interim county manager last week at the suggestion of residents of Brunswick County. "They felt I should serve since I have the power of a county commissioner and the business experience combined with being a county resident, who will work with all areas," he pointed out.

Thomas said he has no intentions to resign as board chairman to take the county manager job. "The board can ask me to step down as interim county manager at any time, but I will be a commissioner for two years," he stated.

## As Town Manager

# Kivett Ends Beach Stay

The Long Beach Board of Commissioners held a 7-minute "emergency meeting" Saturday morning to act on the resignation of Town Manager Frank Kivett.

Kivett was granted 3-months' severance pay - \$5,250 based on his annual salary of \$21,000. He said he would remain on the beach until June 1 and would help prepare the 1975 - 76 budget if requested, and "since federal agents are

board accepted the latter provision and I therefore submitted my resignation effective Friday."

Kivett said he had assured the board of his cooperation in order to provide an orderly transition. He said he would remain for the completion of the audit, would help Mrs. Nelson with the 1975 - 76 budget if requested, and "since federal agents are

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## Asking \$100,000 Each

# Deputies Sue Strong, Claim Discrimination

Three former Brunswick County deputies, claiming their recent dismissals were racially motivated, have filed a class action suit in U.S. District Court in Wilmington.

George Ballard, Earle L. Gore and John Raphael Frink made a number of requests in the class action suit, including asking for \$100,000 in punitive damages, re-instatement to their jobs and back pay.

Wilmington Attorney James Wall, representing the three deputies, said the class they represent is composed of Negroes who are employed or might be employed by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department and who are discriminated against by Sheriff Herman Strong in ways which deprive or tend to deprive them of their employment opportunities.

Ballard, Gore and Frink ask for on behalf of themselves, "and members

of their class," an injunction preventing Sheriff Strong or his employees from maintaining a policy designed to deny or limit the rights of others, because of race, to equal employment opportunities.

They are also requesting a declaratory judgment that racial employment practices and policies of Sheriff Strong violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

## Chairman Charges

# 'Old Politics' Still Remain

Political intimidation is being used on Brunswick County employees, County Republican Party Chairman Frankie Rabon charged this week.

Chairman Rabon said he was concerned about the recent resignation and firing of "three key county employees held over from the previous Republican administration."

He said that in recent weeks, County Manager Neil Mallory and Clerk of the Board Carole Greene have announced their resignations. "It is my belief that they were pressured out of their jobs," Chairman Rabon declared.

tor Steve Hughes was fired by chairman and manager Franky Thomas after he refused to resign.

"I think it is useful to note that prior to the actions, there were numerous closed executive sessions called to discuss personnel," he noted.

Chairman Rabon said he believed that the all-Democratic board of commissioners is setting a dangerous precedent in employment practices and demoralizing county employees.

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