

Study Shows County In Good \$\$\$ Shape

Brunswick County is in "an extremely healthy financial position now and for the foreseeable future," according to a survey conducted by the county Planning Department.

"Brunswick County will be able to provide its citizens with all the services and facilities they require" now and in the future because all indicators show the "extremely healthy financial position," the survey concluded.

The Planning Department survey reached the conclusion after examining both the ad valorem tax base and county revenues in depth.

The survey predicted that

the tax base, which has expanded rapidly during the last eight years, "will have definitely strong growth for the next three years."

"By then, the major industrial and utility plans now under construction should be complete and their total appraised value placed on the tax books," the report pointed out. "On the negative side, taxable construction equipment will probably be removed from the county as these construction and highway projects are completed."

"Therefore," the report continued, "the tax base growth should level about 1978 unless major industrial

construction boom occurs. But the tax base can be considered to be very stable since 81 percent of it is in real property and utilities."

The report said that the tax base is assuming "even greater importance" since it has been growing faster since 1968 than the other revenue sources, which have been providing an increasingly smaller percentage of the total.

"When it is considered that from 1968 to 1974 — before reappraisal — that the value of the tax base increase at an annual rate of 59 percent compared to 41 percent for revenue and 30 percent for expenditures, it would seem

that the tax base is able to assume this importance," the report stated.

It was noted that the total revenues received by the county increased at an annual rate of 22 percent and the total expenditures increased at an annual rate of 14 percent between 1968 and 1972. From 1972 to 1974, the annual rate of increase rose to 42 percent for revenue and 39 percent for expenditures.

"The more rapid rise in both revenue and expenditures from 1972 to 1974 corresponds directly to the period of greatest population growth, it was explained.

In more depth, here is a summary of what the

Planning Department report had to say about the tax base and revenues of Brunswick County:

The total tax base in Brunswick County has grown at a rapid rate since 1965. The increase has been the result of a general increase in land values and new construction, especially industry and utilities.

Real property is expressed in appraised property values. In 1965, the total value was \$61.5 million. By 1970, the value had grown to \$99.1 million; 1974, \$131.2 million and in 1975, an estimated \$646.8 million. The large increase in 1975 is estimated from preliminary reports of

the 1974 countywide reappraisal.

Some examples of the escalation in property values based on sales or offers for known lots at one of the county's beaches are \$3,000 in 1964 to \$27,500 in 1975; \$1,200 in 1964 to \$15,000 in 1975; \$500 in 1963 to \$2,250 in 1975; and \$3,000 in 1968 to \$25,000 in 1975. One rural tract was \$150 an acre in 1966 and \$800 an acre in 1975.

"The impact of a major industry on the real property base can be illustrated by the \$21 million in value added by just one industry in the past five years," County Planner Johnny Sutton.

Personal property, also ex-

pressed a in appraised value has increased from a \$17.8 million appraisal in 1965, personal property went up to an estimated \$283.9 million in 1975. Of this, the major portion can be attributed to industry since the equipment in one plant alone is valued at \$177.3 million, it was noted.

"Since industrial equipment is subject to faster depreciation than structures, and since personal property includes construction equipment, commercial fishing vessels and other items that can be moved from the county, personal property is not considered a very stable component of the total tax base," Sutton explained.

Utilities, appraised by the state to total value, are not divided into real and personal property. The principal reason the value of utilities grew from \$4.6 million in 1965 to an estimated \$569.9 million in 1975 was the construction of an electric generating plant. "The value of utilities can be considered to be a stable component of the total base since it is unlikely that any of the facilities would be removed," Sutton pointed out.

By combining the three components, the total tax base has grown from \$83.9 million in 1965 to an estimated \$1.5 billion in 1975.

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Sales Tax Receipts

A total of \$271,078.25 collected from the one-percent sales and use tax during the third quarter was returned to Brunswick County and its municipalities, according to the Department of Revenue.

Brunswick County received a total of \$245,157.61 of the tax collected during July, August and September while the rest went to ten municipalities.

County municipalities receiving money from the collections included Boiling Spring Lakes, \$927.79; Bolivia, \$125.62; Calabash, \$261.62; Holden Beach, \$2,132.38; Long Beach, \$9,741.98; Ocean Isle Beach, \$1,507.66; Shallotte, \$2,284.48; Southport, \$5,482.48; Sunset Beach, \$1,397.49; and Yaupon Beach, \$2,059.14.

Caswell Beach and Shady Forest did not receive any money from the county sales and use tax collections in the third quarter.

Winter Term Opens Dec. 1

Registration for the winter quarter in the college transfer program in Brunswick County, in cooperation with Southeastern Community College, will be held during the first two class meetings in which students are enrolled.

Registration dates for courses offered at South Brunswick High School are Dec. 1, 3, 8, and 10. Registration dates at West Brunswick are Dec. 2, 4, 9, and 11. Classes meet at night at the two locations, and the courses are fully-credited and transferable to four-year institutions.

The Brunswick County program of college transfer studies is the result of an arrangement between Southeastern Community College, which provides instructors, and the Brunswick County Board of Education, which provides the sites.

Mrs. May Barbee of Yaupon Beach is coordinator for the program and has an office at South Brunswick.

The winter quarter begins Dec. 1 and 2, with some classes meeting weekly and others meeting twice-a-week. The winter quarter will take a Christmas recess from December 19 through January 5. The quarter ends March 2.

The South Brunswick program offers General Biology on Wednesdays; Freshman English on Mondays; Business Law on Mondays; Introduction to Algebra on Mondays; College Reading on Wednesdays; and Fundamentals of Design on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The West Brunswick program offers American Literature on Thursdays; Fundamentals of Mathematics on Thursdays; Western Civilization on Tuesdays; Public Speaking on Tuesdays; Introduction to Education on Tuesdays and Thursdays; and Survey of the Old Testament on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



PRESENTING A DONATION of \$165 to the Southport Teen Center is Public Affairs Chairman Gail Calandra of the Junior Woman's Club of Southport. Accepting the gift is Doug Williams, president of the club. Mr. and Mrs. John Greene, adult coordinators of the facility at the corner of Howe and Brown streets, said the funds will be used to purchase necessary equipment.

County To Receive Community Funding

Brunswick County will receive a little more than \$100,000 in Community Development funds this year, Chairman Frank Thomas has announced.

R.B. Barnwell, area

director of HUD's Greensboro office, informed Chairman Thomas in a letter that the county will receive \$113,729 to spend for fire prevention radios and water system projects.

Barnwell said the two Brunswick County projects have been "conditionally approved subject to completion of the environmental review procedures. They require HUD environmental approval."

"But the application for Community Development funds has been approved in the amount of \$113,729," Barnwell stated.

The projects receiving conditional approval include \$18,990 for radios in fire protection equipment, \$84,400

for construction of two deep wells and \$10,339 for contingencies.

Chairman Thomas said that J.L. Minton and Associates, the Raleigh firm employed by the county to seek federal funds, aided the county in obtaining the Community Development money.

The money that the county will receive will come from the metropolitan discretionary fund of the Community Development block grant program.

Brunswick County originally applied for \$500,000 in Community Development funds. The application was later revised and the amount

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Thanksgiving Holiday

Just about everybody takes a holiday Thursday in observance of Thanksgiving, and county employees and school children have an extra day off to be thankful for, too.

Financial institutions, city and state offices will be closed on Thanksgiving Day only. Only box service will be offered at the post office that day.

Judge Orders Closing Of Cedar Grove Club

By BILL ALLEN

A court order has been obtained to close and padlock a well-known Cedar Grove Community night spot, Sheriff Herman Strong announced this week.

Sheriff Strong said he obtained the Order of Abatement to close Purvis Windell Hewett's night spot

following a hearing before Judge Thomas Lee of Raleigh in Whiteville last Tuesday. The facilities at Hewett's will be sold at public auction.

"This is the first time I have obtained a court order to close one of the night spots operating in the county," Sheriff Strong said. "I took the action because of all the citizens' complaints

we have received about Hewett's."

Hewett's place of business is located in a double-wide mobile home located on the western side of SR 1130 about four miles south of the intersection of SR 1130 and US 17 in the Cedar Grove area.

Sheriff Strong said that his department and ABC officers have conducted two raids on Hewett's business since he took office in December of last year. The business has been in operation the past several years.

The department confiscated 11 cases of beer, two gallons of tax-paid whiskey and seven gallons of wine during the last raid, which was conducted October 24.

Hewett, who lives on Rt. 2, Supply, was charged with possession for the purpose of sale following the October 24 raid. The case is scheduled to be tried in District Court next month.

Hewett's was originally padlocked October 31 when Judge Lee issued a temporary

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A HAPPY THANKSGIVING will be easier for several Southport area families because of efforts of Southport Jaycees. President Tommy Gilbert, John Richards and Bill Coring display some of the groceries donated by club members to be distributed to needy families prior to Thursday.

Arts & Crafts Show At Shallotte Dec. 6-7

"Crafts of all descriptions to be exhibited, sold and on display, along with many baked goods, canned goods, games, prizes, a softball tournament, etc., are being planned for the weekend of Dec. 6 and 7 at Shallotte Middle School," the Arts and Crafts Festival committee has announced.

"Our quilt is on display at the Bank of North Carolina in Shallotte. Donations for this are only \$1 and can be purchased at the bank or from any committee member. They can also be purchased at the fair. Hams will be given away periodically throughout the festival.

"We're planning for a nice program booklet with numbers on them," the spokesman said.

The Civic Town VFD is having a fish fry on Saturday, Dec. 6, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Middle School cafeteria. The Shallotte Rescue Squad will be serving snack food on Sunday afternoon.

The Christmas parade begins at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. The Ladies softball tournament begins on Saturday, also. Final plans for a horse show are being made for Saturday night. Square dancing by professionals will be on Saturday night and a gospel

sing will be held Sunday afternoon.

"We have 17 tables and booths now, so if you wish to have one, please call 754-4623 from 7-9 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. today.

"The West Brunswick art students are displaying their work and will have some things for sale while exhibiting other works. Plan your weekend to include the Arts and Crafts Festival. Come to Shallotte. 20 percent of all gross profits go to the West Brunswick Library Building Fund," concluded the committee.