

County Seat Move Top 1975 Story

The biggest news of the year — relocation of the Brunswick County seat — might also be the biggest news of the decade.

A vote to decide the top story would be even more lopsided than the 5,819 to 2,988 margin by which voters decided to move the seat of county government from Southport to the Bolivia - Supply area. But the year was not without other big news; in any other year, either the countywide revaluation of property or the city - county fight over control of Doshier hospital could have been no. 1.

Nobody took it seriously at first, but because of the hands - off policy of the General Assembly concerning local legislation Rep.

Allen Ward's bill was brought to a vote of the people July 19. Since that time the fight has been over where to put the new county office complex; a majority of the county Board of Commissioners says near Bolivia, while members of the "Vote Yes" delegation are looking for their reward in having the complex located near Supply.

COUNTYWIDE REVALUATION

It became big news last January when tax listing was postponed for three months. Property owners had so many complaints the Board of Equalization and Review met a dozen extra times. The incomplete records caused towns, which usually know their values

beforehand, to set fiscal year budgets without knowing how much value they were taxing. Finally in the last two months of the year most people received their tax notices, reminding them of the taxing problems that had lasted all year, and warning them they have only until this Wednesday to pay their taxes without penalty.

DOSHER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The General Assembly took Southport's share of Doshier hospital and gave it to the county Hospital Authority, thus eliminating Doshier's "threat" to Brunswick County Memorial Hospital now under construction. The City of Southport filed a \$5 - million

lawsuit against the county and the Authority, and by June 3 a Superior Court judge had seen enough to return control of the hospital to its own board of trustees. Smithville Township residents, however, are serious about keeping a hospital and have made plans for a separate tax - supported hospital district and a \$2 - million expansion of Doshier.

OAK ISLAND CONSOLIDATION

Biggest news on the island this year has been consolidation. Both town governments have endorsed the plan to unite Long Beach and Yaupon Beach under a single government, but action was started too late for a vote

(Continued on page 3)

Dog Aids In Two Arrests

The Long Beach drug dog was used when two youths were arrested on narcotics charges last week, Det. David Forsythe reported.

Richard Brinson, 18, of Charleston, S.C., and Jeffery Russell, 18, of Pinch, W. Va., were charged with possession of drugs.

Officer Larry Barber made the arrest after stopping their car on the beach and searching it with their permission with the aid of the Long Beach drug dog, Marijuana and an unidentified drug were found in the vent and the console of the car.

Det. Forsythe reported that the unidentified drug has been sent to the SBI lab in Raleigh to determine its name.

'David & Lisa' Film Showing

There will be a showing of the Frank Perry film "David and Lisa" at the Agape in Long Beach on January 3 at 7:30 p.m.

"Although the film is rated 'G', the subject matter would be of interest to teens and adults in that it shows the life of two mentally - disturbed youths who begin to find a way to relate to each other and the world," a spokesman said. The title roles are played by Kier Dullea and Janet Marjolin.

The showing is sponsored by Ocean View United Methodist Church, which hopes to bring other films to the Agape during the winter and spring. Admission is free, and the public is invited.



A PROGRAM DESIGNED to help prevent crime has been started by the Long Beach Police Department. Crime Prevention Officer Sgt. Jerry Young (right) explains to Chief James Hamlett some of the security devices individuals might use to better protect their property. Sgt. Young is available as a speaker for clubs and organizations throughout Brunswick County, and may be contacted at the Long Beach department.

Listing Starts Late, But Improvement Promised

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

Brunswick County taxpayers will not have to start listing 1976 taxes the first of January because of printing delays, Tax Supervisor K.T. Bellamy has reported.

"We have everything ready to go, but the printed tax abstracts," Bellamy said. "We wanted to start off on the right foot this year, but the printing firm has delayed us."

Bellamy said he ordered the tax abstracts in mid-

November and was promised delivery in two weeks. "That was back in November and the abstracts have not been delivered yet," he stated.

Bellamy said he hopes to receive the abstracts from the printer in the near future so they can be mailed to taxpayers.

Once the abstracts are placed in the mail, taxpayers will have 30 days to list their 1976 taxes. Listers will be located in the various townships to assist taxpayers.

"We have already held two

meetings with the listers to tell them about their duties," Bellamy said. "We want to give them the answers to the questions taxpayers will ask."

The tax supervisor said he would make a public announcement when the abstracts are mailed.

"If a taxpayer does not receive an abstract, he should come by the office in person," he stated. "While we are here to assist taxpayers, the law makes it the individual taxpayer's responsibility to make sure

their taxes are listed correctly."

Bellamy said his department is going to make a special effort to make sure all taxable property in the county is listed this year. "We feel like if we can get all property listed in the county, each person will end up paying a little less," he noted.

When taxpayers receive their abstracts, Bellamy said they should make sure their name, address and Social Security number are correct. He said Social Security numbers are important because some people have the same name.

"If the property is listed incorrectly — acreage or number of lots — they should contact my office or the lister after obtaining the deed book number, page and date if possible," Bellamy said. "If they don't have the information, they should provide the names of the adjoining property owners to help us identify where the land is located."

Bellamy said the tax abstracts received by taxpayers will be similar to the ones used in past years. A few changes have been made this year to reflect new laws.

The state law that provided tax exemptions for senior citizens or taxpayers 65 and older has been changed. The

(Continued on page 2)

New Service Stresses 'Prevention Of Crime'

The Long Beach crime prevention officer has recently received special training, Police Chief James Hamlett announced this week.

Det. Sgt. Jerry Young was appointed crime prevention officer in the town this fall after Long Beach received a Law Enforcement Assistance Association (LEAA) grant for his salary.

"We have needed a crime prevention officer in Long Beach for a long time because of the marked increase in crime in our community," Chief Hamlett said.

Sgt. Young has recently completed the basic course in crime prevention at the Coastal Plains Law Enforcement Academy in Wilson. The course was sponsored by the North Carolina Justice Academy.

"The course covered crime prevention programs concerning the problems in the town, security surveys of homes and businesses and risk management," Sgt. Young pointed out.

Sgt. Young said he plans to use the instruction he received at the academy to reduce crime in Long Beach with the cooperation and involvement of the community. He is available for speaking engagements throughout Brunswick County.

He has asked that all Long Beach residents who have suggestions to make to prevent crime in the community call him at the Long Beach Police Department, phone 278-5595.

"We need the cooperation of the public," Sgt. Young stated. "We want to be welcome to make security

surveys in homes and businesses in the community."

He said he was sure crime can be reduced with the cooperation of the public since "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Sgt. Young, 32 and a native of Hillsborough, has been a member of the Long Beach Police Department since May of 1974.

A 1961 graduate of Mebane High School, he spent four years in the U.S. Navy. He was serving as a design engineer in Durham when he was appointed an Orange County magistrate.

Sgt. Young resigned the magistrate position when he joined the Long Beach Police Department. He is attending Southeastern Community

(Continued on page 2)

Contractors Have 'One More Chance' On Roofs

Contractors are to be given one last chance to make the three leaking high school roofs waterproof before contracts are awarded to do the work, the Brunswick County Board of Education decided at a special meeting Monday night.

Robert Sawyer of Ballard, McKim and Sawyer, Architects of Wilmington, presented the board with detailed proposed plans and specifications to have the three roofs repaired.

Ballard said the work will consist of placing new roofs on the three buildings and other renovations associated with waterproofing. He said the associated work in addition to roofing and flashing will consist of construction of expansion joint curbs, re - installation of wall louvers and an alternate soffit installation.

School Board Attorney Mason Anderson said he believed that the board had "both a moral and legal obligation" to see if the contractors who did the original work wanted to make the repairs according to plans and specifications outlined by Sawyer.

Board members said they agreed with Anderson and

decided to give the contractors until January 15 to make their decisions about whether they want to do the work.

If the original contractors don't want to do the work, the contracts will be put up for bids. The bids will be opened February 12.

Anderson also said that the board should not spend more

money than necessary to make the corrections to the roofs. "It should not be overdone," he added.

The board is expected to spend more than \$300,000 to make the roofs waterproof. They will file suit against the general contractor because of breach of contract to get the money back.

Sawyer, who has been working with the board about the leaking roofs, suggested that bids be taken individually at each school and in combination to obtain the best price. Five alternates also should be included, he said.

"While we are on those roofs, we ought to fix them right," Member William Sue suggested. "That is our feeling," Sawyer stated.

Sue pointed out that

(Continued on page 2)

Holiday Closings

Everybody in government and finance will be closed Thursday in observance of New Year's Day.

The banks, the savings and loan associations and all city, county and state offices will be closed Thursday only. Post offices will be closed also, except that box service will be provided. The Pilot will resume its normal printing schedule on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

Wednesday Last Day To List Penalty-Free

Wednesday — December 31 — will be the last day to pay 1975 taxes without an interest penalty, Brunswick County Tax Collector Homer McKeithan reminded taxpayers this week.

County taxpayers who fail to beat the deadline, which expires at 5 p.m. Wednesday, will be subject to a two-percent January late charge penalty. Each month thereafter, the late charge penalty will increase by three - quarters of one percent.

McKeithan urged all taxpayers to pay 1975 taxes before the Wednesday deadline and avoid the penalty. He said he would check at the post office before the office closes to pick up any payments received by mail.

"All taxes received after December 31 will be subject to the penalty under law," McKeithan stated.

Chariman Steve Varnam, Jr., told The Pilot that the county board of commissioners did not want to

charge the penalty because of the lateness taxpayers received their notices.

"If it were up to me and the board, we would relieve the people of the penalty," Chairman Varnam said. "But state law requires that the penalty be charged after December 31."

Chariman Varnam said the only way the penalty could be dropped would be for the General Assembly to change the law. But he said he had not talked to Rep. Allen Ward of Thomasboro about introducing such a bill since he said he understood that only budget matters would be considered at the special session of the General Assembly next month.

"We wanted to give everyone at least 30 days after receiving their tax notices to pay the bill without interest," Chariman Varnam said. "But this is impossible under the

(Continued on page 2)