

Sales Tax Disbursed

Sales tax collections totalling \$179,136.23 for the quarter ending December 31 have been distributed in Brunswick County.

The county received the largest share — \$162,007. Other disbursements included Boiling Spring Lakes \$613, Bolivia \$83, Calabash \$172, Holden Beach \$1,409, Long Beach \$6,437, Ocean Isle Beach \$996, Shallotte \$1,509, Southport \$3,622, Sunset Beach \$923 and Yaupon Beach \$1,360.

Shady Forest and Caswell Beach have not been incorporated long enough to share in the disbursements.

Also this week the report of sales tax collections during January was received. Brunswick County collected \$52,221 — among the lowest totals of the past three years — the Department of Revenue noted.

Possible Funds For Courthouse Get Axe

The bill Brunswick County officials had hoped would provide a large amount of federal funds to construct the courthouse complex was killed in Washington last Thursday.

The Public Works Employment Act of 1975 died in Congress when the Senate failed to muster the two-thirds margin needed to override President Gerald Ford's veto of the bill.

The vote in the Senate was 63 to 35 to over-ride the veto. But it was three short of the margin needed to over-ride a veto by the President and enact the bill.

The House had supported over-riding the veto 319 to 98 three hours before the Senate voted on the bill. The House margin was 41 more than the two-thirds vote needed to over-ride.

Both houses of Congress had voted overwhelmingly to approve the bill but President Ford, calling it a "Christmas tree bill," vetoed it.

The House voted 4 to 1 to approve the original bill. The Senate supported the bill 65 to 28 last July 29. However, President Ford picked up nine Republican votes while losing two Democrats in the Senate vote Thursday.

"Those members of the Congress who stood firm against enormous political pressures in favor of this bill deserve the appreciation and gratitude of all Americans," President Ford said after the Senate sustained the veto.

County Planner Johnny Sutton and officials of Minton and Associates, the Raleigh firm employed to seek federal funds for the county, told

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FEEDING THE GULLS...This youngster on the Southport waterfront seems to be having fun Saturday afternoon as he tosses bread scraps to seagulls, which usually are quick enough to catch the crumbs before they hit the ground. There are more gulls than usual this year on the waterfront, and with feeding like this they are likely to stay around.

Wholesale Cost Jumps

County Electric Rates Going Up

Brunswick County residents will have to dig deeper in their pockets to pay their electrical bills next month.

Carolina Power & Light Company has announced it will raise its wholesale rates a total of 34.5 percent on Monday, March 1.

The new increase will not become permanent until the Federal Power Commission, which must approve wholesale rate hikes, makes its ruling in the matter. The FCC has five months to make its decision.

However, CP&L plans to post a bond and begin charging the new rate on March 1. If the FCC turns down the request the company will have to reimburse its customers.

A total of 22 cities and 18 rural cooperatives in North Carolina — including the City of Southport and Brunswick Electric Membership Cor-

poration — are affected by the rate increase. They buy their power from CP&L and re-sell it to homes, businesses and industries.

CP&L officials have estimated that the 34.5 percent hike will raise its annual income from wholesale customers by about \$33.7 million.

Electricities, which represents some CP&L's wholesale customers, has expressed alarm about the rate hike. Southport decided to join the organization to protest the new rates at a board meeting last week.

An Electricities spokesman said the rate hike apparently would raise the wholesale prices almost to the level now charged by CP&L to retail customers.

"That would mean retail customers of municipalities and cooperatives would have to pay more for their power than CP&L's own retail

buyers because those systems must add the costs of their operations to their power rates," the spokesman explained.

Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., said Southport will probably have to raise its rates to customers about 28 percent because of the CP&L wholesale hike.

"The average retail customer's rates will go up, say, by \$8 to \$10 a month," the mayor estimated.

Mayor Tomlinson said he didn't believe the CP&L hike was justified "in light of the fact that I hear the utilities had their best year last year, profit-wise, in several years."

The North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation has filed a "vigorous protest" over the wholesale rate increase.

"It is difficult to tell exactly what the increase would be,"

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College Course Sign-Up At Two County Schools

Registration for the spring quarter in the college transfer program in Brunswick County will be March 8-9 from 7 to 9 p.m. on each date, with classes beginning on March 10.

"This represents a new procedure," explained Mrs. May Barbee, coordinator for the program offered by Southeastern Community College and the Brunswick County Board of Education. "To enroll in classes, registration and payment of tuition and books must be done on March 8 at South Brunswick High School, and on March 9 at West Brunswick High School."

All courses are fully-credited college courses and are transferable. Instructors are members of the faculty at Southeastern Community College.

Courses to be offered at South Brunswick include:

Fundamentals of Design, which meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

It is an introductory course emphasizing the elements and principles of design, with students having direct experience in a variety of media, including charcoal, ink, paint and printmaking.

General Biology, Wednesdays from 6 to 10 p.m., a continued study of plants and animals with special emphasis on responsiveness in plants and animals, adaption and ecology, as well as current and past evolution. Prerequisite needed.

Principles of Accounting meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 9:30 p.m.: a study of the basic accounting procedures and the theory underlying those procedures.

Freshman English, meets Mondays from 7 to 10 p.m.: a continuation of Freshman English, including the study of the novel and poetry. Research papers based on the casebook and the library. Prerequisite.

Public Speaking, meets

Mondays from 7 to 10 p.m.: a study of basic speech skills, including speech preparation, composition and delivery; practical training in the presentation of short speeches.

U.S. History, meets Wednesdays from 7 to 10 p.m.: a study of basic speech skills, including speech preparation, composition and delivery; practical training in the presentation of short speeches.

U.S. History, meets Wednesdays from 7 to 10 p.m.: a survey of the Colonial period and early national period, covering

colonization, the American Revolution, the adoption of the federal Constitution, and the development of the national government through the Missouri Compromise.

Courses to be offered at West Brunswick include:

American Literature, meets Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m.: a study of major

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Bids Sought For Roofing

The Brunswick County Board of Education is asking for bids to repair the leaking roofs at the three high schools, Chairman Wilbur Earl Rabon has announced.

The bids will be opened at a special board meeting on March 18 at 2 p.m. at the Board of Education office.

The bid work will consist of the application of new roofing to the three high schools, and other renovations associated with waterproofing.

The associate work, in addition to roofing and flashing, will consist of new

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Long Beach Tax Base Jumps To \$86 Million

By BILL ALLEN

Staff Writer

Long Beach has a tax base of more than \$86 million, town commissioners were informed at their regular monthly meeting Wednesday night.

Town Manager John Berry said the tax base totals

\$86,013,273 "at this time" when questioned by Commissioner Russ Morrison.

However, Berry said the tax base was not a final figure since "all releases have not been made."

Morrison pointed out that the town's tax base has climbed from an estimated

\$50 million last July to \$80 million and finally to \$86 million. He said he hopes the board can start working next month to reduce taxes. Berry told the board that town Tax Collector Lorell Duncan has collected 74.8 percent, or \$369,609.48, of 1975 taxes. He said \$136,368.12 is outstanding to be collected at the present time.

The board voted unanimously to hold the tax sale on unpaid real property taxes for 1975 on June 14 at Town Hall, upon the recommendation of Berry.

Town Attorney James Prevatte, Jr., told Morrison it was legal to hold the sale despite the fact some property owners have said they are withholding the payment of their taxes to protest the rates.

The board voted on a split decision to hold a public hearing March 24 to consider two amendments to the subdivision ordinance.

The Planning Board requested that the board adopt the amendments to clear up "conflicts" in the subdivision ordinance. Prevatte was asked at the last meeting to reword the amendments and present them to the board.

Morrison voted in opposition to holding the public hearing to discuss the

proposed amendments, which follow:

"10.02 Subdivisions Subject to Zoning Ordinance District Regulations

"Property within the Town of Long Beach that was subdivided as per definition in North Carolina General Statute 160A-376 and as in Article V. 1 of this ordinance before (Date of passage of amendment); which is located within a district specified by the Long Beach Zoning Ordinance, shall meet and conform to all lot, size, dimension and building setback requirements of said Zoning ordinance.

"10.03 Property Not Subdivided

"Property within the Town of Long Beach that was not subdivided as per definition in North Carolina General Statute 160A-376 and as in Article V. 1 of this ordinance before (Date of passage of amendment) shall be subject to the following requirements:

"10.03.01 Residential Lot Area

"(1) Lots served by both public water and public sewer shall have an area of at least 8,000 square feet.

"(2) Lots served by public sewer but not public water shall have an area of at least 10,000 square feet.

"(3) Lots served by only

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Beach Water System Is 'Closer To Reality'

By BILL ALLEN

Staff Writer

The proposed Long Beach water system is moving closer to reality, Mayor Pro-Tem Ellis Dudley reported at the regular monthly meeting Wednesday night.

The board discussed having a four-phased system with representatives of Pierson - Whitman during a special meeting last month. Another meeting will be held later this month to discuss the final report, which is due March 1.

The Pierson - Whitman representative said the long Beach bond referendum might be for \$2

million when it is held, hopefully this spring.

But Dudley said the referendum will not be for more money than the town can obtain from FHA for the water system.

It has been estimated that Phase I will cost about \$1,071,116 plus laterals, meters, etc. The cost will depend on how much the county will help.

It was noted that the county and town entered into a verbal and written agreement in 1974 about the Long Beach water system. The county agreed to install distribution lines within the city and connect its

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Warehouse Designation Program Open Monday

The flue-cured tobacco warehouse designation program, started in 1974, will be continued here in 1976.

In order to establish eligibility for price support on auction markets, it will be necessary that Brunswick County farm operators designate the warehouse, or warehouses, at which they wish to obtain price support and indicate the number of pounds they plan to market at the warehouse.

The farm operator, or someone to whom they have given written authorization, may designate by visiting the ASCS office and filing the designation on a prescribed form. This may be done during the period March 1 through April 2.

At the time they designate they should be prepared to indicate the number of

marketing cards they expect to need for each warehouse. The marketing card issued for the farm will identify the warehouse at which price support will be available.

A list of warehouses at which producers in Brunswick County may obtain price support is available at the ASCS office and with each ASC County and Community Committeeman. They should select from this list the warehouse or warehouses they desire to designate. It may be to their advantage to contact a representative of each warehouse they will designate and make arrangements for the marketing of their crop before they visit the ASCS office to designate.

Any farm operator will be permitted to designate if he expects to have tobacco

available for marketing from their farm this year.

To assist in preventing long waiting lines, ASCS office personnel are urging farmers not to wait until the last of the period but to come in as early as possible. Also, to the extent possible, lease and transfer of quota should be complete before designation. This, however, should not prevent a farmer from designating during this period.

Markets available to Brunswick County farmers are: Chadbourn, Clarkton, Clinton, Fair Bluff, Fairmont, Fayetteville, Kinston, Lumberton, Tabor City, Wallace, Whiteville, Conway, Dillon, Hemingway, Lake City, Loris, Mullins and Pamplico.