



PRIVATE ENTERPRISE will take over operation of the Southport Small Boat Harbor next month. William Arnold (center) and Ernie Pawlak (right), who will lease the facility, show their plans for the harbor to Gene Merritt of the State Ports Authority.

## Ports Group Okays Boat Harbor Lease

By BILL ALLEN  
Staff Writer

The Small Boat Harbor, which has been operated by the state for the past ten years, has been leased to private business interests in Southport.

Gene Merritt, director of public relations for the North Carolina Ports Authority, was in Southport on Tuesday afternoon to make the official announcement.

William Arnold of Sanford and Ernie Pawlak of Southport, who operated Carolina Yacht Brokers, Inc., on Howe Street, will take over the facility on April 15. Arnold and Pawlak an-

nounced that the name of the Southport Boat Harbor will be changed to Southport Marina when they begin operating the facility.

"It is my belief that with private enterprise and with our plans, it can be what it was intended — an outstanding boating facility that will help the economy of Brunswick County and Southport," Arnold Declared. "I think we can convert it into a business that can make a profit."

The State Ports Authority, meeting in Pinehurst on Friday, voted to lease the Southport facility to Arnold and Pawlak. The authority has been considering leasing

the facility since last September. A committee, headed by Coolidge Murrow of High Point, has been looking at the future of the Southport boat harbor.

Six individuals and companies originally submitted bids to lease the facility, but one dropped out of the building. The authority accepted Arnold's proposal, but the lease price was not disclosed.

"Mr. Arnold was the highest bidder and had the best plan for the boat harbor here in Southport," Merritt reported.

The Small Boat Harbor, which has been located in Southport for the last ten

years, has had a net operating loss of about \$160,000 since being established.

Merritt said the authority decided to lease the facility because members felt it could be operated more efficiently by private enterprise.

"It is easier for private enterprise to run a business than a public enterprise in most cases," Merritt explained.

Arnold said he believes that he can turn the direction around and make a profit because of the planned improvements and promotion work that will be done.

He reported that there are no plans to change the current rate schedule for the harbor, which is only two-thirds full at the present time. The ten employees at the facility will continue their duties, he added.

Lewis Clarks Associates, a Raleigh professional planning firm, has done the land use work to improve the facility. The firm did the land use plan for the North Carolina Zoo and has done work on the Hilton Head Island projects.

"We are working towards changing the image of the facility to make it a needed recreation area that all boaters can enjoy," Arnold stated.

He said it will take time to make the improvements and no completion date has been set. The schedule will depend on the use of the harbor. No price tag has been placed on the costs of the planned improvements, which will be

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## Beach Subdivision Rule Not Changed

By BILL ALLEN  
Staff Writer

The Long Beach Board of Commissioners turned down two amendments to the subdivision ordinance after developers expressed strong disapproval during a public hearing Wednesday night.

The board deadlocked 3 to 3 on a motion to approve the two amendments. Mayor Harold Crain, who had seconded the motion and voted in support, announced that the deadlock vote had defeated it.

Developers objected strongly to the requirement that residential lots would have to be at least 13,200 square feet if the amendments were approved — a point made by Gib Barbee.

The minimum lot sizes of 8,000 square feet and 10,000 square feet contained in the proposed amendments will not apply at this time because Long Beach does not have water or sewer in the areas, Barbee pointed out.

Mayor Crain said the amendments would reduce the minimum size from 20,000 to 13,500. Marvin Watson, Hannon Templeton and A.H. Gainey, Jr., challenged the mayor's statement.

"You are raising it from 7,500 to 20,000," Gainey declared. "You are not lowering it. The 20,000 has never applied. You are not doing anyone a favor."

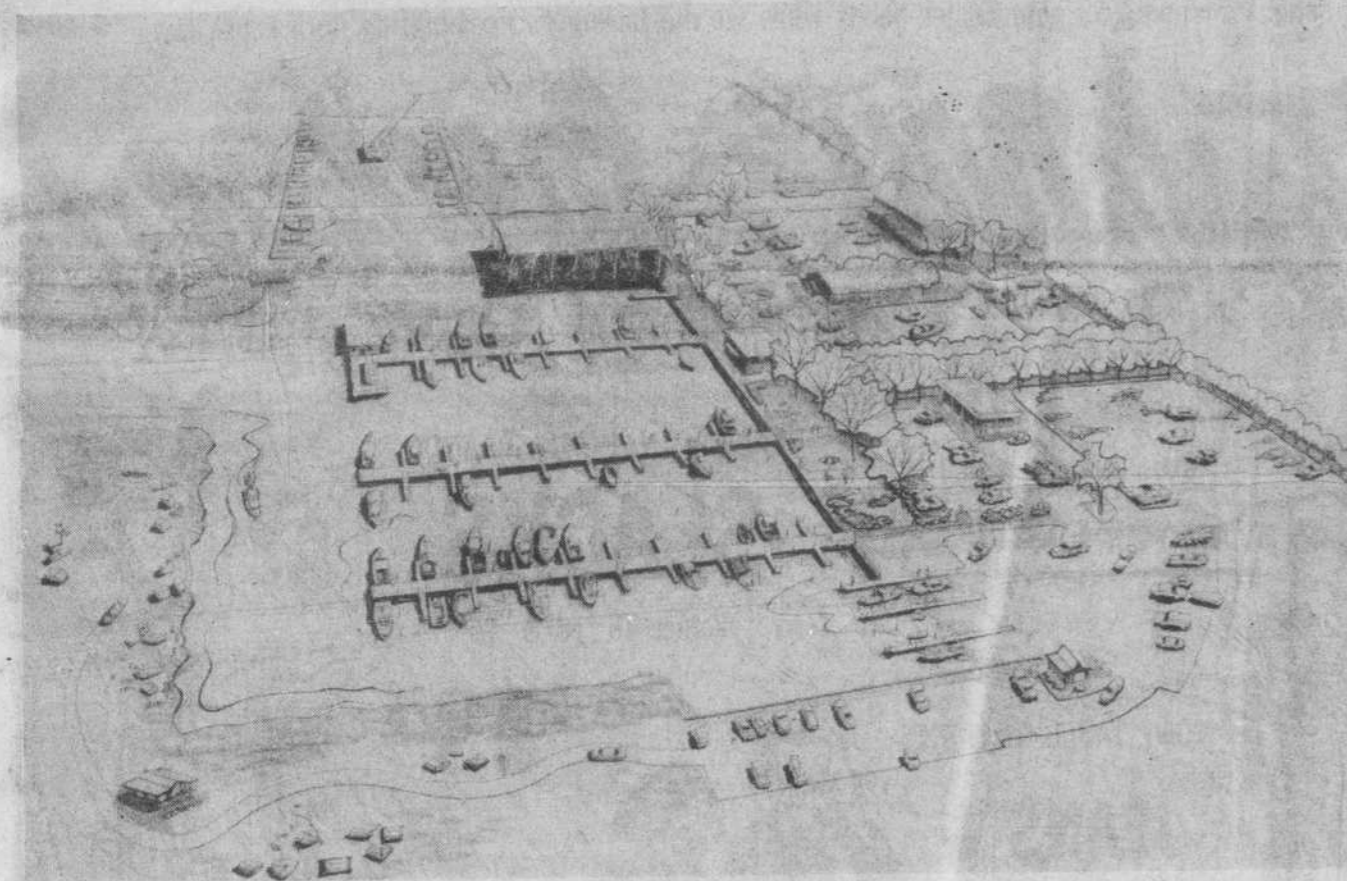
Town Attorney James Prevatte, Jr., told Com-

mission Russell Morrison that the 20,000 square foot requirement in the subdivision ordinance does not apply since all Long Beach is zoned.

He said the 20,000 requirement would stay in the ordinance but it would have no effect. It would apply to un-zoned areas and all Long Beach is zoned, he explained.

"So we have more than one

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A RALEIGH PLANNING FIRM has developed plans to provide a "new image" for the Southport Small Boat Harbor. William Arnold and Ernie Pawlak, who have leased the facility from the state, believe the plan will result in higher use of the harbor.

## Tax Review Convenes Tuesday

The Brunswick County Board of Equalization and Review will hold its first session this year Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock at the Hood Building in Southport.

All residents who disagree with the values places on their property will be able to discuss them with board members during the meeting.

Taxpayers who would like to appear before the board have been asked to call Tax Supervisor K.T. Bellamy at his office (457-6436) in Southport to make an appointment.

Bellamy told The Pilot last week that his office had received no calls asking for appointments although the meeting is being advertised in county newspapers. A person reading the advertisements, however, cannot tell that taxpayers can discuss valuations at the Board of Equalization and Review hearing. (See advertisement in this edition of The Pilot.)

The advertisement was apparently written to satisfy legal requirements that the meeting be advertised to the public, but without providing much information.

"If I had not seen the words

Board of Equalization and Review, I would not know what the advertisement meant," one county official said.

The advertisements don't mention that citizens can protest their tax values at the Board of Equalization and Review meeting. Instead, the

advertisements said that the hearings are being conducted "in accordance with Chapter 105 of the General Statutes of North Carolina."

Chapter 105 covers the entire Machinery Act of North Carolina on taxation. It is a 154-page document covering everything from

Short Title, Purpose and Definitions to Validations in 18 articles.

The board is required to hear any taxpayer who owns or controls property taxable in the county with respect to the listing or appraisal of his property or the property of others. All action taken must

be placed in the official minutes of the board which are open to the public, according to law.

The board, composed of county commissioners, will examine and review the tax lists of the county for the current year to the end that all taxable property shall be listed on the abstracts and the tax records and appraised according to the standard required by law and make corrections to conform to the law.

The board can reduce or increase the appraised value of any property that members believe has been listed and appraised at a figure that is above or below the appraisal required by law.

### PORK BARBECUE

The Winnabow Volunteer Fire Department will sponsor a pork barbecue dinner and bake sale on Saturday beginning at 11 a.m.

## Were You Counted In Beach Census?

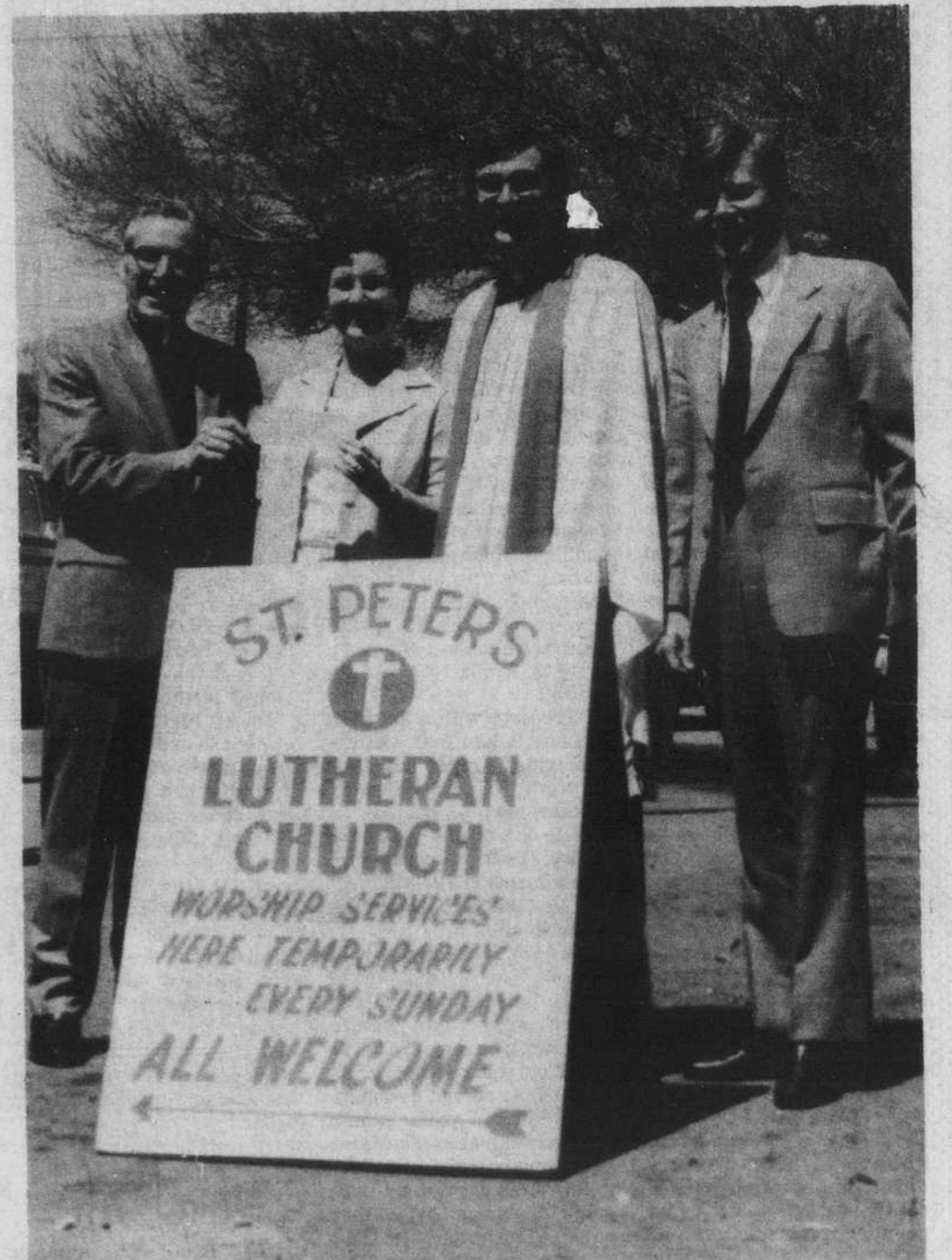
Mary F. Garris, supervisor of the Special Census of Long Beach, said today that the census is drawing to a close. Census takers, who started canvassing the town on Monday, will have virtually completed their initial go-round by Friday.

In order to be certain that no permanent resident of Long Beach has been overlooked, Mrs. Garris urged that residents who have not been contacted by a census taker by Friday evening complete the

special "Were You Counted" form carried elsewhere in this issue of The State Port Pilot. It should be clipped out and mailed immediately to the address given on the form.

Mrs. Garris again emphasized that only bona fide residents of Long Beach or those who have no usual residence elsewhere will be included. Specifically, she pointed out, the count excludes those: here visiting, vacationing or, who,

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A \$50,000 FIRST mortgage loan check for St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Southport was presented Sunday for the new church building, located on NC 211 west of the Beach Road. Left to right are Rev. Walter Yount, executive director of North Carolina Lutheran Men; Mrs. Helen Hendricks, Building Fund treasurer for St. Peter's; Rev. Hollis Miller, pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church; and David Fleming, president of North Carolina Lutheran Men.