

# OUR TOWN

## Long Beach

Today (Wednesday) Long Beach commissioners are to convene informally around 4 p.m. to get a grand tour of the facilities they now command.

Town manager David Poston said he has designed an orientation session primarily geared to acquaint new commissioners with staff, facilities and equipment. "I want them to know every employee's name and face and what they do," Poston said. "I want them to know all the buildings we have and every piece of equipment."

Poston said that knowledge will be essential to new commissioners when budget discussions begin in late winter or early spring.

Also this week, staff was busy preparing to answer questions at a second public hearing on a proposed public wastewater management system. Commissioners will conduct a second night of public hearings on the proposal Thursday at 7 p.m. at the recreation center.

A referendum on a proposed \$15-million bond authorization to finance the project is tentatively set for March 31. (See related story.)

Two opportunities for citizens to serve the Town of Long Beach now exist. This week, persons who are interested in serving on either the town's parks and recreation advisory committee or the ABC board are invited to send letters of interest to town clerk Pat Brunell.

## Caswell Beach

About 80 percent of all property taxes have been collected from Caswell Beach property owners, tax collector Linda Bethune said this week.

She called that collection rate at this time of year "pretty good."

Actually for those who haven't paid, it's pretty bad. Monday was the last day to pay property taxes without penalty. Tuesday, a two-percent delinquency payment was tacked on unpaid tax bills. For every month taxes remain delinquent, an additional 3/4-percent penalty will be added.

When commissioners meet Thursday, the first order of business will be to select a mayor pro-tem. Commissioners delayed that action at their reorganizational meeting last month as commissioner Bill Boyd, the current mayor pro-tem, was out of town. Commissioners will also hear a report from town attorney Elva Jess on a proposed amendment to the town's zoning ordinance addressing vested property rights. The amendment comes in reaction to a statute adopted by the General Assembly in its last term.

State agriculture department officials will shortly visit Caswell Beach to address the town's erosion control committee. They will likely make arrangements to test-plant a variety of beach grasses on dunes in the town at no cost to Caswell Beach.

## Yaupon Beach

Tax collection is uppermost on the minds of staff in Yaupon Beach this week also.

Town clerk Nancy Wilson said the actual percentage of collections hasn't been calculated yet, but it appears payments are coming in about as fast as they did last year when the town's tax collection rate was nearly 98 percent. "Maybe even a little better," Wilson said.

Commissioners Monday night conducted a public hearing on a proposed ordinance relative to the Yaupon Beach sewer construction project. Next Monday, commissioners will meet in regular session.

## Boiling Spring Lakes

New officers elected to serve the Boiling Spring Lakes Volunteer Rescue Squad are: Ceibert (Bert) Walls, chief; Grace Webb, assistant chief; Tim Stanley, captain; Elmer Schorzman, treasurer; Jimmy Sellers, training officer.

The squad now has 11 members, including five who have achieved certification at the Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate level. When the county's Advanced Life Support (ALS) system is initiated later this year, these EMT-I's will be able to administer intravenous solutions and perform cardiac defibrillation, when in contact with a designated person at a hospital.

Rescue squad members ask all citizens to display house numbers prominently on their homes so identification can be made easily in times of emergency. The squad is also seeking new members to train to become emergency medical technicians. Additional staff is badly needed.

The Boiling Spring Lakes Volunteer Rescue Squad responded to an average of 14 calls a month in 1991.

## Bald Head Island

The village's fire equipment has moved to the new public safety quarters off Muscadine Wynd at the end of Edward Teach, and village manager Wallace Martin says that the balance of public safety functions will likely be headquartered there by January 25. That is the date of the next village council meeting, Bald Head Association board meeting and annual meeting of the association, and those sessions will all be held in the public safety building. The building will then become the regular meeting site, replacing the village chapel, until completion of suitable facilities at a planned government seat -- back near the chapel.

Martin also reports that planting of 125,000 sprigs of beach grass to help retain renourishment sand is underway, and will likely continue through next week.

## Southport

Aldermen are to receive a report from their library committee as they meet in regular session Thursday night. Recently two Southport aldermen and two county commissioners formed an *ad hoc* committee to determine the fate of the county library system. Residents of areas in the county told the committee it wanted Brunswick County to run an integrated library system and to abandon a city-county partnership which has a 30-plus-year history. Southport officials seemed to agree it was time to relinquish the control it has held over the system.

Aldermen Nelson Adams and Meezie Childs represented the city in the discussions.

In other business to be brought before aldermen Thursday night, the board will hear a proposal from staff to sell surplus property and authorize the purchase of a used truck. It also will receive a report from mayor Norman Holden on Southport's possible designation as an "All-America City".

Staff will reveal the time and date of a proposed board retreat to discuss preliminary budget matters, and a date will be set for a workshop on a proposed pay and classification plan for municipal employees.



Photo by Ed Harper

It's there. U. S. Coast Guard officials told citizens of Caswell Beach they weren't fooling when they said a chain-link fence would encircle the federal compound. Town officials and the Coast Guard volleyed for months on the fence issue, just one of a number of projects undertaken in an overall renovation of U. S. Coast Guard Station Oak Island recently.

## Southport-Oak Island area

# Land use hearing Thursday

By Holly Edwards  
County Editor

What are the biggest environmental problems in Brunswick County?

What areas should be protected and preserved?

How can the county best control development and growth in its coastal communities?

These are some of the questions Brunswick County is asked to consider every five years when it updates its Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) land use plan. And Thursday evening, Southport-Oak Island residents will have their opportunity to let the county planning board and board of commissioners know how they feel about land use issues. A public participation workshop is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. at the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce welcome center and the public is invited to attend.

The workshop will be co-hosted by commissioner Gene Pinkerton of Yaupon Beach and planning board member John Barbec, of Southport. According to Pinkerton, many of the environmental problems in the county are tied to land use, and a strong land use plan will lead to a strong zoning ordinance.

"Land use and zoning are married," he said. "If you can get a good zoning ordinance, you won't have nearly the number of land use problems."

County planner John Harvey currently is working on a zoning ordinance, and he said there will be numerous inter-relationships between the land use plan and the zoning document. "Zoning is supposed to be based on a comprehensive plan, and it will take the land use plan into significant account," he said. Harvey also said that public opinions and concerns expressed at

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Gene Pinkerton  
County commissioner

the upcoming public participation workshops will be used as guidelines for the land use plan as well as the zoning ordinance.

In past public workshops, Harvey said, Brunswick County residents have been mainly concerned about road and bridge improvements, better storm drainage systems, better water distribution systems and a better waste disposal system. The biggest environmental concerns expressed were litter control, wetlands protection, the prohibition of atomic waste sites and the protection of scenic roads.

The state has been conducting studies on whether or not the fishing industry is harming the environment, but Harvey said the studies have been inconclusive.

"The public doesn't perceive trying to sustain a fishing industry as a problem," said Harvey. "But there is a question that the fishing industry may be over-fishing, over-clamming, over-oystering."

Another major environmental concern is...

See Land use, page 10

# Yaupon Beach sewer cost: \$28 a month

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

The average 6,000-gallon-per-month water customer in Yaupon Beach will pay about \$28 per month in sewer charges when that city constructs a public wastewater management system.

Each owner of developed property will also have to pay between \$1,200 and \$1,400 in up-front costs in assessments and tap and connection fees.

About 20 property owners learned of those costs Monday night as Yaupon Beach commissioners, together with a consulting engineer, conducted a public hearing on a proposed ordinance permitting sewer system development.

Subsequent to the public hearing, commissioners voted to allow consulting engineers Boney and Associates of Raleigh to present the ordinance to state agencies which control loan funds for which the town has applied. Commissioners said they still have to work out details of the proposal, especially assessment charges to owners of corner lots and vagaries in the model ordinance which address the filling of existing septic tanks and other matters. Commissioners also may opt to alter the proposed schedule of fees in the ordinance, realigning the balance of fixed fees with user fees.

Under the terms of a financing proposal initiated by the Boney firm,

Yaupon Beach has qualified for a loan at 3.57-percent interest from the federal Clean Water Act revolving loan fund, a fund that is administered by the state. The loan will finance the bulk of treatment facility cost.

Line construction costs will be financed by a combination of a proposed \$6.50-per-front-foot assessment of each property owner and a \$350 tap-on fee.

The front-foot assessment may be financed over a period as great as ten years, under the law, but engineers have recommended the offer of only a five-year finance period. Commissioners are to decide on how long a finance period is to be offered.

Tap-on to the Yaupon Beach wastewater management system will be mandatory. Property owners will additionally have to bear the cost of extending sewer lines from their septic tanks to a clean-out pipe which will be installed by the town. Local plumbers will perform that task at cost to the property owner, under the proposal.

Consulting engineer Robert Graham of the Boney firm said final review comments from state regulatory agencies will be received by next week.

"If we can get all of their questions answered, we should be able to advertise (bids) in February and award bids in April or May. We can start construction immediately thereafter."

## Lakes appointments made Tuesday night

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Newly elected mayor Mark Stewart took additional steps to establish his administration as Boiling Spring Lakes commissioners met in regular session Tuesday night.

Commissioners named Joan Kinney to membership on the city's planning board. She replaces former chairman Bob Rolloson, who resigned last month in protest of

other board appointments Stewart made -- appointments Rolloson said were made without the planning board's counsel.

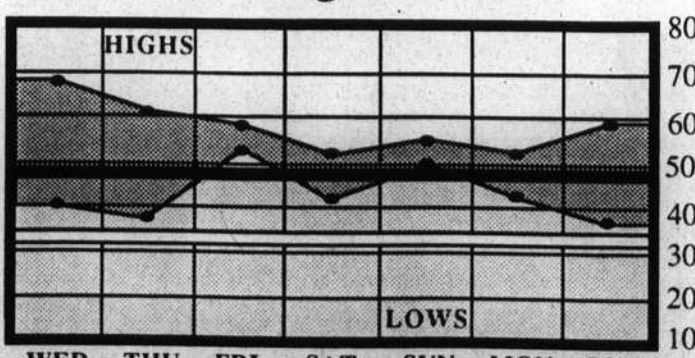
Elmer Schorzman was named chairman of the planning board.

Commissioners also appointed four new members to the city's lakes committee. They are Mike Williams, Davey Williamson, Tony Gaw and Marvin Necessary.

In realigning commissioners' assignments...

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## Past week's highs & lows



Data courtesy of Foxy Howard  
Graph by Debi McKellar



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