



## Sewer or not?

### Long Beach weighs pros, cons

By Ed Harper  
Pilot Editor

Long Beach residents took a second opportunity Thursday night to voice their opinions about a proposed \$15.2-million wastewater collection and treatment system to serve the Oak Island community.

Commissioners tentatively have set March 31 as the date of a bond referendum on the matter. A positive vote would allow the town to borrow up to the full amount to finance construction if necessary, although proponents say the entire system should be funded through a combination of assessments, tap fees and bond anticipation notes, short-term financial instruments sold in advance of a bond issue, then repaid with cash flow from an operating utility.

Thursday's hearing was the second in a series of public forums on the subject. A third is scheduled tonight (Wednesday) at 7 p.m. at the Long Beach Recreation Center.

Mayor Joan Altman began Thursday's session with an overview of the first public hearing and a review of printed questions and answers from that initial meeting. She said it was the board's task to provide the

most information possible; "You owe us the obligation," she told the standing-room-only crowd, of learning all it can about the proposed system and making an informed decision.

Commissioners had the floor first. Jeff Ensminger told the recreation center audience that state law dictates only resident voters can participate in the March referendum; Horace Collier urged input on proposed fees, saying an average 6,000-gallon-per-month usage might be high for some people although "in my household that would be low;" Bill Easley said a wastewater management system would not in itself change the character of Long Beach, that height restrictions only voters can change would restrict development some say they fear; Danny Leonard said the present tight economy could work to the town's advantage in construction of a sewer system; and David Durr said payment of sewer assessments, tap fees and user fees is "not a tax -- it comes out of the other pocket."

Among the speakers last Thursday night:

•Harold Watson said if a system is developed and subsequent users tap-on, their impact fee should be

\$5,000 rather than the \$3,000 consulting engineer Finley Boney proposed.

•Frances Allen, referring to an earlier statement by commissioner Easley, said citizens owe their children "something, but we don't owe them this kind of a bill." She asked why the issue of sewer comes up "year after year," and why is there interest in a sewer system -- "unless you want to have a house on every lot on this beach."

Mayor Altman had given a chronology of sewer activity in her  
See Beach sewer, page 12

## Williams the principal for Supply school

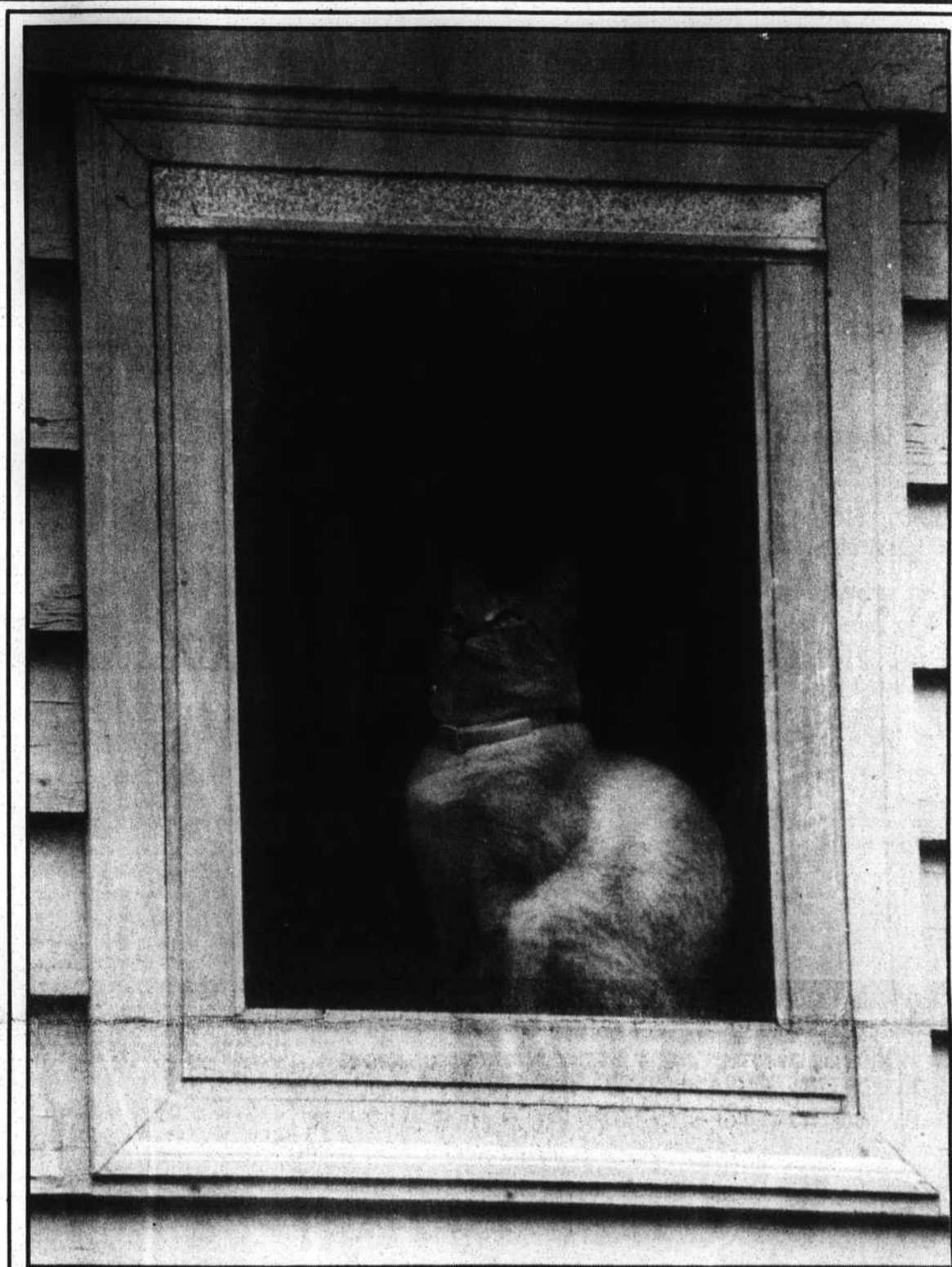
By Marybeth Bianchi  
Feature Editor

Carolyn Williams of Boiling Spring Lakes was the Brunswick County Board of Education's unanimous choice for principal of Supply Elementary School.

Williams, who is the assistant principal at Bolivia Elementary School, was recommended to the board by superintendent P. R. Hankins from a field of about ten "qualified" candidates. The board made its decision when it reconvened its monthly meeting last Wednesday evening.

"She has outstanding credentials. That weighs heavily in these challenging times," Hankins said. "We

See Principal, page 5



This watchful cat keeps an eye on blackbirds in what fine times he could have if only he could learn how to turn a doorknob.

## Sewer or not?

Have a house in Long Beach? Got a lot there and hope to retire to Oak Island someday?

Want sewer?

We're looking for your opinion -- resident and non-resident -- as the Town of Long Beach prepares to vote as early as March 31 on whether or not to approve a \$15.2-million bond authorization (permission to borrow up to that amount if necessary) that would permit development of a townwide sewer system. Knowing what you know now about the need for wastewater treatment facilities in Long Beach, and what you know at this time about projected costs, how would you vote?

Yes  No

My House  Vacant property   
is located on \_\_\_\_\_ (Street)

Do you think that development of a wastewater treatment facility will be necessary in the Town of Long Beach by the year 2000?

Yes  No

Please return this questionnaire to: Sewer Survey, The State Port Pilot, P. O. Box 10548, Southport, NC 28461, by February 1, 1992. Results of the poll will be published in the February 5 edition of the Pilot. Only original copies of this survey form will be accepted.

## Health agency has no rule

# Smoking issue lights up board

By Holly Edwards  
County Editor

Brunswick County Health Department employees are smoking in an area adjacent to where children with respiratory illnesses are examined, and the health department is setting a very poor example by not having a

non-smoking policy, according to a letter written by Dr. Gordon D. Coleman, a doctor on contract with the health department's child health clinic and president of the New Hanover-Pender County Medical Society.

Coleman's letter was brought to the attention of health board members Monday night, and the board subsequently agreed to form a committee to discuss implementing a non-smoking policy within the health department. Currently, the only smoking policy the health department has is that people should "try to avoid" smoking in the waiting room, according to health department director Michael Rhodes.

"I look at (a non-smoking policy)

*'I'm against regulating everything people do.... The health department workers are responsible enough to decide when to smoke and when not to smoke.'*

Dr. William Rabon  
Health board chairman

as providing for the public health. It's very poor." However, Dr. Bill Rabon, health board chairman, said he was "dead-set against" a non-smoking policy in this building has been tested and

See Smoking ban, page 8



Consulting engineer Finley Boney answered questions at Thursday night's public hearing on a proposed Long Beach wastewater management system. Another hearing is scheduled tonight (Wednesday).

## Dr. King

### Leader recalls 'disciple' for freedom

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

"Whenever I get over to Heaven and I get to talk to Dr. King, I want to tell him two things and ask him one thing.

"I want to tell him the bus seats ride a lot better because of his concern for America. I want to tell him the water tastes better because I don't have to drink out of a black fountain.

"I want to ask him, with all of the things that were done against him, 'How did you keep the faith?'"

When the Rev. Jesse A. Bryant of Cedar Grove gets the chance to talk to Martin Luther King in the Promised Land, he's going to offer those observations and ask that question. But, as one who marched at the

side of the slain civil rights leader whose birthday is celebrated this week, Bryant says race relations in Brunswick County and in the nation today are not a great deal better than they were in the 1960s when he and other progressive community leaders were struggling to bring to America a sense of racial harmony.

"It isn't much different today than what it was then," Bryant said. "Racism is still as present today." Bryant challenges white Americans to "look at the numbers." He asks, "How many blacks are in the cabinets? The numbers speak for themselves."

The community pauses this week to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King. Schools will take time to teach the special history he made.

But, to soldiers of the civil rights wars like Bryant, See Dr. King, page 13