

OUR TOWN

Yaupon Beach

Commissioner Joe Broyles reports this week that a man sentenced to perform community service work has committed 60 hours of that service to Yaupon Beach.

The offender cleaned-up after the Christmas-by-the-Sea parade, has painted the ABC store trim and has trimmed traffic island plantings.

Town officials report an 87-percent tax collection rate as of this time and say that is good.

Commissioners Monday transferred funds for the purchase of a new police car for chief Aubrey Hickman. Funds were also appropriated for the purchase of a new computer printer at Town Hall.

Town officials Monday granted Southern National Bank permission to cross under Ocean Drive to establish a nitrification field to service the former Captain's Hut restaurant. The bank acquired the restaurant property in a foreclosure proceeding.

Commissioners refused to allow a petition for a second Oak Island bridge to be displayed in Town Hall. Although Yaupon Beach has representatives on a committee to promote a second bridge to the Middleton Street area of Long Beach, commissioners said it was "inappropriate" to petition the state for the bridge through town offices.

Long Beach

Commissioners and staff are consumed with preparations for the proposed March 31 bond referendum to allow public sewer system development.

Staff is looking at different types of sewer systems. Commissioners and staff members traveled to Surf City on Monday and went to see Shallotte's public wastewater management system on Tuesday.

"You go to see the similarities and the differences and you weigh them against one another," town manager David Poston said.

Officials are particularly interested in grinder pumps and the relative benefits of the combination pressure and gravity sewer collection system consulting engineers Boney and Associates of Raleigh have proposed.

Big news in Long Beach Friday is the interlocal government social commissioners have planned for their counterparts in other municipalities. Get this: Long Beach will host all elected officials in the region at a "get-to-know-one-another" affair. Southport, Yaupon Beach, Caswell Beach, Boiling Spring Lakes, N. C. Baptist Assembly and Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District officials are expected to attend.

Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department has about 30 members right now. That number is up from 12 at this time last year. Chief Tim Pittman gets a lot of the credit for recruiting.

Southport

Southport's rescue squad will sponsor a class to train emergency medical technicians. Classes will be held at 7 p.m. most Tuesdays and Thursdays at the squad building on Nash Street with instructors Bill Sherrod and Ellen Dorsett. Registration must be made by January 16.

A daytime EMT training class is also planned for February. More information can be obtained by calling Dorsett at 457-5493.

U. S. Congressman Charles G. Rose has nominated Southport to receive the All-American City award. Mayor Norman Holden made the announcement Thursday night and aldermen directed city staff to proceed with an application process.

Aldermen will travel to Bald Head Island on Saturday, January 25, for a retreat and first discussion of possible budget strategies for 1992-93. The site of the retreat was secured by alderman Jim Brown at no cost to the city. He said he had arranged for a home to use on the island, through his employment as property manager for the island development company. Aldermen are to retreat from 9 a.m. to noon and again from 1 to 3 p.m. The cafe on Bald Head Island will cater the affair, Brown said.

In other matters, Holden appointed aldermen Meezie Childs, Bill Crowe and Bill Delaney to serve as a committee to review a proposed pay classification plan for city employees.

Southport Volunteer Rescue Squad chief Tom Florkiewicz has asked the city to purchase two defibrillators for use on city-owned ambulances.

Caswell Beach

Commissioner Bill Boyd was re-elected mayor pro-tem by his peers as Caswell Beach commissioners met in regular session Thursday.

Commissioners also noted that violations of the town's new sign ordinance in the marsh near the Oak Island bridge have been abated and the area has been cleaned up.

Caswell Beach's response to vested property rights legislation enacted by the state General Assembly in its last session will be the subject of a public hearing on February 13, as will a proposed development plat of OceanGreens subdivision's phases II-IV.

It was announced Caswell Beach has won a Governor's Highway Beautification Council Certificate of Appreciation for a clean-up project on Caswell Beach Road in October, 1991. Commissioners will attend a Carolina Power & Light Co. system assessment program on January 23, and a U. S. Department of Agriculture representative will present a program on erosion control and test plantings of beach grass on January 30. That presentation will be made at 9 a.m. at Town Hall.

In their only formal action Thursday, commissioners approved an increase in three-quarter-inch water tap fees from \$300 to \$350.

The town planning board will meet tomorrow (Thursday) at 7 p.m. to further review the OceanGreens proposal.

Boiling Spring Lakes

Wetlands will be the subject of discussion when Wayne Wright of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' enforcement division visits the City of Boiling Spring Lakes Friday.

Wright is to conduct a session at City Hall at 10 a.m. that day. The discussion of allowable projects in wetland areas grew out of public works director Thurston Cumbee's concern for the impact of mosquito control projects in areas designated as wetlands. Though Wright is scheduled to advise the city on that specific concern, Cumbee said all citizens with questions about wetlands management are invited to pose their questions to Wright.

City Hall will be closed Monday, January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King's birthday.

MEMBER
NNA
Since 1876
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION

Could EMPA plans for city short-circuit?

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A representative of the Eastern Municipal Power Agency has asked Southport aldermen to stand good for four-fifths of one percent of the projected \$142-million cost of building three natural-gas-fired power generating plants to provide supplemental power to that 32-city consortium of municipal power

'... we're going to have to go over it and over it again before I'm convinced it's the best thing for the City of Southport.'

Nelson Adams
Southport alderman

buyers.

The construction of the three plants -- two of them by 1995 and the third by 1997 -- is expected to save member cities between 0.5 and 2.5 percent of the total cost of supplemental power purchases projected through the year 2010. In real numbers the savings over that time will range between \$25 million and \$125 million, said Art Huber, the project manager assigned by Electricities, the management arm of the two power agencies operating

See Short-circuit, page 6



By this time in the season seagulls have enticed and either toss food into the air or drop it on the ground, where it can be easily eaten.

City to answer dispatch call

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Southport emergency service dispatchers will be kept on duty at least until June 30, 1993, aldermen decided Thursday night.

That unanimous decision extends by one year the life of the city police department's dispatching effort. With a county 911 emergency notification system due to come on line this year, Southport aldermen, in budget formulation sessions last year, decided to abandon local dispatch services in favor of the county system. The action also comes as some Southport dispatchers are entertaining employment opportunities with the county's new emergency services department.

"Several employees have talked to me about talking to you about dispatch," city manager Rob Hites told aldermen. The deadline for application for county dispatch jobs is January 31, he said. "I understand some of our local dispatchers would be interested in it."

As aldermen debated budget matters in April, May and June of last

Last year, city manager Rob Hites estimated the cost of dispatch services to be about \$120,000 per year

year, they decided city-employed dispatchers would be released this month -- the original target date for 911 operation from a central dispatch point near Bolivia.

When construction delays forced the county to postpone its planned 911 on-line date, aldermen agreed to retain city-employed dispatchers through the end of the current budget year, June 30.

"I'm convinced we need to continue dispatch, so I will move we continue dispatch in 1992-93," alderman Meezie Childs said. Her motion was seconded by alderman

Bill Crowe.

Mayor Norman Holden said the action means aldermen were stating their intent to fund dispatch services through June 30, 1993.

But, aldermen will have to take one more step to finalize the commitment to city dispatch services.

"Basically, all you are doing is expressing your intention," city attorney Mike Isenberg said. "You're going to have to enact a budget ordinance." By state law, every local government unit in North Carolina must adopt balanced budget ordinances by June 30 of each year.

That means aldermen are by June going to have to come up with the cash to pay for dispatch services in an admittedly tight budget year. Last year, city manager Rob Hites estimated the cost of dispatch services to be about \$120,000 per year.

Aldermen scheduled a public hearing on the dispatch issue for March 5 at 7:30 p.m. At that time aldermen will ask county officials to explain further the proposed 911 emergency system and will seek input on how 911 and local dispatch efforts will

See Dispatch, page 6

ADM donation helps in restoring log structure

A \$1,000 donation from Archer Daniels Midland Co. has brought the Southport Historical Society one step closer to moving a log structure which dates back to the early 1800s. The building was donated to the historical society nearly two years

ago by Pfizer Inc. and still sits on N. C. 211, outside Southport city limits.

The company has asked that the building be moved but funding for the project, estimated to cost about \$5,000, has not been easy to come by. President Don Johnson said the society now has about half the money in hand and anticipates borrowing the rest once bids for the move are received in the next few weeks.

The two-story log structure is believed to date back as far as 1810, according to the N. C. Division of Archives and History. Because it matches the description of early "shacks" along the Cape Fear River, it may have been a fisherman's or pilot's home built by ship's carpenters, Johnson said.

The building was later moved to its present location, where an 1864 map indicates it served as a schoolhouse on the Old Georgetown Road. The cedar shingles which now cover the exterior were added about 1900. One of its last known uses was as a tobacco barn.

The society plans to move the building temporarily to city-owned property near the old Brunswick County jail on Nash Street. Johnson said he hopes someone will donate some land where the historic structure can be permanently restored and serve as an educational facility.



Perry Sellers (left), safety coordinator/administrative assistant, and Jane Wescott (right), business manager, present Archer Daniels Midland's donation of \$1,000 to Don Johnson and Don Tucker of the Southport Historical Society. The money will be used to relocate an early-1800s log structure to a site near the old Brunswick County jail in Southport.