

OUR TOWN

Southport

Aldermen cancelled a planned budget retreat Saturday to attend the funeral of a family member of alderman Nelson Adams. City manager Rob Hites said the retreat, which was to be held on Bald Head Island, has not yet been rescheduled.

Until the retreat is held, a citywide budget "freeze" remains in effect. Under terms of the freeze, city department heads must have any expenditure of \$100 or more approved by Hites or finance director Sylvia Butterworth. The freeze was necessitated as revenues flowing to the city from sales and other state-collected taxes are less than projected last June due to the current recession.

Hites appeared before the property committee of the State Ports Authority on Monday to seek an easement through a portion of its property to the east of Southport Marina. The committee recommended the easement to the full SPA on Tuesday. The easement would allow the city to seek a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant for construction of a scenic walkway along the waterfront and to a point on the Intracoastal Waterway where a gazebo will be built.

The city manager is also to meet with county manager David Clegg today (Wednesday) to iron-out details of the transfer of Southport's interests in the county library system. The city currently has a 50-percent interest in all property owned by the library system but, at the request of county residents, Brunswick County plans to take-over the entire library system as a county department.

Caswell Beach

Residents of Caswell Beach are reminded to take care to place refuse containers at roadside in the prescribed manner.

The only authorized container for use in Caswell Beach is the 98-gallon Zam cart. Commissioner Bill Boyd says the Zam cart should be placed as close to the curb as possible on collection days. The arrows on the cart lid should be pointing toward the road.

Caswell Beach refuse contractors recently switched collection machinery to employ a side-loading truck which is manned by a single attendant. If the cart is placed improperly, the refuse cannot be collected in the prescribed manner.

Commissioner Esten J. (Johnnie) Gillis will attend the N. C. Institute of Governments school for newly elected municipal officials February 11-13.

Long Beach

It will be a busy week for Long Beach commissioners. Today (Wednesday), commissioners will conduct a public demonstration of an operating grinder pump. A consulting engineer's proposal for a public wastewater management system contains plans to install some 2,400 of these pumps.

The equipment will go on display between 3 and 5 p.m. at the recreation center. At 7 o'clock, commissioners will conduct the fifth in a series of public hearings on the sewer system proposal itself.

On Saturday, commissioners will hold a preliminary budget conference at the North Carolina Baptist Assembly Conference Center at Fort Caswell, beginning at 9 a.m. Town manager David Poston said the conference will be very informal. Each department head will be called before the mayor and board to learn of commissioners' priorities, goals and expected levels of service.

Department heads will then be given the opportunity to present department needs to commissioners.

"This will really help the staff when we go to make the budget," Poston said.

Boiling Spring Lakes

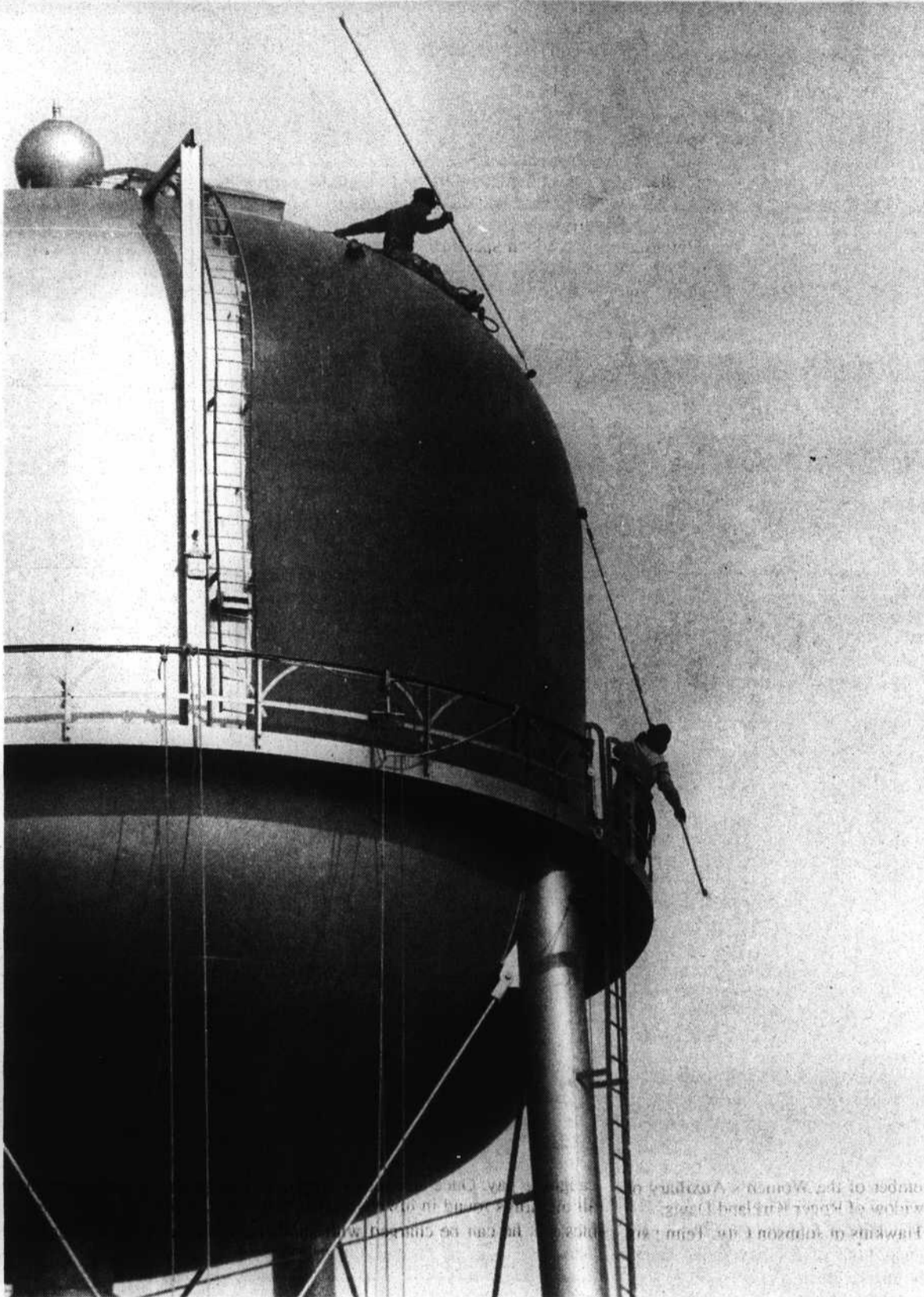
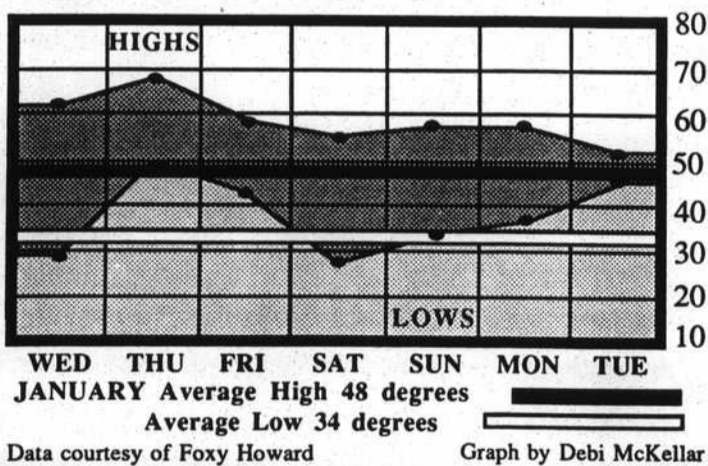
Boiling Spring Lakes commissioners will conduct citizens' office hours tonight (Wednesday) at 7 o'clock at City Hall.

This session has no agenda and is devoted solely to receiving citizens' ideas, comments and complaints.

The city planning board will conduct a workshop Thursday with consulting planner T. Dale Holland. He has been hired to assist the city in preparation of the state-mandated land use plan update. This update is required every five years under the terms of the state's Coastal Area Management Act.

Commissioners will conduct their next regular monthly meeting Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Departmental reports will be received but as yet no other items of business have been placed on commissioners' agenda.

Past week's highs & lows



Workers painting the Southport water tower have been tough and go with the weather since the project commenced, but last week a fair day permitted two paint-rollers to operate at the same time and cover one of those hard-to-get-at-places -- the shoulder.

Photo by Jim Harper

Town hall is planned for island

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

The Bald Head Island village council Saturday voted to proceed with construction of a new town hall adjacent to the post office, near the lighthouse, and approved a ten-year financing plan for a cost not to exceed \$250,000.

The council called for preparation of details and specifications by February 15 with an eye toward considering bids at the March session. Village manager Wallace Martin said construction time has been estimated at three months. The project has been under study by a committee including former mayors Tom Storrs and Sam Bell and long-range planning chairman Ken Cosgrove.

The architectural groundwork was laid by islander Dick Schmedl, and he was authorized to continue with drawing-up bid specifications.

For years the village has operated out of a "temporary town hall" in a double-wide at the maintenance area. The village is being pressed to abandon that site as the Lighthouse Landing development expands.

Manager Martin also reported Saturday that beach renourishment has been completed, that 75,000 sprigs of beachgrass have been planted to help rebuild dunes and that he expects a shipment of 5,000 Christmas trees from Cumberland County in about two weeks to help supplement the dune-building process along with sand fences.

In other action, the village accepted roads in the recently developed portion of Stage Two and heard reports that only 87 of 1,340 fire-protection assessments were uncollected and that negotiations for the completion of the island cable TV system remain stymied.

The council also voted resolutions of thanks to the state director of water resources and the U. S. Corps of Engineers for assistance in the recently completed beach renourishment project, though it also heard reports that a final bill for the project has yet to be computed by the corps.

Mayor A. C. Sorrell noted that the council was meeting for the first time in the village public safety building and expressed thanks to former mayor Bell for suggesting -- and then financing -- a floor-heating system for the building and for later providing paneling to decorate the interior.

Man victim of 'hit-and-run'

A man found lying by the side of the road in Long Beach says he was the victim of a hit-and-run driver, major Johnny Freeman of the town police department reported.

Robert Edge, 30, no known address, was discovered in the 100 block of East Oak Island Drive Friday at 11:53 p.m., Freeman said. The victim told police he had been struck by a red-and-white pickup truck with a Harley Davidson motorcycle sticker on it.

Police have made no arrests in the case.

Edge was taken to Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport and later transferred to Cape Fear Memorial Hospital in Wilmington. Freeman said Edge suffered two breaks in one of his legs and three fractured ribs.

Police say Long Beach has been the scene of several hit-and-run incidents involving property lately.

Lumber sales

Starting next week, all lengths of used lumber will be sold Tuesdays through Fridays at the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point.

The cost is \$60 a cord. Monday sales will be limited to scrap pieces up to three feet long, at a cost of \$1 a truckload.

Used crossies are available Monday through Friday for \$3 each.

All sales are conducted between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Strong patient services help Doshier get well in December

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Two more patients were admitted to Doshier Memorial Hospital in December than were in November, but they didn't remain hospitalized as long, hospital finance officer Jim Shomaker told trustees Monday night.

Property values reported

Property in Brunswick County was valued at nearly \$4.2 billion in 1991, creating a tax levy of \$28.675 million at 68.5 cents per \$100 valuation, tax administrator Boyd Williamson told county commissioners last week.

Late-list penalties of nearly \$388,000 pushed the amount of money owned Brunswick County to just over \$29 million, he said.

According to a report filed by Williamson, individual property valuation in Smithville Township (the Southport-Oak Island area) was just under \$650 million and taxes levied here were just under \$4.5 million.

Corporations in Smithville Township were valued at \$228 million and accounted for about \$1.6 million of the total tax levy.

Property valuation in the Doshier Hospital Tax District (Smithville Township) was \$877.6 million and generated just over \$351,000 in revenues at a rate of four cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Countywide, property valued at \$34.5 million was discovered, or added to the tax scrolls this year. This accounted for an additional \$223,505 of the grand total tax levy. Of that, property worth nearly \$7 million was added to the tax scrolls in the Doshier Hospital Tax District and accounted for just under \$2,800 of the total levy.

granted by other property-owners, and the board chose to make its vote effective.

After behind-closed-door deliberations (see editorial, page 4) in its regular business session Saturday morning the board announced it was voting for Pardee and Miller.

The official tally at the end of the day was Pardee, 528; Miller, 425; Bill Leinewer of Bald Head Island, 246; and Bill Peacock of Raleigh, 115.

In the afternoon session, when individuals showed up to vote, some were dismayed to hear that the election had been decided with the earlier announcement of the board's decision, and comments from the floor were directed at how the board had handled the process.

Outgoing president Tom Bradshaw suggested that dissatisfaction with the process be conveyed to the new nominating committee to perhaps influence modification of the system at some later time.

The nominating committee named by Bradshaw includes chairman Sonny McIver, Malcolm Fleming, Ron O'Keefe, Sylvia Timmons and former mayor Sam Bell.

BHI owners missed the vote

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Chuck Pardee of Bald Head Island and Ken Miller of Whiteville were elected to the Bald Head Association board of directors Saturday and vice-president Dick Lacy was selected as president for 1992.

Sonny McIver was named vice-president in the board's late-afternoon organizational session and Pardee was named secretary-treasurer.

The association is the official property-owner group on the island and its board is authorized by legislation to appoint members to the village council. Board members serve three-year terms.

The election was marked by an unprecedented delivery of 602 proxy votes to the association board, and by the board's decision to favor two candidates.

Last year the board spread its proxy votes equally so they had no effect. The large number of proxies came mainly from the bloc of 444 votes (for 222 real estate parcels) controlled by developer Kent Mitchell. But a larger-than-usual number of proxies, for a total of 158 votes, were also