

# OUR TOWN

## Long Beach

Recycling has become a problem for the Town of Long Beach and, by extension, for the entirety of Oak Island. Long Beach runs a central recycling station into which all recyclable materials generated in Yaupon Beach and Caswell Beach are delivered.

M&J Plastics of Bolivia recently stopped collecting recyclable material as it had agreed to do. The result: Long Beach now has huge stockpiles of recyclable material it cannot move.

"We're overflowing with recyclables," town manager David Poston said. "We have nobody to take it off right now."

M&J agreed to manage recyclable material for Long Beach and other Brunswick County communities several months ago when George Bush, Inc., of Florence, S. C., abandoned plans to recycle area waste products. Under the terms of the deal with M&J, the company owner was to remove recyclables at no charge, then sell them to companies that process the materials (glass, plastics, paper, cardboard, batteries and others).

Long Beach's biggest problem with M&J, according to Poston: "I can't seem to get in touch with him."

Six to eight Long Beach volunteer firefighters this weekend will attend a Robeson County firefighting school. The training course leads to firefighter certification. Under the management of chief Tim Pittman, membership in the town's volunteer fire department has grown from 12 to 30 persons.

## Caswell Beach

Caswell Beach is an officially designated sea turtle sanctuary, and if you don't believe it just look at the sign at the town's entrance. This week the town was just looking at signage verifying the Caswell Beach designation. There is another sign indicative of the designation at the public beach access area.

When commissioners meet February 13, they will rule on proposed amendments to the town's building ordinance which will create fees for driveway construction and will establish fees for development permits.

The development permit fees will be tied to any ground-disturbing activity and will include provisions for adherence to designated drainage practices and erosion and sedimentation control procedures. Town officials say parts of SR 1100 (Caswell Beach Road) has eroded due to poor drainage and erosion control practices in the past.

Town Hall is also awaiting word from the state's Division of Environmental Management on the accuracy of topographical maps of Caswell Beach. Inconsistencies were discovered in surveys done while principals of OceanGreens subdivision sought appropriate permits.

## Yaupon Beach

Computer needs were on the minds of staff members at Yaupon Beach Town Hall this week. Staff has been reviewing software equipment to manage payroll. Actual purchase of the software may have to wait until commissioners make budget decisions this spring and until authorizations become available after July 1.

If you're a Yaupon Beach water customer and haven't paid your last quarterly bill, there is bad news. That bill is past due. If you do not pay your bill by February 15 the town is more than likely to shut-off your water service.

Town Hall will be closed February 18 for a special election of municipal officials. Due to errors in the printing of ballots last November, the county board of elections contested its own election in Yaupon Beach and won state approval of a new election with all filed candidates participating. (See related story.) Town Hall in Yaupon Beach is to be the polling place for the special do-over election. Voters in Yaupon Beach generally vote at the county polling place: Caswell Beach Town Hall.

And, if you are a Yaupon Beach property owner and you haven't paid your municipal property taxes, you're going to be hearing from town officials. Letters will be sent to property tax delinquents advising them of the penalties they have now incurred.

## Southport

Southport aldermen Tuesday night continued a "retreat" session aimed at making preliminary policy decisions which may help shape the city's budget for the coming fiscal year. An initial session was held Monday night and lasted about three hours.

Although the fiscal year will not begin until July 1, the city faces a 1991-92 revenue shortfall and city departments have been placed on austerity budgets through the end of June. The mayor and board of aldermen Tuesday night continued deliberations and will send to staff a detailed set of instructions addressing service levels, jobs and purchase cutbacks for the remainder of the current year.

Southport is accepting bids for a housing rehabilitation project to be funded in part by a federal Community Development Block Grant administered by the state. Southport this year qualified for a CDBG in excess of \$555,000 and the city itself added about \$90,000 to the project.

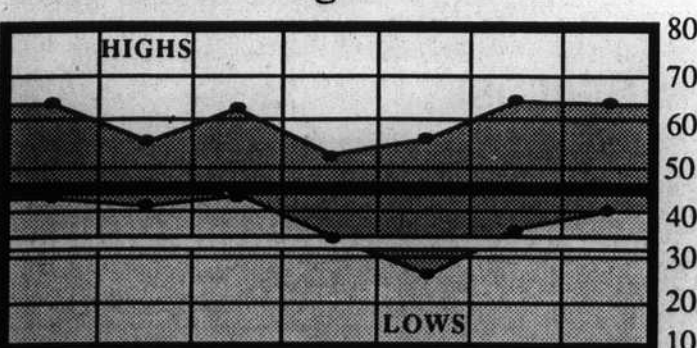
The target area for the housing rehabilitation project is the neighborhood surrounding 8th and Lord streets. A drainage project will be completed in the target area and some rehabilitation projects will be performed on Brown Street.

## Boiling Spring Lakes

Meeting in regular session Tuesday night, Boiling Spring Lakes commissioners appointed residents Cathy Birchard, Bea Sellers and Charles and Nancy Schneiders to the city's community appearance commission.

Consulting engineers Talbert and Bright, Inc., have placed on the table a proposal to create a better railroad crossing at Apache Road. Preliminary cost estimates have been fixed at about \$9,200, but commissioner Dennis Finley, a Sunny Point civilian employee, will seek Army participation in the project.

## Past week's highs & lows



JANUARY Average High 46 degrees

Average Low 34 degrees

Data courtesy of Foxy Howard

Graph by Debi McKellar



Work continued this week on the reconstruction of Cape Harbor Drive in Southport. The street is to be totally rebuilt. Additionally, water and sewer lines beneath the street are to be replaced. City officials

say poor initial construction is to blame. Sections of the road have collapsed and utility lines beneath it have been broken.

## Next hearing Thursday

# Board officially calls for sewer referendum

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

On commissioner Jeff Ensminger's motion Wednesday night, Long Beach commissioners unanimously adopted a bond order which sets March 31 as the date town voters will be asked to decide whether or not to pledge their full faith and credit to a \$15.5-million general obligation bond issue to underwrite construction of a public wastewater management system.

But, make no mistake about it: Long Beach voters will make the decision whether or not to build the proposed \$15.2-million sewer system. Bonds cannot be sold without See Beach hearing, page 6

*'Anyone who has made up their mind whether they are for or against a sewer system has made up their mind based on incomplete information. It won't be until the end of this month that the final decision will be made and the package will be presented to you for a vote.'*

Joan Altman  
Long Beach mayor

## November election flawed

# Yaupon voters return to polls

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Yaupon Beach voters will return to the polls February 18 to elect three members to the town's governing board.

The special election was ordered by the state board of elections in December after it concurred with local elections officials in their finding that the November 5 municipal election had been fatally flawed. Polls will be opened from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. that Tuesday and the polling place will be Yaupon Beach Town Hall, not the regular county polling site at Caswell Beach Town Hall.

On November 5, printed instructions on ballots handed voters directed them to vote for only two candidates from a field of six who had filed notices of intent to seek office.

The names of all six candidates for election on November 5 will appear on the February 18 ballot, said Lois Baccarny of the Brunswick County Board of Elections. The candidates will be: incumbent mayor May Moore, incumbent commissioners Joseph Broyles and James Poole; challengers Darrell Posey, Rhett Blackman and former commissioner J. M. Warren.

At a November 7 canvass of election results, the Brunswick County Board of Elections refused to certify the Yaupon Beach election of two

days prior due to the error in ballot instructions. It was determined by on-site elections officials that 36 voters had cast their ballots prior to discovery of the error.

Of that 36, nine had cast their ballots for only one candidate, a voting strategy known as "single-shot". Four of those voters had cast their ballots for the allotted three positions, but 23 voters had cast ballots for only two candidates, suggesting to the board of elections that they had followed the erroneous instructions.

Excluding the 23 disputed ballots, first-election results show at least one race could have been affected. While Moore and Broyles apparently won incontestable re-election with 133 and 128 valid votes, respectively, Posey and Poole tallied 99 and 94 valid votes. The disputable 23 votes could have affected which candidate served the town as commissioner.

With the exclusion of the 23 contested ballots, candidates Warren and Blackman received 71 and 52 votes, respectively, far below the totals that would have apparently been needed for election.

Baccarny said in accordance with state election laws, voter registration books were closed January 20 to potential new registrants in Yaupon Beach. No great registration push was noticed, she said.

A total of 562 Yaupon Beach voters are qualified to participate in the February 18 election.

## Off-duty firemen give help

By Marybeth Bianchi  
Feature Editor

The call came in about 2:30 p.m. Monday, just as Tim Pittman and Jesse Powell were heading home after taking a Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department truck to Wilmington for repairs.

Fire at a day care center at Winnabow.

Pittman, the Long Beach fire chief, and Powell, the captain, turned their car around and headed for Winnabow.

"We were right in the area," Pittman said, and the thought of children endangered by a possible fire concerned them.

They weren't the only ones. Pittman said Red Martin of the Southport Fire Department was also on the road returning home from Wilmington. He too heeded the dispatcher's call.

Rick Ferrucci of the Boiling Spring Lakes Fire Department was tending a brush fire when he heard that the Winnabow crew had run out of water and drove that city's tanker to aid the neighbors to the north.

Pittman said when he pulled onto Governor's Road where the fire was located he was right behind the Bolivia Fire Department truck. Realizing the firefighters on the scene were out of water, Pittman asked for and received permission to drive one of the Winnabow pumpers to the fire.

Also offering assistance was Keith Sawyer of the Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department.

"It was touching to see so many people go out of their way," Pittman said, but added that most volunteer firefighters are aware of the difficulty getting people to answer daytime calls. In all, about a dozen representatives of six volunteer fire departments responded to the call.

Fortunately, the fire was not at the day care center and no one was injured. However, Clyde Tingen lost his garage behind the center and its contents, valued at between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

## 'Rose-mobile'

The mobile office of Congressman Charlie Rose will be in Southport Wednesday, February 12.

A representative of Rose's office will be at the post office parking lot from 9 a.m. until noon to meet with people "who have a problem with a federal agency or who have questions or opinions about federal legislation."

## Correction

The *Pilot* incorrectly reported last week the identity of the new vice-president of the Bald Head Association. In a recent election on the island, John Hamrick of High Point was named to that position.