

OUR TOWN

Bald Head Island

The planning board will hold a public hearing at 3:30 p.m. Friday on a proposed new form of development — cluster housing — along the south beachfront.

The proposal was made earlier to the board and was presented informally at the last village meeting by developer Kent Mitchell. The plan is to alter the one-lot, one-structure scheme used through much of the beachfront development and group houses from 1,200 to 2,400 square feet in clusters. The name of the project, proposed to extend eastward from the last developed lots, is "The Cottages at South Beach".

The proposed density is approximately 4.5 units per acre, with individual ownership of structures and association ownership of the land.

Friday's hearing will be held in the public safety building.

Long Beach

Six Long Beach firefighters will continue training for certification this week at Fayetteville Community Technical College. Even though the six will leave homes and families for a week, 24 more firefighters will remain in Long Beach to cover emergencies.

Fund-raising activities this week were a boon to the fire and rescue services as a group of more than 150 horsemen rode the beachfront in support of the volunteer units. A number of rodeo-type competitions were held at the west end. Nearly \$5,000 was raised through sponsorships.

Government has stretched government in Long Beach. Public works director Charles Derrick and assistant building inspector Joy Easley were called to jury duty this week. Two weeks ago police major Johnny Freeman and another town employee were called to jury duty.

Southport

A special public hearing will be conducted Thursday night at which Southport aldermen will discuss the city's role in the county 911 emergency telephone notification plan, set to go into operation in April.

County emergency medical services director Doug Ledgett, a long-time chief of the Southport Volunteer Rescue Squad, will brief aldermen on Southport's role as a secondary response center.

Bids were opened Tuesday for the first phase of Southport's 1992 Community Development Block Grant for renovation of substandard housing on the city's west side and in another target area on North Rhett Street. The project will fund renovation of 29 substandard dwelling units.

Paint is curing on Southport's water tower. That's important. When the paint is finally cured, a contractor from Georgia can come to Southport to add the name "Southport" and paint some white stars around that name. That work is expected to begin either late next week or early in the week following.

Water and sewer line installation has been completed on Cape Harbor Drive. Contractors and city crews are now busy establishing drainage swales. After that, the roadbed of Cape Harbor Drive will be dressed for repaving.

Willis Drive is still closed between Moore and Nash streets, but work there should be finished in the next week. When the Bonnet's Creek clearing project is through, the cut section of Willis Drive will be repaved.

A retaining wall will be built on city-owned property at the foot of Howe Street, near the Ship's Chandler Restaurant, with community-donated funds. The totally volunteer project will begin shortly.

Yaupon Beach

A new computer is on-line at Yaupon Beach Town Hall and it will allow staff to add payroll calculations to other billing functions completed by an older system of hardware and software.

Commissioners of Yaupon Beach have a big night Monday. When commissioners meet in this first post-election session, a new mayor will be elected from among the board's ranks. Commissioners May Moore (the incumbent mayor), Joseph Broyles, and Darrell Posey will be sworn to office.

Yaupon Beach commissioners have sent a letter to the N. C. Department of Transportation outlining the town's priorities for the near future. Yaupon Beach's top three priorities are a second bridge to Oak Island; three-laning from the Oak Island bridge to Yaupon Drive; and construction of a Wilmington bypass leading from Brunswick County to Interstate 40.

When commissioners meet Monday, agenda items will include discussion of a state-mandated fire inspection program and fees; tap, assessment and user fees for the proposed public wastewater collection treatment and disposal system; an amendment to consulting engineer Finley Boney's contract that will allow him an additional \$30,000 payment over the next three months; a budget amendment to transfer funds from the water fund to the general fund to cover payments to the consulting engineer; receipt of a request from the Long Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad to allow emergency vehicles on the beach strand in response situations.

The March 9 meeting of the board of commissioners will begin at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Caswell Beach

If you are a Caswell Beach recycler, don't panic. Although the Long Beach central collection point has been closed because of changes in the county recycling program, Caswell Beach's mini-collection point behind Town Hall still wants your plastics, glass, paper, batteries — all the stuff you've always dropped-off there. The self-service recycling center will continue to operate and commissioner Bill Boyd is set to have his weekend gang of community service workers transfer materials to the county collection site near the board of education building.

The Caswell Beach Planning Board has requested N. C. Department of Transportation intervention in the 600 block of Caswell Beach Drive (S.R. 1100). DOT will install a third stormwater infiltration system at that location. Two prior infiltration systems were installed at the road's east end about a year ago.

Caswell Beach tax liens will be advertised next month. The town has collected 100 percent of its property tax levy in each of the last three years. Tax collector Linda Bethune says she hopes to make it four in a row.



For many of the 160 participants, riding their horse on the beach was a dream come true, according to ride-a-thon organizer Tanya Kinney. The event raised more than \$5,000 for the Long Beach fire department and rescue squad.

Horsemen raise over \$5,000

Squads sitting pretty with ride

It was a fund-raising event that will linger in the minds of those who participated, those who worked long hours, those who watched from afar and those who benefited, long after the last bit of manure is turned into garden fertilizer.

In sweeter terms, the first horseback ride-a-thon for the Long Beach volunteer fire department and rescue squad was considered a success by its organizer.

"It was fantastic," said Tanya Kinney of Long Beach, whose smiling face showed evidence of the sun and wind she was exposed to all weekend.

More than 150 riders and their horses participated in the event, which began Friday night and continued through Sunday morning.

More than \$5,000 was raised for the two volunteer organizations, said Kinney, who organized the event with the help of Smokey Mountain of Charlotte, the publisher of *Trail Rider* magazine.

Pleased with the "picture-perfect" weather conditions, Tim Pittman, Long Beach fire chief, observed that many of the riders experienced a dream come true by riding their horses on the beach.

"The big selling point was the uncluttered, undeveloped beach. There was nobody in their way. They had the whole beach to themselves," he said. "Those who had ridden in South Carolina told me it was quite a contrast to ride on a

beach that was not lined with condos from one end to the other. They said the beach was more like the country and they loved it."

Both Pittman and Kinney expect to see some of those same people back this summer, and next year for the second annual horseback ride-a-thon.

"It could be big enough that this would be their only fund-raiser," Kinney said of the fire department and rescue squad. A similar ride along the Myrtle Beach oceanfront generated \$28,000 for the American Heart Association.

Although people arrived at Long Beach Campground into the early morning hours of Saturday, some arrived Friday and took an evening ride on the beach. After breakfast at the VFW building, prepared by Jack and Evelyn Sasser and Bob Cathy, the riders traveled to the west end of Long Beach where rescue squad and fire department volunteers served hundreds of hot dogs, and children got horse-and-wagon rides.

Riders ranged in age from six to 66 years of age.

"That was the best group of people I've been around," said fire captain Jesse Powell.

Pittman agreed.

"I have never seen such a big crowd of people so well-behaved. We had absolutely no trouble the entire weekend."

Waste Industries takes over collection

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

Brunswick County residents may soon notice a few changes in trash collection and recycling services since Waste Industries, Inc., of Raleigh officially took over the county's trash business March 1.

First of all, none of the county-operated transfer stations or convenience centers will accept plastics as recyclable materials, said county engineer Robert Tucker. The only recyclable materials that will be accepted at these sites are newspaper, glass and aluminum. Eventually, however, plastics will be phased into the county recycling program, he said.

"Right now, there is basically no market for plastic," explained Randy Gainey, Waste Industries' manager

for Brunswick County. "It's hard to start everything all at once.... We hope within the next 90 days to start taking plastic."

M&J Plastics at Bolivia and municipal recycling centers in Southport, Calabash and Sunset Beach will continue to accept plastic materials. However, the recycling center in Long Beach ceased operation on Monday, and other municipal centers may soon follow suit as more county convenience centers are put in place.

Another expected change is that trash collection services will begin earlier in the day and continue throughout the weekend. Waste Industries trash collectors begin work at 4 or 5 a.m., said Gainey, and some will work on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Currently, there are three transfer stations in the county — at Southport,

Ocean Isle Beach and Leland. Although there is only one convenience center in operation, Tucker said, within the next 12 to 18 months seven more convenience centers will be constructed as the county receives more equipment. There is about \$90,000 worth of recycling equipment on the way to Brunswick County, said Gainey.

Most of the county's green-box sites will be abolished, said Tucker. These sites are used as trash disposal centers for people in rural areas, he said, and

all but two of the approximately 75 green-box sites in the county will be eliminated. However, Tucker added, all residents will have some type of trash disposal center within five miles of their home.

Once the entire trash collection and recycling program is in effect, Tucker said, the county will have three transfer stations, eight convenience centers, two green-box sites, and any municipal recycling centers that remain open.

Richey named V-P for CP&L Brunswick plant

In a routine management change, Carolina Power & Light Co. has tapped Robert B. (R. B.) Richey to be vice-president of the Brunswick Nuclear Project at Southport.

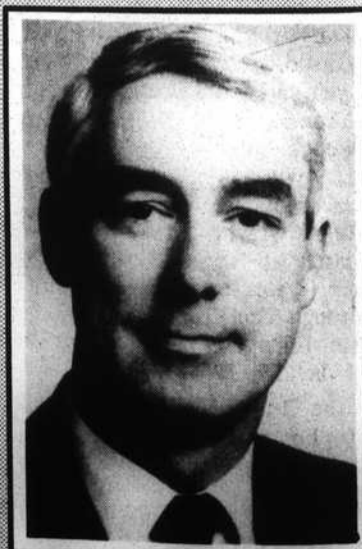
He replaces Russell B. Starkey, Jr., who will become vice-president of the nuclear services department at CP&L's corporate headquarters in Raleigh.

As head of the Brunswick Nuclear Project, Richey will oversee all facets of management, including operations, administration and maintenance.

A CP&L spokesman denied the management change was linked in any way to recent fines imposed on the Brunswick nuclear plant by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. CP&L was fined \$125,000 for regulatory violations by field operators earlier in the year. The fines were higher than normal because of CP&L's poor performance record.

Richey has served with the Harris Nuclear Project since 1989. CP&L's board of directors elected him vice-president in 1990. He joined CP&L in 1982 as manager of materials control and served as manager of the materials management department from 1984 to 1989.

A native of Miami, Fla., Richey was graduated with honors from the U. S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He was granted a master's degree from Purdue University. He is married to the former Sandra Love of Houston, Texas.



RICHEY

Volunteers offer scholarship

Dosher Hospital Volunteers sponsor a \$1,000 study grant to assist a student in pursuing a career in a health discipline.

Applicants must be graduates of a Brunswick County high school or a Doshier Memorial Hospital employee who has enrolled in an accredited college or technical school.

Grant funds are applied by the college of the recipient's choice to cover tuition, fees, books, supplies or board.

Applications for the grant are available from the office of Doshier's director of nursing services and must be returned to that office by Wednesday, April 1.

Past week's highs & lows

