

OUR TOWN

Southport

N. C. Department of Transportation crews teamed with Southport workers and the city department of parks and recreation to continue a tree transplanting project Tuesday.

DOT crews arrived with special equipment Monday to begin the project. In all, the city hopes to transplant between 30 and 50 live oak trees to create a shade canopy along portions of Howe and Moore streets.

The shade canopy was recommended in a master development plan drawn for Southport by an 11-member team of the American Institute of Architects last February. Recently, members of the city's economic development commission, Southport 2000 and city staff have pushed the plan into action.

DOT crews are to be in Southport through Friday with a special bladed device which will scoop trees donated from a site near 9th Street and facilitate their transplant along the city's major thoroughfares.

Caswell Beach

Meeting last Wednesday, Caswell Beach Planning Board members voted to take no action on a proposal to establish fees for driveway permits.

The intent of any ordinance which may emerge from discussions is to limit stormwater run-off. The idea was spurred last year when the state department of transportation installed a drainage device in the 600 block of Caswell Beach Road, a state route.

Mayor Jack Cook and commissioners will examine similar ordinances in other towns prior to an April 9 meeting at which a recommendation is expected.

Planning board members have also reviewed a proposed ordinance addressing abandonment of unsafe structures. A recommendation will be made to commissioners at the same April 9 meeting.

Police chief Paul Osborne has met with Brunswick County Emergency Medical Services director Doug Ledgett, county planning department personnel and Yaupon Beach fire chief Alan Essey in an effort to coordinate Oak Island response after Brunswick County's 911 emergency notification system goes on line next month.

Critical to 911 operation is the posting of house numbers. A Caswell Beach ordinance requires homeowners to post address numbers that are easily discernible from the street.

Long Beach

Mayor Joan Altman and members of the Long Beach Board of Commissioners will continue a series of meetings with those who have questions about the town's proposal to construct a public wastewater management system. At least two commissioners will be available to answer questions at the Long Beach Recreation Center tonight (Wednesday), Saturday morning and Monday evening. The evening sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the Saturday session will begin at 10 a.m.

Representatives of local ABC boards met with Long Beach ABC chairman Ben Thomas on Tuesday to discuss a proposal to state Rep. E. David Redwine. The group has asked Redwine to extend legislation that prohibits Brunswick County's ABC board from establishing a liquor store within seven miles of a municipally owned store.

Last year, county ABC officials threatened to open a liquor store at River Run Shopping Center. Officials of Boiling Spring Lakes, Southport, Yaupon Beach and Long Beach said that store would drain profits from existing municipal operations. While Redwine pushed local legislation banning the county move, that legislation is to "sunset", or cease to be effective, this June. Municipal operators of ABC stores will meet to discuss this matter shortly.

Boiling Spring Lakes

Want to get something off your chest? Or, maybe you just have a constructive suggestion for mayor Mark Stewart and the Boiling Spring Lakes Board of Commissioners.

Tonight presents your opportunity to express your view. Mayor Stewart and commissioners will conduct constituent office hours tonight (Wednesday) at City Hall beginning at 7 p.m. Representatives of city government will be on hand to hear citizen suggestions, complaints and criticisms.

Members of the planning board will meet Monday evening at City Hall. No agenda has yet been announced.

Pick-up of large trash items -- major appliances and other things you can't fit in your garage can -- has been scheduled Friday, April 3. Items may be placed at curbside for collection, city officials say.

Tax lien notices for fiscal year 1990-91 appear in this week's edition of *The State Port Pilot*.

Yaupon Beach

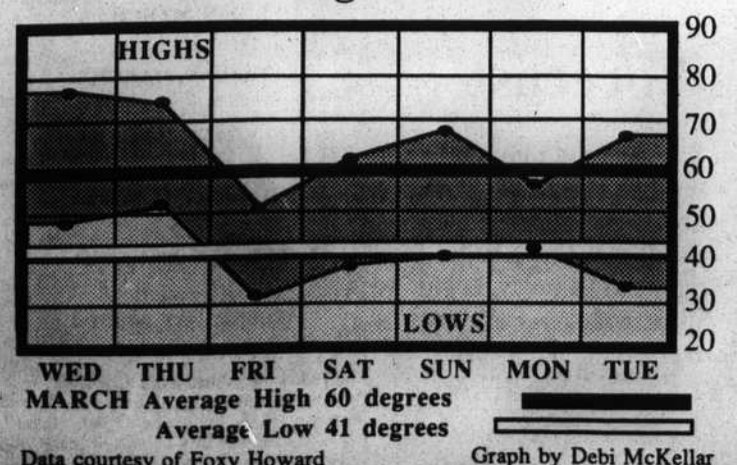
With a public wastewater management system in the works for which construction will begin this spring, Yaupon Beach staff is starting to wrestle with the specifics of system management.

Staff this week began discussions with Data Systems, Inc., which distributes software products needed for sewer billing. Additional talks are anticipated.

Staff is also accepting requests from department heads in anticipation of budget formulation for 1992-93. As the town anticipates addition of a sewer department, budget figures are still hard to predict for the coming year.

Otherwise, Yaupon Beach property owners can expect pretty much the same budget picture they saw this year. "We're shooting to keep it in a line where taxpayers would like to see it," town clerk Nancy Wilson said of early budget deliberations.

Past week's highs & lows



An American egret dances across the water while trying to attract a mate. These big birds were in the lagoon fronting Bay Street between Lord and Caswell, where they frequently feed.

Recovered, woman can't recall mishap

The victim of a three-story fall Tuesday afternoon remembers nothing about the incident, Long Beach police sergeant Barbara Harvell said. "She can't help," Harvell said of the woman's ability to recall circumstances which led to her fall from the third floor of the West Beach Villas complex on Beach Drive.

Debbie Guadagnoli, 26, whom Harvell reported to be in critical condition in New Hanover Regional Medical Center last Tuesday night, is at home and recovering, the officer said.

Ms. Guadagnoli suffered fractured ribs, bruises and a head injury as a consequence of the fall from the balcony of her residence, Harvell said.

"She says she remembers nothing," Harvell said.

Police and emergency workers were called to West Beach Villas last Tuesday shortly after Ms. Guadagnoli's fall was reported about 5:15 p.m. She was treated first by Long Beach rescue volunteers. A county EMS worker with knowledge of advanced life support techniques met the ambulance at 23rd Street and Oak Island Drive and administered intravenous fluids.

After a brief assessment at Dasher Memorial Hospital in Southport, Ms. Guadagnoli was transferred to the New Hanover facility.

Harvell said Jeffrey Yates, 31, who reportedly shared the apartment with Ms. Guadagnoli, was in the apartment at the time of the incident.

But, Yates' statements to police do little to explain what happened to her.

"He said he was standing at the refrigerator and she was out on the balcony," Harvell said. "When he looked again she was gone and was down on the pavement."

Bald Head Island

'Cottages' get warm welcome

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Cottages at South Beach -- cluster housing representing a departure from the traditional oceanfront development and marketing system on Bald Head Island -- was approved by the village board of adjustments Saturday and the developer announced plans to commence the project directly.

Kent Mitchell, president of Bald Head Management, said site preparation will begin in April and construction of model homes is expected to be completed by summer.

The structures, situated to take advantage of existing terrain, will at times be located closer together than in other sections on the island -- thus the "cluster housing" description. In one-, two- and four-bedroom configurations, the completed houses will be for sale by the Bald Head development.

Heretofore, with the exception of the villas and Swansquarter con-

The Cottages subdivision will be located east of the present termination of South Beach development and will eventually extend to Captain Charlie's Station

dominiums, oceanside development on the island has been on lot-sale-for-construction basis, and approval by the architectural review committee has been dependent on houses being more similar in design.

The Cottages subdivision will be located east of the present termination of South Beach development and will eventually extend to Captain

Charlie's Station.

While the initial segment of construction will involve 38 structures on eight acres -- an average density of 4.5 habitations per acre -- the overall development of 48 oceanside acres was approved by the board of adjustments on Saturday. Site plans are to be provided for successive sections.

The planning board viewed the Cottages plan favorably after a public hearing March 6, but because the cluster housing concept represented a conditional use under the island's recently adopted zoning ordinance, the board was required to refer the plan to the board of adjustments -- which is made up of the village council.

Because of rules requiring a fourth vote of approval, and because neither Mitchell nor his associate David Smith could vote on a matter in which they had an interest, the two resigned from the village council and Mitchell appointed Floyd Wingfield and Skip Fry to the council and thus to the board of adjustments.

Fry and Wingfield were joined by

regular council members Dick Messenger and Bill Watkins in approving the new subdivision.

The surrogates are expected to resign from the board so Mitchell may reappoint himself and Smith at the April council session.

In earlier action Saturday the council accepted a bid from J. D. Beam to build a permanent village hall on a site adjacent to the post office, near the lighthouse.

Beam bid \$180,759 for the job, under other bids which ranged from \$217,000 to \$228,000, but recommended changes which carried the cost to \$190,000, and a construction time of 147 days.

Tom Storrs, chairman of the planning and construction committee, told the council that with the added expense of architect, attorney, landscaping and furnishing, the total project cost would be around \$235,000.

Councilman Mitchell objected to the landscaping plan, calling the budget too small, but voted in favor of the

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Walters: 'We've got a mess'

Airport chairman bailing out

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Brunswick County Airport Commission chairman John Walters will resign his post and will recommend his replacement to Southport mayor Norman Holden.

"We've got a mess out there now," Walters said.

Walters' resignation comes in the wake of a dispute over the propriety of actions taken by former commissioner Grover Gore, who served concurrently as the board's treasurer and its counsel. In his dual capacity, Gore reimbursed himself for \$856.27 in telephone calls he says he made on the commission's behalf and co-signed airport commission checks with Walters for his own legal services in excess of \$5,000. These revelations came in an audit report completed

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John Walters
Retiring chairman

recently; Gore's service to the commission ended December 31, 1991.

Walters said Tuesday he was suffering from an inner ear problem and

was no longer able or willing to continue service to the airport commission. He said he would inform mayor Holden of his decision in writing and his resignation would become effective June 1.

The commission chairman said he would recommend Holden consider Southport alderman Nelson Adams or resident Barbara Rhodes, a private pilot, as his replacement. The City of Southport has one appointment to the airport commission. Walters has served as the city's appointee for nearly ten years.

"I'm now writing up a recommendation to the mayor," Walters said. "It's got to be a strong man, determined not to be snaked by anyone on there. It's going to take a strong person who can stand up to pressure."

Walters blamed the controversy involving himself and Gore on com-

mission member Bob Miller of Long Beach, who initially questioned Gore's use of airport telephone credit cards, apparently for personal use.

"This guy is disruptive," Walters said of Miller.

Miller, earlier this month, called for an executive session of the airport commission at which he challenged some 23 long-distance telephone calls Gore had made last year to his son in Raleigh. Records show Gore made an additional 21 calls to his daughter, who also lives in Raleigh. Airport commission telephone credit card charges also include Gore's calls to the Wilmington YMCA and several retail stores in Wilmington.

Walters said the cost of the calls was absorbed as an allowance to Gore, who let the airport commission use

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