

Photo by Jim Harper

The Southport yacht basin lies still in the early morning, though activity -- particularly from clambers and commercial netters -- is usually a feature of that harbor.

## Long Beach board has first session on fiscal year budget

By Jim Harper  
Staff Writer

Long Beach officials were pleased, almost self-congratulatory, Monday about the response to their "Super Saturday" round of meetings and public discussion of the upcoming budget, but there was an implied acknowledgement of unpleasant work ahead -- probably trimming services while asking citizens to pay more tax.

"They were very, very productive meetings," town manager David Poston said, citing a "good turnout" of about 30 citizens and suggestions from the floor by nearly half the number.

Also included in the day of dialogue was conversation with mem-

bers of various advisory boards and volunteer groups.

The focus of everything was May 5, when the manager expects to present the new budget to a board whose watchword since the November election has been "fiscal responsibility".

Back during campaign time, when a new mayor and three new commissioners were being elected, fiscal responsibility meant living within one's means. Now it is likely to put an ironic twist on another cliché, "Less is more".

At root is the fact that Long Beach commissioners have kept the city tax rate low by utilizing the fund balance -- town savings -- to meet budget needs. Poston figures the town is presently getting 49 cents worth of ser-

vices on a 39-cent tax rate just that way.

He provides figures that show Long Beach maintained a tax rate of 35 cents in 1987 by taking \$88,000 from the fund balance; lowered the rate to 30 cents the next year by using \$104,000 from the fund balance; and kept the rate at a pleasantly low 31 cents in 1989 by using \$205,000 from

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## Middle, high schools

# Faculty ready for test of comprehensive plan

By Marybeth Bianchi  
Feature Editor

Both South Brunswick High and South Brunswick Middle schools are busy working to implement the comprehensive management concept in their schools and, in a show of support, the board of education gave both faculties time during the school day to work on the process.

Reporting to the Brunswick County Board of Education Monday night, principals and teacher coordinators from the two schools appeared enthusiastic about the changes taking place and the community involvement.

Fifty-five of 62 teachers at South Brunswick High have committed themselves to the concept, instructor Karl Tutt told the board. There are 36 faculty members actively serving on seven committees which focus on various aspects of the concept: A safe and orderly environment, a climate of high expectations, instructional leadership, a clear and focused mission, providing opportunities to

learn, frequent monitoring and a positive home/school relationship.

At the middle school, principal Les Tubb reported 100-percent faculty support for the plan with everyone working on the committees. "It's really neat to get a buy-in," he told the board.

"We hope to implement this program in full," teacher Patty Gail Price told the board.

Students as well as parents are involved at the high school, Tutt said.

"Already we've seen some positive results," he noted, including the publication of a newsletter that is being mailed to all parents. The middle school is also mailing a newsletter to parents.

"The bottom line is we're going to make South Brunswick a better school," Tutt said.

South Brunswick High principal Sue Sellers agreed.

"As you can see we are committed," she told the board.

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## Northern area schools held back, parents say

By Holly Edwards  
County Editor

Students are crammed into classrooms at Lincoln Primary School in Leland, leading to serious behavior problems and causing students to fall behind state averages of achievement, parents Glenda Browning and Tina Child told the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Monday night.

Browning and Child presented commissioners with a petition containing about 1,200 signatures, and asked them to support parents in their request for another elementary school in the Leland area. Lincoln Primary School was built for 500 students,

Browning said, but there are currently 760 students enrolled there.

"By the time our students reach the fourth grade, they are one year behind the rest of the state," said Child. "There are a lot of discipline problems in the school, and the children are on top of one another."

Education should be the responsibility of everyone, Browning said, and teachers would be able to do a better job if they were provided classrooms that were conducive to learning.

"We are trying to take on our responsibility as parents, and we are asking you county commissioners to help support us in our endeavors," said Browning.

However, commissioners' chairman Kelly Holden pointed out that the board of education sets its own priorities.

"The board of commissioners is bound by statute to fund the board of education, but they set the priorities," said Holden. "I want to know from the board of education, what are your goals and how do you plan to improve the educational environment in Brunswick County? Our report card is an embarrassment, and all we've heard is they want a new central office."

"Which they are deserving," Child responded. "But, everyone has to realize that children are involved, too."

Commissioner Donald Shaw said he toured Lincoln Primary School on Monday and was "really embarrassed and ashamed" by what he saw there.

"It was very, very crowded," he said. "It was really hot in the classrooms, and the children looked like they were in a state of confusion. I urge every commissioner on the board to go look for themselves."

Commissioner Gene Pinkerton said he was concerned about the situation in Leland, but that the issue was a matter for the board of education.

"As long as we need classrooms, maybe (the board of education) can do with the office they have now."

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## '911' is put on hold

The target date for the county 911 system to come on-line has been changed from April 15 to sometime during the week of April 27, said Emergency Medical Services (EMS) director Doug Ledgett. All of the 911 equipment has been installed except the radios, Ledgett said, but completion of the EMS center is running about three weeks behind schedule. The interviewing process for telecommunicators should begin next week, he said.

Within the next week or two, Ledgett said he should be able to provide an exact date for the 911 system to come on-line. And, he said, before anything happens the county will mount a campaign to inform the public about how to use the system and about what to expect from it.

# Airport FBO taxis for take-off

By Holly Edwards  
County Editor

The president and vice-president of Resort Aviation, Inc., the fixed base operator (FBO) of Brunswick County Airport, said last week they will not seek an extension of their lease at the airport because the airport commission has become "an unworkable body."

"We find it impossible to continue to operate in an atmosphere of continuous disruption, uncertainty and a feeling that our efforts are being undermined by (airport) commission members," corporate officers Douglas Carmody and Ernest Matacotta said in a letter to airport commission chairman John Walters.

Walters recently announced he would resign his post as chairman, and the effective date of his resignation was moved up from June 1 to April 15, said Southport city manager Rob Hites. Southport aldermen could appoint another airport commissioner as early as Thursday night.

Other members of the airport com-

mission said they had not yet seen the letter announcing Resort Aviation's pull-out, but would discuss the FBO's lease at their next meeting on Wednesday, April 15.

"I find it incredible that (Resort Aviation) sought publicity before even bothering to notify the airport commission," said airport commissioner Bill Fairley. "They've not expressed any problem publicly at the airport commission meetings."

One official familiar with the airport/FBO relationship says a sense of misunderstanding and mistrust has developed between the airport commission and Resort Aviation: "What began as a few cases of hurt feelings has deteriorated to the point where nobody believes anybody."

Two months ago, Resort Aviation officers requested their 18-month lease be extended another ten to 15 years, said Fairley. A three-member committee was then formed to investigate the FBO's operational costs and financial stability. The committee requested financial documents to deter-



mine what a lease extension would mean.

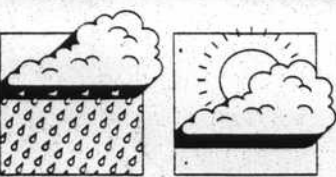
"It was very reasonable stuff to request," said Fairley. "They said they'd get it to us right away, and then two to three days later I read in the newspaper that Resort Aviation says they're being driven out of town."

The FBO originally had a 20-year lease with the airport commission. However, the lease was reduced to 18

months last October after Resort Aviation failed to construct hangars and classrooms.

Resort Aviation is the seventh FBO the Brunswick County Airport has had in the past ten years. As FBO, the company's role has been to serve the airport commission and to provide services for pilots, such as fuel sales, tie-downs, flight training and aircraft maintenance.

## OUTSIDE



### Forecast

The extended forecast calls for a chance of showers and thunderstorms Thursday and Friday, with highs in the 70s. Saturday, expect partly cloudy skies and cooler weather, with high temperatures in the 60s.

### Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, APRIL 9	LOW
12:03 a.m.		6:32 a.m.
12:35 p.m.		6:44 p.m.
FRIDAY, APRIL 10		
1:07 a.m.		7:34 a.m.
1:45 p.m.		7:53 p.m.
SATURDAY, APRIL 11		
2:13 a.m.		8:40 a.m.
2:54 p.m.		9:02 p.m.
SUNDAY, APRIL 12		
3:18 a.m.		9:42 a.m.
3:58 p.m.		10:08 p.m.
MONDAY, APRIL 13		
4:20 a.m.		10:38 a.m.
4:59 p.m.		11:09 p.m.
TUESDAY, APRIL 14		
5:17 a.m.		11:31 a.m.
5:54 p.m.		----- p.m.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15		
6:12 a.m.		12:05 a.m.
6:45 p.m.		12:19 p.m.

The following adjustments should be made:  
Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Caswell Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.