

The State Port

PILO

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of available real estate properties

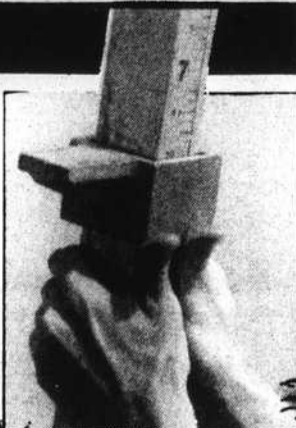


Photo by Marybeth Bianchi

Virginia P. Best releases a handful of environmentally safe balloons, each bearing the name and address of a resident of Ocean Trail Convalescent Center. The balloon release and mayor Norman Holden's proclamation on Monday kicked-off Na-

tional Nursing Home Week. Special events are planned each day with a hot dog, craft and bake sale scheduled for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 15. All proceeds will go to the residents' Christmas fund.

Long Beach budget: 47.5 cents

By Ed Harper
Pilot Editor

A Long Beach budget that calls for less than a one-percent increase in expenditures but an eight-cent rise in the tax rate was formally presented to town council this week.

The proposed budget requires a tax rate of 47 1/2 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation and does not rely on any transfer of funds from the town's unappropriated general fund balance, a practice that had become commonplace in recent years.

Town manager David Poston said in his budget message that the 1992-93 cost of services -- 47 1/2 cents -- is less than the actual cost of services that were provided in 1991-92. But the current-year cost of 49 cents was offset by a transfer of funds from the unappropriated general fund balance (\$230,680) and the accommodations tax (\$105,000) -- \$335,680 in all.

That was the largest transfer since the practice was begun in 1987-88. That year, the town board approved the transfer of \$88,405 to establish the tax rate at 35 cents despite a 38-cent cost of services. The next year, \$104,374 was moved from the unappropriated general fund balance to lower the tax rate to 31 cents despite a 33 1/2-cent cost of services.

County 911 system has no hang-ups

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

Brunswick County's "state-of-the-art" 911 system was activated on Friday morning at 7 o'clock and telecommunicators received their first emergency call at 10:25 a.m., said Lee Hitchcock, supervisor of the emergency communication service.

The first call involved a medical emergency at Food Lion at River Run Shopping Center on Beach Road. Hitchcock said the call was transferred to the Southport control center, and three-way communication was established among the 911 telecommunicator, the Southport dispatcher and the caller. Three-way communication can also be established with the Long Beach

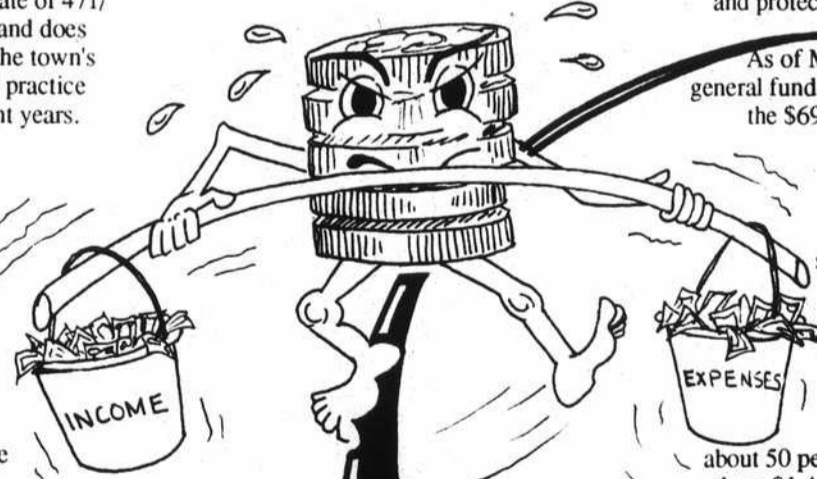
The cost of providing town services increased to 39 cents in 1989-90, according to the budget document now before town council, but commissioners that year approved the transfer of \$265,153 to maintain the tax rate at 31 cents. Then in 1990-91 the cost of services rose to 48 1/2 cents but the tax rate to only 39 1/2 cents because of a \$300,000 movement of funds from the balance used to meet early-year expenses and protect against town emergencies, such as hurricane loss mitigation.

As of March 31, the town's unappropriated general fund balance stood at \$810,195, up from the \$694,786 figure at the beginning of the current fiscal year July 1, 1991.

Finance officer Cathy Harvell said the increase is due simply to "revenues over expenses." Poston said the town has kept tight reins on expenditures: "No one has bought anything we did not absolutely need."

Harvell said the common-sense level of unappropriated balance for a town the size of Long Beach is about 50 percent of the general fund budget, or about \$1.4 million. The \$810,195 available on March 31 represents a level of 28.6 percent.

Poston said the importance of maintaining a healthy unappropriated fund balance is that the bulk of tax monies do not come to the town until the tax deadline, six months into the new year. See Beach budget, page 3



control center, he said. The system has been running "very smoothly" so far, he said, and the calls have been coming in steadily. While most people seem to know how to use 911, Hitchcock said callers have made a few "boo-boos." But, he added, these mistakes were cleared-up quickly.

It's too early to tell what, if anything, about the 911 system itself needs to be changed, he said.

"I'm happy it's in service," Hitchcock said. "It's nice to have more than one person on duty."

Anyone with questions about the 911 system should call the emergency medical services building administrative number at 253-7490.

Faulty wall bolts

CP&L knew about its trouble five years ago

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Flaws in the walls of the emergency diesel generator (EDG) building at the CP&L Brunswick plant, which caused a shutdown for repairs April 21, were known to CP&L since February, 1987, but corrective action was not taken until CP&L was pushed by a Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspection team in early April.

Details of the long-standing problems in the building, along with an NRC assessment that Brunswick plant problems stem from "lack of management vision," are contained in an NRC report of April 29, and are the basis of further assessment of the Brunswick operation that commenced Tuesday in Rockville, Md.

Emergency generators would be used in shut-down of the nuclear units

NRC cites weaknesses, management . . . page 6

if electric power were not available from regular sources at the site, or from the CP&L transmission system.

R. B. Richey, vice-president in charge of the Brunswick plant since April 2, said Monday that repairs of walls in the generator building to make them earthquake-proof have been completed, and the EDG unit should be certified operable by week's end. (However, both units are expected to

remain down for at least two more weeks for completion of regularly scheduled work.)

Richey explained Monday that an important function of emergency generators would be to provide core cooling during a plant shutdown. "The idea of safe shutdown is core cooling," he said.

Richey said that "the original identification of the problem (with fastenings in the masonry-and-steel interior walls) came through special knowledge of an NRC inspection team in early April."

The NRC report of April 29, however, says that the problem was first noted by a CP&L employee on February 13, 1987, but "was neither adequately examined or corrected."

In a chronology of the problem, the NRC document notes masonry block See CP&L knew, page 6

Yaupon sewer plans on track

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Reports and responsive action by the Yaupon Beach town board Monday and Tuesday have apparently moved the question of sewerage off center, on track and toward completion as early as July, 1993.

If that turns out to be the case, the \$2.8-million project will come in roughly a year later than originally planned.

Mayor May Moore Tuesday night said, "We've been held up a long time on appraisal (of the intended treatment site) -- it's moving, and we believe the permitting will be moving."

The board Tuesday approved the state's real estate appraisal for the 20-acre Fish Factory Road site and sent the matter back to Raleigh.

That action followed a Monday evening report from engineer Finley Boney that an apparent deadlock between two state agencies had been resolved, and the manner of dealing with outflow of ground water from the treatment area approved.

"Before this week is out, CAMA could say, 'Your permit is issued,'" Boney said Monday evening.

He extended a time-frame from CAMA permitting this week to advertisement and bid opening by June 15, award of a contract in mid-

August and commencement of the ten-month project in September.

In a second action Tuesday the Yaupon Beach board decided to ask for special legislation to prevent construction height limitations from being raised without referendum -- a concession to Yaupon Beach citizens who fear that sewerage might attract high-rise developments.

When completed, the Yaupon Beach project will comprise 50,000 feet of sewer main, eight lift stations, 600 connector lines and piping across the Elizabeth River marsh and under the Intracoastal Waterway to the treatment site.

Airport asks funds to employ manager

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

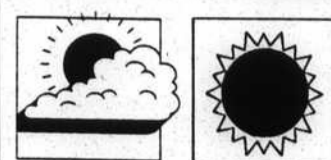
The Brunswick County Airport Commission approved a \$74,375 budget proposal for the next fiscal year, and agreed to extend its contract with Alex Prichot to keep the airport's fuel and ramp services open for the next six months during a specially called meeting last Wednesday.

The airport commission will hold its regular monthly meeting tonight (Wednesday) at 7:30 at the Brunswick County Airport.

The proposed budget is about \$45,000 more than last year's budget, and part of the reason for the increase is the commission's request for \$30,000 to fund a new manager consultant position. The airport commission is also requesting \$44,375 to fund the airport's cost of operations, such as insurance, electric and fuel bills.

The commission is asking for \$61,075 from the county, \$2,500 from Long Beach, \$1,000 from Yaupon Beach and \$5,000 from Southport. In addition, the airport's anticipated income is \$4,800 from hangar rental fees and fuel sales. See Airport funds, page 5

OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast for the Southport-Oak Island area calls for mostly cloudy skies Thursday and a chance of showers Friday, with highs both days in the 70s. Expect fair skies Saturday and Sunday, with highs in the 80s.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, MAY 14	LOW
5:49 a.m.		11:54 a.m.
6:26 p.m.		----- p.m.
	FRIDAY, MAY 15	
6:39 a.m.		12:37 a.m.
7:13 p.m.		12:41 p.m.
	SATURDAY, MAY 16	
7:27 a.m.		1:24 a.m.
8:00 p.m.		1:26 p.m.
	SUNDAY, MAY 17	
8:09 a.m.		2:09 a.m.
8:41 p.m.		2:08 p.m.
	MONDAY, MAY 18	
8:54 a.m.		2:53 a.m.
9:25 p.m.		2:50 p.m.
	TUESDAY, MAY 19	
9:36 a.m.		3:36 a.m.
10:05 p.m.		3:32 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, MAY 20	
10:18 a.m.		4:18 a.m.
10:46 p.m.		4:14 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.