

OUR TOWN

Long Beach

Gray metal desk, red vinyl chair, box of unusable radio parts, green metal desk, exercise bike, eight chrome chairs, ping pong table, office chair, six bed pans, box of 100 surgical hats, traction weight set, four padded splint boards, three leg immobilizers, exercise mat, box of miscellaneous items with oxygen gauges;

Also Grady-White boat with 155-horsepower motor and trailer, McKee Craft boat with motor and trailer, 1977 Dodge pickup, 1974 Dodge ambulance, 1985 Toyota pickup, but not the 1955 American La France fire truck.

These items were among those approved by the Long Beach town council for surplus auction at 1 p.m. June 12 at Town Hall. Councilman Jeff Ensminger requested that the fire truck be exempted from the public sale because the fire department had decided to keep it for use on ceremonial occasions.

Bald Head Island

The Bald Head Association board Saturday did not name members to the village council, as had been expected. The board, after an executive session to consider "personnel matters", said it will appoint two members to the council, which is the island's governing body, in its session on June 20.

Village manager Wallace Martin told the board that he had been negotiating with Brunswick County to have a trash and garbage transfer station located on the island. (The disposal of island waste is a matter of ongoing concern, and debate, which on Saturday dwelt on a compacter truck ill-suited for the job.) "I pointed out that this was one service they could give for the enormous amount of tax money the island gives the county," Martin said. He said he had not received the county's reply.

Southport

A committee including city manager Rob Hites, city attorney Mike Isenberg and aldermen Bill Delaney and Bill Crowe will investigate the need for and possible manner of installation of bike racks, particularly in front of Palm Tree Passage on Howe Street, after discussion before the board last Thursday.

Following an appearance of managers of Vision Cable in a public hearing, a vote on a new 15-year contract for the community was set for the June 11 board meeting. A second vote must also be held before the contract is granted.

The board voted to reimburse James Harper, Jr., \$1,340, a portion of the expenses he incurred in obtaining a deed of correction setting straight his property lines and those of city-owned Northwood Cemetery. And Mrs. Peggy Parker was named to the community development advisory council in place of Ms. Maggie Burney.

Caswell Beach

The summer garbage collection schedule will begin today (Wednesday) and will continue through Saturday, September 12. During this period, garbage will be collected every Wednesday and Saturday.

Caswell Beach town commissioners heard a funding request last Thursday afternoon from Rebecca Malik, a representative from Oak Island Library Boosters, Inc. Malik said the area's high rate of functional illiteracy, high drop-out rate and low SAT scores point up the need for a library on Oak Island.

"Our purpose is to show our responsibility for future and present generations," Malik said.

The Oak Island Library Boosters have raised about \$36,600 so far, and Malik requested an additional \$1,477 from Caswell Beach. Commissioners took no action on the request.

In other business discussed Thursday, town clerk Linda Bethune reported that 99.9 percent, or \$124,112, of the town's taxes have been collected thus far. The remaining \$86.58 in partial payments is due by June 1, she said.

Yaupon Beach

In a budget workshop Monday night Yaupon Beach commissioners began considering a budget of \$687,153 that would call for a tax rate of 35 cents per \$100 valuation (up from the present 33 cents) and an additional \$71,900 from the general fund balance. The present budget of \$515,370 includes \$58,582 appropriated from the fund balance.

Town clerk Nancy Wilson said the budget breaks down to \$115,050 for the water fund and \$572,153 for the general fund.

Helping to account for general fund increases this year, Wilson said, are salary increases, higher electricity costs for city services, an increase in health insurance rates, a proposed garage addition at Town Hall, addition of a building inspector-sewer supervisor position (in anticipation of a new sewerage system) and beach beautification.

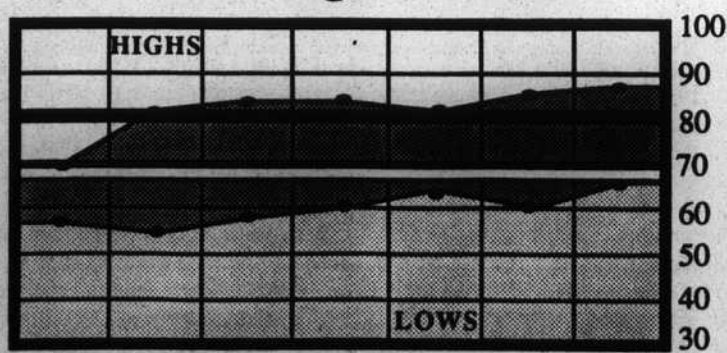
Wilson said that \$5,500 has been anticipated as the cost of community participation in the Oak Island rescue squad operation at Long Beach. Last year Yaupon Beach made a \$3,000 donation for that purpose, she said.

Boiling Spring Lakes

Town offices will be closed for Memorial Day observance, but will reopen Tuesday, when a public information meeting on the land use plan update is set for 6:30 p.m.

Town clerk Barbara Cumbee said that mayor's office hours will be held at 7 p.m. next Wednesday. Presentation of the 1992-93 budget is expected at the next regular town meeting, June 2.

Past week's highs & lows



WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON TUE
MAY Average High 80 degrees
Average Low 68 degrees
Data courtesy of Foxy Howard Graph by Debi McKellar



Even though Sunday was a perfect outdoors day, about 400 area residents and visitors made a point to do something for their health and visited the Doshier Memorial Hospital Health Fair in Southport. There were 43 exhibits which offered information and free screening op-

portunities, and seven local doctors were on hand to talk about their specialties. While people of all ages attended, health fair organizer Anne Watson said there were more children this year, as evidenced by the popularity of the fingerprinting booth.

BHI will charge for tram use

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

While price of ferry tickets remains \$10 Bald Head management will begin charging a \$3 tram fee -- each way -- in July, spokesmen for the developer and transportation operator said Saturday.

The policy will in effect double the \$8 ferry ticket price that was available until just before Easter.

In a discussion of "negotiations" of a Bald Head Association committee with the developer, the tram fee was announced for the first time.

Developer Kent Mitchell has insisted that his transportation service needed subsidy from property owners to help defray losses in the tram section of the transportation loop.

Mitchell said Saturday that the actual cost of carrying passengers on the tram was \$10 a round-trip, or \$4 more than his new tram charge is designed to net, but said he stopped short of the full charge because he felt a \$5 fee might cause customers to seek ways of circumventing the charge.

While discussions Saturday centered on the ticket price, it was learned that all transportation charges have not been worked out.

Ferry tickets, which until July 1 will include round-trip ferry and round-trip tram service -- as has been traditional, will remain at \$10, which is the price arrived at after a period of fluctuation since just before Easter.

Ferry tickets had been available to property owners in 50-ticket lots for \$8 each, but visitors over Easter found the price had been raised to \$14, with no bulk sales, just before they arrived.

In the wake of a furor the price-hike brought, the fee was dropped to \$8 (with bulk sales still suspended) and more recently raised to \$10.

The developer Saturday also announced a rise in the Indigo landing parking charge from \$3 to \$4 daily, and an increase in annual parking passes there from \$200 to \$300.

Mitchell said that his practice of giving annual parking passes to members of the Bald Head Island Volunteer Fire Department will continue.

The sale of annual ferry passes, on which many island residents and other frequent travelers depend, remains suspended while Bald Head Management considers changes in that \$600 price.

"Special handling" tickets, which cover transportation of bicycles, surfboards and the like, are \$10, in addition to the ferry passenger rate.

Mitchell said Saturday that an annual pass for tram service was also

Bald Head flood map changes more tolerant

A new flood insurance rate map, liberalizing building rules and reducing some flood insurance rates, has been issued for Bald Head Island after an appeal to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by the village, the developer and the property owners association.

Flood maps define zones of relative danger from flooding. The zones require different building heights to overcome flood dangers, and different flood insurance rates are charged depending on the degree of jeopardy.

FEMA, which administers the federal flood insurance program, issued a new rate map in April, 1991, that stiffened height and rate requirements along the island's oceanside and riverfront.

Among the most drastically affected areas was the Harbour Village section at the marina, where much taller buildings were to be required.

The local appeals cited inaccurate data as a reason for FEMA review of the map.

A new map will be issued, FEMA said in a letter to village manager Wallace Martin this week. Meantime, Martin will be able to answer flood zone questions for property owners and potential builders.

being considered.

Contractor rates of \$8, with no parking charge, remain the same from the Moore Street (old ferry site) landing.

And "no-frill" tickets from the island to the mainland and back, same day with no tram service, remain at \$8.



This live-oak branch near the Masonic Building was a beehive of activity last week.

Residents ask for Caswell accessway

A small group of Caswell Beach residents turned out for the town board's first budget workshop Thursday afternoon to request a beach accessway for the 300 block of the town's lone thoroughfare.

"I personally, physically need that walkway," declared Caswell Beach resident Carlton Sligh. "It seems to be a big controversy over something simple. The land was designated for this purpose years ago."

Other residents who live near the 300 block of Caswell Beach Drive complained that they have to walk or drive farther than anybody else to have access to the beach, and that the lack of a walkway encourages people to walk over the dunes, which is illegal.

Caswell Beach commissioners said they were reluctant to approve construction of the accessway because the people who live next to the site said they were afraid people could look down into their houses.

"The reason I was against it is that the property owners adjacent to either side of that walkway, because of the construction height of the walkway, you end up looking right down into their houses," said commissioner Bill Boyd. "But, things change. This is not a closed case. That's what the budget process is all about."

Surveys concerning the walkway were mailed with last year's tax bills, and a solid majority of residents were against its construction. Of the 536 surveys mailed, 252 were returned. Two hundred people said they were against construction of the accessway, 48 said they were for it, and four were unmarked, town clerk Linda Bethune reported.

The commissioners may reconvene the budget workshop Wednesday morning, Bethune said.