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Long Beach claims 20-foot strip to be its own

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

The Long Beach Town Council moved quickly Tuesday to squelch a claim by surveyor-developer Bob McHenry that he owns a 20-foot strip of the business district on the north side of Oak Island Drive.

After huddling with town attorney Jim Prevatte in executive session the council directed mayor Joan Altman to inform McHenry that the strip had been "dedicated to and accepted by the town."

McHenry has said that he owns the strip from 46th to 64th streets east by virtue of his purchase of the residue of the original Long Beach developer's holdings from Loyal American Insurance Company.

He also claims ownership of 288 acres of Davis Creek marsh from 40th Street East to Blue Water Point, and while Long Beach makes no claim to any of that acreage mayor Altman said after the meeting the town "is look-

ing into his (McHenry's) claim of the marsh as well."

McHenry has said that he wants to sell the marshland to adjacent property owners either for the view it provides them, or for creek access.

He also has indicated that he seeks some form of payment for the 20-foot strip, stating recently that, "I'll work it out with the town or with the property owners. I'm not going to say I want \$100,000 for it. We'll trade some stuff and they won't have to pay money for it."

Attorney Prevatte said Tuesday that Long Beach won't have to pay money or anything else for it.

"A dedication can be accepted formally, or by utilization," he said, noting that the town maintains water lines in the area of contention.

"By putting something in a plat and selling from that plat, that is another form of dedication," Prevatte said.

McHenry has said the strip is his because, though it was proposed as a parking and sidewalk area by E. F. Middleton, the premier Long Beach de-

veloper, it was never formally dedicated to the town.

The brief directive answered some questions that were directed to the council during the early public comment portion of the meeting.

Harold Watson asked if the owner had been paying taxes on the marshland at the rate of \$1,500 -- McHenry has suggested \$1,500 as a price for a view across his marsh. Watson also asked who was to stand up for the trees there, for McHenry has suggested cutting down marsh-island trees as a manner of enhancing the view from the north side of Davis Canal.

Later another questioner wondered if the town had looked into McHenry's claim to the 20-foot strip.

After the session mayor Altman said that she had not heard of McHenry making any direct claims to the town over ownership of the 20-foot strip, and indicated that Prevatte's opinion had been sought merely because of general knowledge of McHenry's claim.

Bald Head lights out

17-hour outage puts vacationers, officials in dark

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Steamed over a 17-hour electric power failure which stopped business and strained pleasure last Friday, the Bald Head Island village council Saturday demanded that Carolina Power and Light Co., the island's provider, explain what happened and not let it happen again.

In a letter Monday mayor Dick Messenger pointed out that from shortly after midnight until 5:02 p.m. businesses lost air conditioning, lighting, machine operations and refrigeration; Bald Head Utilities pumps ceased to draw well water; sewer system pumps did not operate and the village trash compactor lay idle. (All residences were also without power during the period.)

He also reported that power had been spasmodic before it stopped, and that "a similar incident occurred three years ago."

"We expect a complete report from CP&L about the entire incident and a plan to effectively deal with this in the future," Messenger wrote.

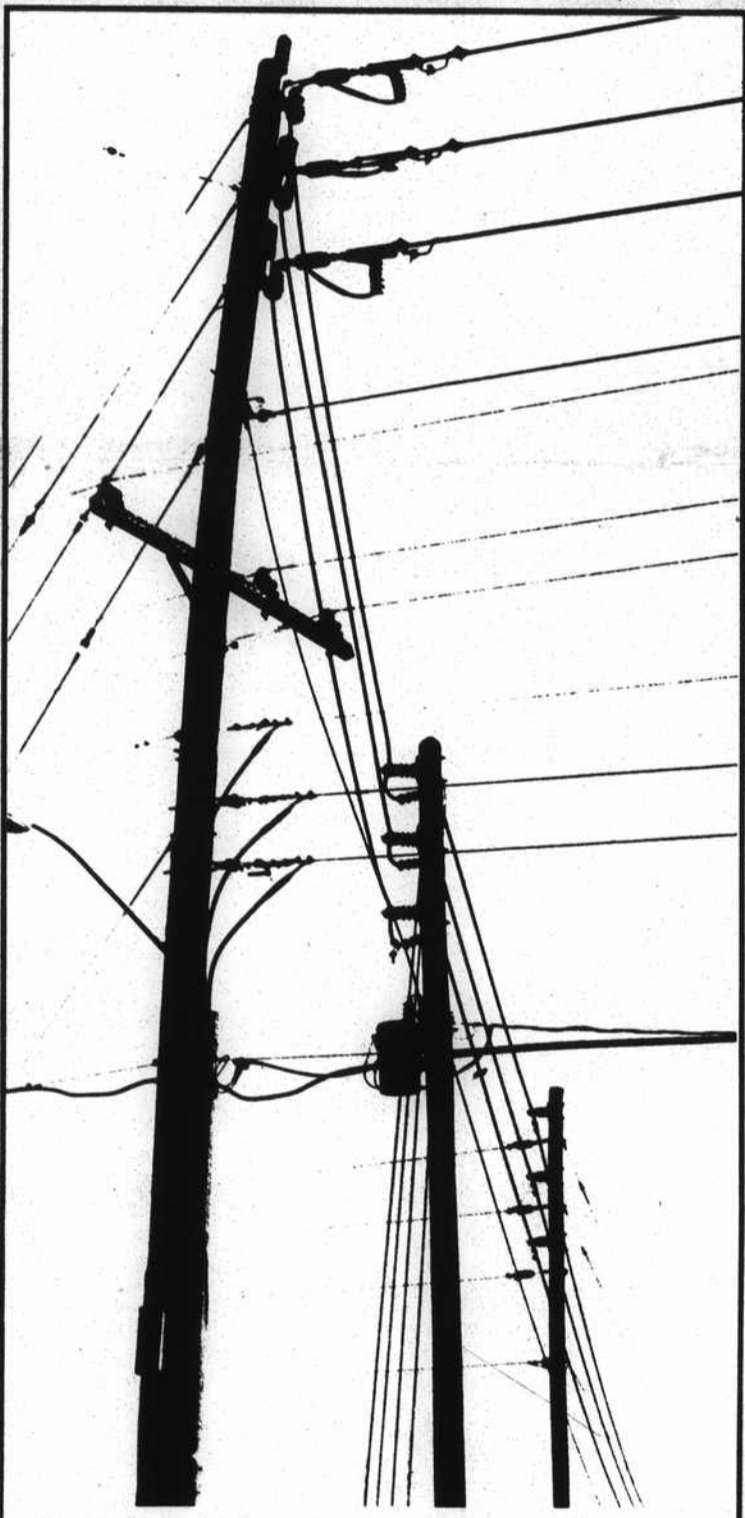
A CP&L spokesman said Friday that the problem was "switching gear on the mainland side, worn out due to corrosion."

On Monday the spokesman said that repairs continued even after power was generally restored to the island Friday afternoon, causing some "momentary" power failures there Saturday.

One occurred during the village council meeting, but by then the matter had already been placed on the agenda by village manager Wallace Martin.

He reported on Friday events and said his inquiries had led to the conclusion that it was a "case of preventive maintenance; they know what the problems are."

Martin said that he'd been told it
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Carolina Power and Light Co. transmission lines cross the western marsh at the Caswell Beach pumping station, turn east and head for Bald Head, but for 17 hours Friday power never got to the island.

November 3rd vote likely on limiting beach council terms

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Long Beach Concerned Citizens, a political activist organization, moved Tuesday night to force a vote November 3 on limiting town council terms to two years and to prevent resubmission of a general bond referendum within five years of its defeat.

The group obtained enough petition support in May to put the two questions to a vote, but presenting it Tuesday made a vote on November

3 -- election day -- likely.

The council must hold a referendum on the two proposals no sooner than 60 days or later than 120 days.

Council members, presently serving four-year terms, received the petitions for town charter amendment without comment.

In the public comment portion of the meeting the council heard pros and cons of a proposed jet-ski ordinance.

Former council member Kevin Bell said that jet-skis had caused no

injury in Long Beach, and only one complaint to police.

"Complaints should be documented and dealt with individually," Bell said, and suggested, "let Marine Fisheries and the Coast Guard do their job."

He and others also suggested that the matter be tabled until jet-skiers could rally some support, and when the matter came up for consideration it was tabled, with a suggestion that jet-ski users be consulted about how best to regulate use of the water-

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Schools key-in request on computer program

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

Brunswick County school officials have a vision and have embarked upon a mission of making every student in the county computer-literate by the year 2000, superintendent of schools P. R. Hankins told the board of commissioners Monday night.

Not only is this their mission, Hankins proclaimed, but a state-mandated requirement. In the year 2000, every student in the state will have to pass a computer proficiency test in order to graduate from high school.

And in order to get Brunswick County students ready for this test, county school officials told the board of commissioners they need to spend about \$1.25 million to install more computers in all 11 schools, and initiate a model computer program at Supply Elementary School.

School officials say they are not asking for new funds, but simply for a loan or a lease/purchase on behalf of the board of education. Finance officer Rudi Fallon said the schools would repay \$250,000 per year over the next five years out of a portion of

'I need some people who can compose a letter and read, not operate a computer. But, if those computers can enhance that, then you're doing a better job of selling me.'

Gene Pinkerton
County commissioner

their share of the half-cent sales tax, which she said is intended to be used for equipment.

Commissioners took no action on the request, but agreed to bring the issue up again at their next meeting on August 3.

"We need your special help to meet our mission," Hankins told the board. "The future of our children depends on us and our future depends on them. Please help us meet the needs of the children of Brunswick County."

Some commissioners were skeptical of the request at first, and said they

would rather have students who could read and write than students who could operate a computer. However, Supply Elementary School principal Carolyn Williams assured the board that computers would enhance students' learning in every area.

"I admit I'm not real optimistic about the program. You people are in charge of educating my grandchildren. You also send me and the rest of the business community graduates who can't compose letters, add or subtract," said commissioner Gene Pinkerton. "I need

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BCC students see tuition hike

Students enrolling at Brunswick Community College this fall should expect to pay a little more for their education.

At its July meeting, the State Board of Community Colleges approved a 15.2-percent tuition increase as mandated by the General Assembly. This is the fourth consecutive tuition increase and the seventh in the past ten years.

This means that full-time students -- those taking 12 or more credit hours -- at BCC and the other 57 community colleges will be paying \$185.50 a quarter, an increase of \$24.50. The cost per credit-hour will rise from \$11.50 to \$13.25.

Out-of-state students will pay the same as last year, but students enrolled in occupational extension courses will see an increase of \$5 in the cost of each course to \$35.

"We don't like tuition hikes," said Ben DeBlois, vice-president for administrative services at BCC. "They don't benefit the college." All the money collected for tuition goes back into the state's general fund, he said.

DeBlois expressed concern about BCC's students, many of whom enroll in courses to upgrade their skills to get a better job.

"It affects people. It limits those who can attend," DeBlois said. However, there will be some financial help for those students who need it.

"We try to bring together the various pieces of aid and give it to the students who need it," DeBlois said.

About 40 percent of BCC's students received a share of the \$300,000 in financial aid distributed through the college, said Beth McClain, dean of student services. However, 90 percent of the students probably would be eligible for aid if they applied.

McClain anticipates that the tuition increase will be a strain for some students.

"I don't think it will hurt, but they'll just have to tighten their belts a little more," she said.

DeBlois remained optimistic even with the increase, saying, "I still think we are the best education bargain around."

OUTSIDE



Forecast

The forecast for Thursday through Saturday calls for partly cloudy skies throughout the period with a chance of afternoon or evening thunderstorms. Highs in the 90s, lows in the 70s.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JULY 23	LOW
1:51 a.m.		8:24 a.m.
2:45 p.m.		9:10 p.m.
HIGH	FRIDAY, JULY 24	LOW
2:52 a.m.		9:24 a.m.
3:48 p.m.		10:20 p.m.
HIGH	SATURDAY, JULY 25	LOW
4:01 a.m.		10:26 a.m.
4:50 p.m.		11:22 p.m.
HIGH	SUNDAY, JULY 26	LOW
5:06 a.m.		11:28 a.m.
5:53 p.m.		12:22 p.m.
HIGH	MONDAY, JULY 27	LOW
6:12 a.m.		12:27 p.m.
6:49 p.m.		
HIGH	TUESDAY, JULY 28	LOW
7:13 a.m.		1:16 a.m.
7:45 p.m.		1:23 p.m.
HIGH	WEDNESDAY, JULY 29	LOW
8:11 a.m.		2:09 a.m.
8:37 p.m.		2:17 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; Yampun Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.