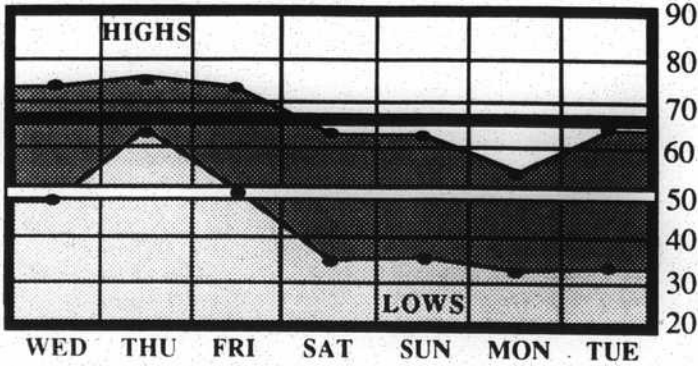


OUR TOWN

Past week's highs & lows



Bald Head Island

The public is invited to an open house at the village hall at 12:30 p.m. Saturday. The structure in the lighthouse-chapel complex, next to the post office, was recently completed at a cost of approximately \$215,000 and has been occupied by the village staff for over a month. Previously the village government operated out of the developer's administration building, and more recently from a trailer in the developer's maintenance compound.

Village manager Wallace Martin said Tuesday that installation of the water line to Middle Island, which provides improved fire protection as well as residential water service, is complete and Federal Road is restored as an around-the-clock thoroughfare.

Boiling Spring Lakes

A public hearing on the land use plan update will be held tonight (Wednesday) at 7 p.m., city clerk Barbara Cumbee said this week. At the board of commissioners meeting last week mayor Mark Stewart urged citizens to attend the hearing. The board may vote after the hearing on whether or not to approve the revised land use plan for the city.

At the board meeting last week, commissioner Warren Plowden, in charge of recycling, said residents are leaving recyclables at the recycling center when it is not open. The center is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. It is located in the city garage complex off N. C. 87.

Caswell Beach

Building inspector Roger Parks will not be available to issue permits or make inspections from Monday, November 23, through Friday, November 27, town clerk Linda Bethune said this week. He will resume normal office hours November 30, she said. Parks' office hours are 9 to 10 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Town Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26-27, for the observance of Thanksgiving, Bethune said. The office will reopen on Monday, November 30.

Parks attended a seminar this week in Wilmington conducted by the Council of American Building Officials (CABO) which dealt with building code updates.

Police chief Paul Osborne also attended a seminar this week on "disaster preparation and recovery" at Kure Beach. The seminar was sponsored by Cape Fear Community College.

Yaupon Beach

Town Hall will be open to the public only from 3 to 4:30 p.m. daily through Friday, November 20, as town employees prepare the preliminary assessment roll for the town's wastewater collection and sewer treatment system, town clerk Nancy Wilson said this week. The roll will be available for public inspection beginning December 15. A public hearing on the assessment roll is scheduled for January 7.

Wilson said anybody who needs to contact building inspector and wastewater treatment operator David Kelly between now and Friday should leave a message at 278-5024 on the answering machine.

Town Hall will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday, November 26-27, Wilson said.

Kelly and public works director John Hawes attended a seminar on hurricane preparedness in Carolina Beach Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

Long Beach

In the month of October the Long Beach Police Department answered 143 calls, according to the department's monthly report. The report noted that the department made 36 arrests, conducted 33 criminal investigations and assisted the Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department on 22 calls.

According to the report, the officer assigned to animal control answered 53 animal complaints, investigated one animal bite, and impounded 17 animals.

Town clerk Pat Brunell appealed to the public this week to use the recently reopened recycling center. The center, located on 48th Street SE, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. It accepts newspapers, cardboard, glass and certain types of aluminum and plastic.

Southport

The pick-up schedule for recycling bins is alternate weeks on the same day as garbage pick-up, acting manager Sylvia Butterworth said this week. She said there has been some confusion about the schedule.

The next pick-up is Monday, November 30, for the west side of the city and Tuesday, December 1, for the east side.

The city will soon string Christmas decoration lights and banners in the downtown area, public works director Ed Honeycutt said this week. Lights on holly trees and the banners will be put up soon on the 100 block of Howe Street, the first block of Moore Street and in front of the Brunswick County Library. Honeycutt said the lights will be switched on Saturday, December 5, and will be used through the New Year.

The Department of Transportation will transplant 75 to 80 live oak trees along city streets this week, Honeycutt said. The department is planting the trees along Howe, Moore and Leonard streets using the same procedure employed last spring.



Evelyn Anderson (left), a World War II veteran and Southport auxiliary member, and Florence Gordon, a member of the Disabled American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary, place a wreath at Old Smithville Burying Ground last Wednesday in commemoration of all veterans who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Veterans must still protect their rights

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

Just as the early colonists were united by the goal of a free and independent nation, so should veterans join together to defend the entitlements they've earned and the recognition they deserve, said local Disabled American Veterans (DAV) commander Al Hancock during the Veterans Day ceremony in Southport last Wednesday morning.

"This Veterans Day, let's appreciate our common bond -- the shared experience of serving America in her armed forces," Hancock told the small crowd gathered at Old Smithville Burying Grounds. "We once defended our nation's right to choose its leaders. Now, as veterans, we can protect those rights we so fiercely defended."

Disabled veterans share an even greater bond, Hancock said. "The injuries we suffer from or diseases we cope with are an ever-present reminder of our military service to our country," he said. "We are bound by the shared pain of recovery and the joy of rehabilitation."

Because of the men and women who have served in the nation's military, Hancock said Americans were recently able to participate in one of their most fundamental and sacred rights -- voting.

"We're here today to honor those veterans who protected and defended our right to be represented, and to freely choose those who will represent us," he said. "Sorting through the issues and listening to the candidates' answers was often a daunting task. But this Veterans Day, I'm reminded

that one fact remains constant: The veterans of this country helped make that process possible."

Later in the ceremony, Rep. David Redwine (D-Brunswick) said that each American should be grateful to the veterans who gave their all so everyone could participate in the democratic process.

"I saw a bumper sticker a few weeks ago that said, 'If you love your freedom, thank a vet.' And I think that's what Veterans Day is all about," Redwine said.

Hancock pointed out that war memorials and veteran-related activities are rising in popularity, and that Americans are rediscovering the significance of veterans in protecting their way of life. But, he added, beyond memorials and events, everyone needs to join together to ensure that veterans' health care and compensation programs

'We're here today to honor those veterans who protected and defended our right to be represented, and to freely choose those who will represent us.'

Al Hancock
DAV commander

See Veterans, page 5

South Brunswick Middle students thank our vets, page 1B

Boiling Spring Lakes

VFD wants out of hot water

By Amitabh Pal
Municipal Editor

The Boiling Spring Lakes Volunteer Fire Department will, for the first time, admit outside members to its board of directors in hopes of attracting more volunteers and increasing public financial support.

Elections to the board will be held December 9 when the 17 department members will select a board and a fire chief. They will be asked to approve names submitted by a three-member nominating committee.

The board will consist of eight members, all of whom -- except the fire chief -- will be from outside the department. A non-voting position will be held by Bert Buckbee, the Boiling Spring Lakes public safety commissioner.

'Because of firefighters being board members there was no oversight and it was too easy to get what you wanted. We need people to look at things and say what is necessary.'

Bill Stephenson
Interim board president

The nominating committee has recommended Bill Davis, a commercial loan broker, for the post of president and Charles Johnson, a professional firefighter, for the post of fire chief. The elections, which were held every year, will now under changed

bylaws be held every two years. "We want to give them time to get their program implemented," said Bill Stephenson, interim board president who will step down in December. "We don't want too much of a rotation."

The department operates independently from the city although it does receive municipal funding.

Stephenson said the previous arrangement, where all members of the board were firemen, at times resulted in the board voting solely in the fire department's interest.

"We found that in the past few years the board was not operating the way it should have," Stephenson said. "Because of firefighters being board members there was no oversight and it was too easy to get what you wanted. We need people to look at things and say what is necessary."

"It was a case of the fox looking after the chicken coop," he said.

Stephenson said the initiative for the change in board structure was internal and was not due to pressure

See Hot water, page 16

State considers maritime forest buy

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

The state Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust board on Friday will consider a proposal for purchase of 128.4 acres of Bald Head Island woodland at a cost of roughly \$19,000 an acre for preservation as a maritime forest.

The state board will be asked to pay \$216,000 of the actual \$2,487,000 cash cost of the project, to be combined with some \$2,271,000 in federal funds which have been pledged.

Bald Head Island developers, who are to receive the money, are also to be credited with a contribution of \$541,000 in land and services which brings the total package value to roughly \$3,028,000. If the state money is appropriated and federal funds are forthcoming from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the acquisition should be completed in early 1993.

Rich Shaw, with the state Division of Coastal Management, said Tuesday that the federal agency has tentatively altered its plan to

spend a total of \$4 million for Bald Head forest acquisition over a two-year span in equal parts.

Should the federal government agree to spend more than half of the total in a phase-one purchase, \$1,729,000 will be available for purchasing more land in the maritime forest in the next transaction.

Shaw said the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been "receptive" to the idea of paying more than \$2 million for the initial acquisition, but no formal go-ahead has been received.

The proposed forest to be purchased in the first phase is generally located in the woodland between Muscadine Wynd and Captain Charlie's Station, and spans Federal Road.

Preservation of the forest through acquisition was pursued after lengthy deliberation by the Coastal Resources Commission found the Bald Head forest worthy of saving.

Federal funds were promised last winter, and negotiations have been between the N. C. Nature Conservancy, which is a private conservation group, and the island developer. The purchased land is to become state property.