



Woody Woodward, Long Beach Parks and Recreation Department director, takes a back seat in the department's new van equipped with a hydraulic lift to accommodate wheelchair passengers. The van will be available to transport disabled residents, those who are ambulatory but unable to drive themselves, and small groups for short trips.

Long Beach recreation van available to groups

Long Beach Parks and Recreation Department has a new van that can be used by disabled or homebound residents.

Equipped with a hydraulic lift at the rear, the van can accommodate up to three wheelchairs. There are a total of 14 seats which line both walls of the van's interior.

The van is the result of a cooperative effort between Long Beach, Brunswick County and the federal government which worked together to obtain a grant to fund 80 percent of the cost of the \$70,000 van. Former recreation director Kelly Beeson and former town manager David Poston were instrumental in obtaining the van, Woody Woodward, the current recreation director, said.

Oak Island Senior Citizens also contributed \$500 toward the purchase of the van.

Woodard said the van will be used to provide weekly trips to Southport for Long Beach residents who are

homebound but ambulatory.

"We're not limiting to just the seniors," Woodard said. He has already identified about a half-dozen Long Beach residents who will be among those included in the weekly trip which will be provided at no charge.

"We're not going to be a taxi service," Woodard warned, and he won't be competing with the county van which provides transportation for special trips.

However, it will be made available for summer children's camp and to groups for short excursions, such as scout troops or church groups. They will be charged 25 cents a mile and will be required to pay any expenses for the volunteer driver. The van will also be available for overnight trips at a cost of \$20.

Woodard is compiling a list of volunteers interested in driving the van. Each must be tested before he or she can operate the vehicle.

Ornaments benefit needy

Holiday ornaments sold at Western Sizzlin' will help make Christmas a happier time for needy children in Brunswick County. Net proceeds from all ornaments sold will be donated to the Volunteer and Information Center, earmarked especially for needy children. The ornaments can be purchased only at Western Sizzlin' while supplies last.

RECREATION

Santa calling in December

Santa will be calling children under the age of nine, courtesy of the Southport, Long Beach and Brunswick County parks and recreation departments.

Parents are asked to complete a "Santa Calling" information form available at Brunswick County schools, the three Brunswick County Library branches and the three sponsoring recreation department offices.

The forms must be returned by Thursday, December 10, to the local recreation department. Those received after the deadline will not be guaranteed to receive a phone call.

Phone calls will be made by Santa's helpers between Monday, December 14, and Friday, December 18.

Holiday party for community

A community holiday party will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, December 5, at the Brunswick County Government Center.

Entertainment will be provided by participants in the creative dramatics class and a guest from the North Pole. Those attending the party are asked to bring an ornament for the community tree.

The program is free and open to the public.

Christmas trip to Biltmore

"Christmas at the Biltmore" in Asheville is the destination of a bus tour sponsored by the Southport Parks and Recreation Department.

The overnight trip is scheduled December 11-12 and costs \$125 a person. The fee includes transportation, accommodations and tickets to the Biltmore Estate.



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