

# OUR TOWN

## Southport

The board of aldermen will meet Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall. Members are expected to approve tax releases submitted by the tax collector and a budget amendment to pay for repair work on a collapsed sewer on Herring Drive. Aldermen also will receive an update on Southport's application for the All-American City competition, as well as reports from the waterfront development and beautification committees.

Public works director Ed Honeycutt will report on the transplanting of oak trees by the N. C. Department of Transportation last week and on repair projects along the waterfront.

Work on relining the water tank has started and likely will be completed within two weeks. Work will be in progress until midnight each day so it can be completed as soon as possible.

Honeycutt has warned there might be rapid fluctuations in the water supply during the length of the project. He has also said that water could appear dirty because of disturbed sediment in water lines.

## Caswell Beach

The town will present a check for \$10,607.19 to Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation this week to help pay for the first phase of undergrounding utility lines, town clerk Linda Bethune said.

The amount is an estimated eight percent of the cost of the project. The town will recoup the cost from property owners through assessment after the project is completed, Bethune said.

The project is due to start next month, Bethune noted. Property owners will be assessed \$3.45 per front-foot if they own property on both sides of the road. Otherwise, the cost will be divided between property owners on either side.

The first phase of the project extends from the western boundary of the town to the western boundary of the Caswell Dunes development. The project involves the undergrounding of 2,985 feet of utility lines.

Bethune has reminded taxpayers that the last date for paying tax bills without penalty is January 5, 1993, after which time interest will be levied.

## Yaupon Beach

The board of commissioners will meet Monday, December 14, at 7 p.m. in Town Hall. The board will hold a public hearing on a proposed accommodations tax levy, which is a three-percent room occupancy tax proposed to be used for tourism-related expenses. After the hearing, the board will consider a resolution making the tax effective January 1.

The board will also discuss renewal of the cable TV franchise for Vision Cable and designation of building inspector David Kelly as community rating system coordinator to enable the town to apply to FEMA for a community rating discount of five percent on flood insurance policies for homeowners.

Homeowners who are getting sewer taps installed, or their plumbers, should come by Town Hall and obtain a plumbing permit before installation, Kelly said this week. The permit is free, but is mandatory.

A reception at Town Hall Saturday before the start of the Christmas-By-the-Sea parade was attended by Congressman Charlie Rose and county manager David Clegg. Finance officer Jean Yates said she would like to thank all the merchants who helped with the decorations and the food for the reception.

## Long Beach

The town council will meet on Tuesday, December 15, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. There will be a public hearing on a proposed change to the town ordinance that deals with auction signs. The present ordinance does not address the issue.

The board will also consider resolutions on Poly-carts and on the first phase of undergrounding of electric cables in the town.

In an October workshop the council agreed it should be mandatory for rental units to have two Poly-carts each and that Poly-carts be prohibited in rights-of-way except for a 24-hour period beginning 7 p.m. the day before pickup.

Undergrounding of Beach Drive cable lines has been proposed by Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation from 58th Street SE to 46th Place East, 16th Place East to Middleton Street, and Middleton Street to 17th Place West. A public hearing on the proposal was held at the last council meeting.

The board will also study a comprehensive cash management policy prepared by town manager Tim Johnson. The council authorized setting up such a policy at its last meeting.

Johnson said he expects paving of NE 8th, NE 14th, NE 36th and SE 42nd streets and resurfacing of 28 other streets to be completed this week.

## Boiling Spring Lakes

The board of commissioners agreed Tuesday to consider at its next meeting a planning board recommendation for a six-month time limit for implementing variances granted in zoning.

Planning board chairman Elmer Schorzman also recommended the board consider changing the zoning ordinance to mandate construction of houses that can withstand 120-mile-per-hour winds, instead of the 110 mph currently stipulated.

Schorzman also recommended the zoning ordinance be made available to any citizen at cost and that a city logo be designed to incorporate elements of three designs submitted by students at South Brunswick Middle School.

The board agreed to allow Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation to take down four telephone boxes on Fifty Lakes Drive and set up a centralized cabinet instead.

The board also accepted a recommendation from Tony Aweekey on behalf of the appearance commission that the city assign an employee to clean up around City Hall on a part-time basis. It agreed to assign the task to Donald Crocker, the recycling operator, and formalize the extension of his work hours at budget time.

The board also will ask the state to stop using the junction of N. C. 133 and N. C. 87 as a dump site for cement cisterns.



## For author Susie Carson

# 'Joshua's Dream' comes true

By Marybeth Bianchi  
Feature Editor

Susie Carson had been collecting information on Southport since her father took her around to historic sites as a child.

Friends like former superintendent of schools Annie May Woodside, fel-

low historian Bill Reaves and descendants of Southport's important early citizens added to her vast collection.

"It seemed everywhere I turned somebody was giving me something about Southport," Carson said. She kept notes on chronologically arranged 3x5-inch cards, and filled boxes with them.

Compiling it all into a book was one of Carson's long-held dreams, something she thought could be her gift to Southport during its Bicentennial celebration. So much had been written about the town and how wonderful it and its breezes were that Carson finally decided to "quit talking about it and do it. It had been

forming in my mind for so long," she said.

Her first thought was to take the notes from her local history class, make copies and finance the project with money raised through the sale of advertisements. Something like the cookbook she did in the 1950s.

But when Dave Kelly of Carolina Power and Light Co. told Carson of CP&L's interest in publishing a book, she said she cried. She made just two stipulations: The book had to be thick enough to sit on a library shelf and it could not have a spiral binding.

With two historical chronologies of the town already published (by her friend Bill Reaves) Carson said she believed a narrative of the town's history was what was needed.

"I realized in the past no one had written a complete story of the area," she said. That's what she set out to do, although she had to cut back on her efforts, otherwise "it would have been like *War and Peace* if I had used it all."

Carson began to work on the book in earnest after her discussion with Kelly in March, 1991. Although related to her efforts, Founders Day in May, 1992, took time away from writing, and as she neared the deadline talkative friends kept her on the phone longer than she would have preferred. But she did finish in time and handed the work over to CP&L's Vicki Spencer in August to edit.

"I read it so many times I can't stand to read it again," she said. "I guess I'll never be satisfied."

Even though it is a narrative, the book is a history. See Joshua, page 6.



Local historian Susie Carson points out a passage in her new book *Joshua's Dream* to her former boss E. J. Prevatte and his wife Amaretta. The history of Southport was a cooperative effort between Mrs. Carson and Carolina Power and Light Co. in honor

of the city's Bicentennial. Mrs. Carson was joined by dozens of friends and dignitaries at a dinner Monday night, when the book was officially released.

## Book signing

Susie Carson, author of *Joshua's Dream: A Town with Two Names*, will be at the Carolina Power and Light Co. visitors center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, December 12, signing paperback copies of her book.

The book, a gift to the City of Southport from Carson and CP&L in celebration of its Bicentennial, covers the history of Southport from the late 1700s to World War II.

Copies are available for \$15 at the visitors center, which is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Water bacteria found; no longer problem

# BHI users were not notified

By Jim Harper  
Staff Writer

Bald Head Island Utilities, the developer's private company, was required to conduct special tests and notify customers after coliform bacteria were found in drinking water samples in October.

Subsequent testing has indicated no further presence of the bacteria, which can be an indicator of contamination as well as a possible health hazard, in the public water supply, and both utility company representatives and state overseers feel no health hazard exists.

Presence of coliform bacteria in the water system is unrelated to the presence of these organisms in Bald Head Creek, where they caused recent closure to shellfishing (see related story).

While Bald Head Island Utilities has 375 water customers, only those who are permanent residents of the island were notified by mail of the contamination problem.

Although state regulations require general notification through publication or specific notification of "people who are supplied by your water system," no publication was made, and the utility company chose to notify only permanent residents, apparently with concurrence of the state health department.

Bald Head Island Utilities worker Linda Britt said Monday she was given permission by a state official to notify only resident customers by mail, and engineer Tommy Cross in the public water supply section of the state Division of Environmental Health said, "I

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## Dyes test Bald Head Creek pollution

State shellfish sanitation inspectors may seek to pinpoint the source of pollution in Bald Head Creek soon with the aid of dyes in the waste disposal systems.

The creek was closed to shellfishing recently on the basis of high coliform bacteria counts detected in 1988 and 1990, and sewer systems are one source of these indicator bacteria.

However, a state official said last week that runoff from the overall island development may have led to the increased presence of the bacteria in the creek. Waste from animals and birds that under natural circumstances might filter down through the ground, rather than wash across terrain, can also raise coliform bacteria counts, a state official explained.

Bob Benton, chief of the shellfish sanitation branch of the state Department of Environmental Health, said Monday that dye testing might prove useful in finding the source of increased Bald Head Creek pollution.

While the creek, a component of a larger Cape Fear River study area, is tested on a three-year cycle Benton said there is a possibility that the stream could be reopened sooner than three years "if we started getting good bacteria counts."

The counts that caused the shutdown were 49 per 100 milliliters (three ounces) of water in 1988 and 1990. After the closure, a sampling farther up the creek than the regular testing station disclosed a coliform bacteria count of 130.