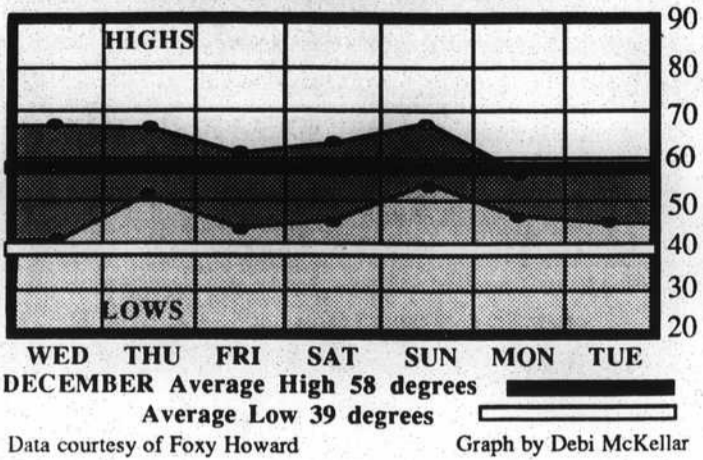


# OUR TOWN

## Past week's highs & lows



## Bald Head Island

The village council Saturday conducted a public hearing on a property owner assessment to help pay for the recently installed potable-fire water project down Federal Road to Middle Island and east beach, but did not impose the assessment after discussion about how the money would be applied, and what assets the village might receive in return.

The assessments of about \$766 have not been objected to by Middle Island property owners who would have to pay them.

The project was a joint effort by Bald Head Island Utilities -- the Bald Head developer's private company -- and Young Realty, developer of Middle Island, and was encouraged by the village because of the fire-protection improvement it provided.

The council will seek its attorney's advice on the assessment-asset question before the next village meeting.

## Long Beach

In the monthly meeting December 15 the town council amended the town charter to incorporate two referendum initiatives approved by voters November 3.

Town council seats will be for two-year terms in future elections; and no defeated bond issue can be resubmitted to the voters within five years of its rejection.

In the same session the council appointed Peggy Grimes to the Recreation Advisory Board to fill out a term ending in 1995.

The body also rejected attorney Robert Serra's plea that Evelyn McKeithan be granted 120 days to get her apartments at 2726 West Beach Drive repaired to avoid demolition by the town. The council also authorized demolition of a structure at 120-18th Street SE.

Town offices will be closed tomorrow (Thursday) and Friday for the Christmas holiday, and will be closed again New Year's Day.

## Yaupon Beach

Preliminary assessment rolls for financing the wastewater treatment project have been prepared and residents are invited to stop by Town Hall and check to their assessment before a public hearing on the matter January 7.

Town clerk Nancy Wilson reports that application has been made to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a "community service rating" which will entitle residents to a five percent reduction in their flood insurance premiums.

Wilson said the application is being reviewed, but a reduction is assured in any case. "Town Hall is concerned for its citizens," she said.

She said that water bills will go out in the first week of January, close to the January 5 deadline for paying city taxes without penalty.

Town offices will be closed tomorrow (Thursday) and Friday for the Christmas holiday, and will be closed again New Year's Day.

## Boiling Spring Lakes

Garbage pickup this week will be tomorrow (Thursday) instead of Friday because of the Christmas holiday, though residents can expect normal pickup service on New Year's Day.

Town clerk Barbara Cumbee said municipal offices will be closed tomorrow and Friday, and again on New Year's Day.

The next regular meeting of the city board of commissioners will be January 7.

## Southport

The board of aldermen will hold a special session Tuesday, December 29, to approve bids for construction of the Riverwalk project. City engineer Ed Honeycutt urged the interim session because the deadline for completion of the work is March 31, and he felt a delay until the regular board meeting on January 14 might tighten the schedule too much.

Included in the work will be a walkway to the Intracoastal Waterway over the marsh west of town, and construction of a gazebo overlook there.

Acting city manager Sylvia Butterworth reported that the planning board will begin a review January 21 of the city zoning ordinance, which might lead to revision.

Meanwhile the board of aldermen will begin interviewing seven city manager finalists on January 4.

Butterworth said city offices will be closed tomorrow (Thursday) and Friday for the Christmas holiday, and will also be closed on New Year's Day.

She said that Bicentennial Christmas tree ornaments will be on sale at the finance officer's office through the end of work today, and will also be available at police headquarters across the hall tomorrow. The cost of the ornaments is \$5.

## Caswell Beach

Town offices are closed this week for the Christmas holiday, and will also be closed on New Year's Day. Normal police service will continue. Emergency calls may be made to 911, and routine police information may be obtained by dialing 278-5595.

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## Developer seeks to have creek reopened



Bald Head Creek remains closed to shellfishing, but an initiative by Bald Head management last week may lead to locating the pollution source and reopening of the waterway for recreational and commercial clamming and oystering. Meantime, finfishing is permitted.

## Bald Head shellfishing area was closed due to pollution

By Jim Harper  
Staff Writer

The Bald Head developer has contacted the state Division of Environmental Management (DEM) and requested a special monitoring program to help remove a shellfishing ban in Bald Head Creek.

Ken Stewart, a consultant to developer Kent Mitchell, said Tuesday he had talked with DEM director Preston Howard and hoped for action toward getting the ban lifted shortly after January 1.

Bald Head Creek, a site of both commercial and recreational oystering and clamming, was shut down by state order in mid-November because of high coliform bacteria counts that turned up in routine surveys of the waters.

Though the particular figures that caused "no shellfishing" signs to go up along the waterway came from surveys in 1988 and 1990, a state shellfish sanitation spokesman said that another sample taken two months ago showed a coliform bacteria count much higher than is permissible under state and federal rules.

"I was able to meet with (Howard) as well as the DEM Wilmington staff," Stewart said Tuesday, "and I told them this is an issue to us and we want to find the problem."

"I told them we'd like them to come over and inspect and give us their best judgment in designing a monitoring program and get some kind of grip on it."

Stewart said that DEM personnel will likely be engaged in studying the Bald Head situation shortly after New Year's day. Presence of coliform bacteria, which can come from animals

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## Quick action is expected on sanitary district application

By Jim Harper  
Staff Writer

The Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District board made formal application for federal funding of its wastewater treatment project December 16 and hopes to receive formal approval before New Year's.

Chairman James W. Smith said he was "ninety-nine and ninety-nine one hundredths percent hopeful" of a go-ahead from the Farmers Home Administration on the \$3.3-million project.

"I am very optimistic," Smith emphasized.

The project will initially serve some 800 users in the district, which is bounded by Highway 211, Beaverdam Creek, the Intracoastal Waterway and the CP&L discharge canal.

Service is expected to commence in 1994 for the initial customers -- around the N. C. 211-Beach Road business area, heavily populated sections west of Beach Road and along Fish Factory Road. Plans will be drawn to serve more of the district as water

service is extended.

The project is expected to be funded with a \$2.1-million grant and a federally guaranteed \$1.2-million loan to be repaid over 40 years.

The average cost-per-residence for monthly sewer service is expected to be \$17.12, according to a project summary reviewed by the board and James R. Pope, FmHA assistant district director. The minimum monthly charge will be \$8.07, with hookup mandatory.

Engineer Robert Graham of Boney and Associates said planning will take about six months from the time of funding approval. He said bids could be awarded next October and construction completed by June, 1994.

Waste treatment will be at a plant located on Beaverdam Creek, about a mile north of Airport Road.

The district board will next meet at 7:30 a.m. January 4 in the chamber of commerce welcome center on Beach Road.

## Churches will hold services

Many area churches are planning special Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services on Thursday and Friday.

The children of St. Philip's Episcopal Church will present a Christmas pageant at the 4 p.m. service December 24, and at 11 p.m. a brass quintet will perform. The Christmas Day service will be at 10 a.m.

Southport Baptist Church will host a candlelight Lord's Supper service at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve, while First Baptist Church of Boiling Spring Lakes, Ocean View United Methodist, Trinity United Methodist and Oak Island Presbyterian churches will have candlelight services at 7 p.m.

St. Peter Lutheran Church's service will be at 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve and include the nativity and a choral music program. Sacred Heart Church will have a midnight mass Christmas Eve and mass at 11 a.m. on Christmas Day.



The Southport Baptist Church bell choir was among the groups performing Sunday in the Yuletide Harbor celebration on the waterfront.

Santa Claus also showed up for the finale of the two-day affair honoring the season and the city's 200th Christmas.