

# The State Port

# WILCO

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Southport-Oak Island's most complete listing of available real estate properties



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## Williamson land, input are key

# Oak Island residents might cross that bridge

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

A major property owner along the proposed route for a second bridge to Oak Island rates that project as "high priority" to him as a newly appointed member of the N. C. Board of Transportation.

Odell Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach was appointed to the board March 1 by governor Jim Hunt. He will serve a four-year term.

Records at the Brunswick County Tax Department show Williamson and his wife, Virginia, own 3,500 acres adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway, in the direct path of the proposed 9.7-mile route.

In an effort to push the project along, several major property owners reportedly met with Department of Transportation secretary Tommy Harrelson last year to negotiate right-of-way agreements. Apparently, those talks hit a snag.

A bridge will cross the waterway at Tranquil Harbor and a connector road will tie-in with Midway Road on N. C. 211. The state's 1993-99 Transportation

*'People need to realize that the squeaking axle gets the grease. They do have a need there. A 12-mile island with one bridge, that just doesn't cut it.'*

Odell Williamson

Improvement Program schedules planning in 1994, design in 1995 and construction to begin in 1997.

Williamson said he has already presented DOT officials an offer that still stands today.

"I offered to give them all the right-of-way that I had for nothing," said Williamson, "but I don't know what their position was."

Williamson said the project is not the number-one item in his book, but that it is of "high priority" to him.

"My main purpose for getting on the board is to do a good job for the region," he added. "I'm also for other projects, too."

Right-of-way negotiations may now involve attorneys because Williamson said he doesn't want it to be viewed as a conflict of interest for him because of his recent appointment to the transportation board.

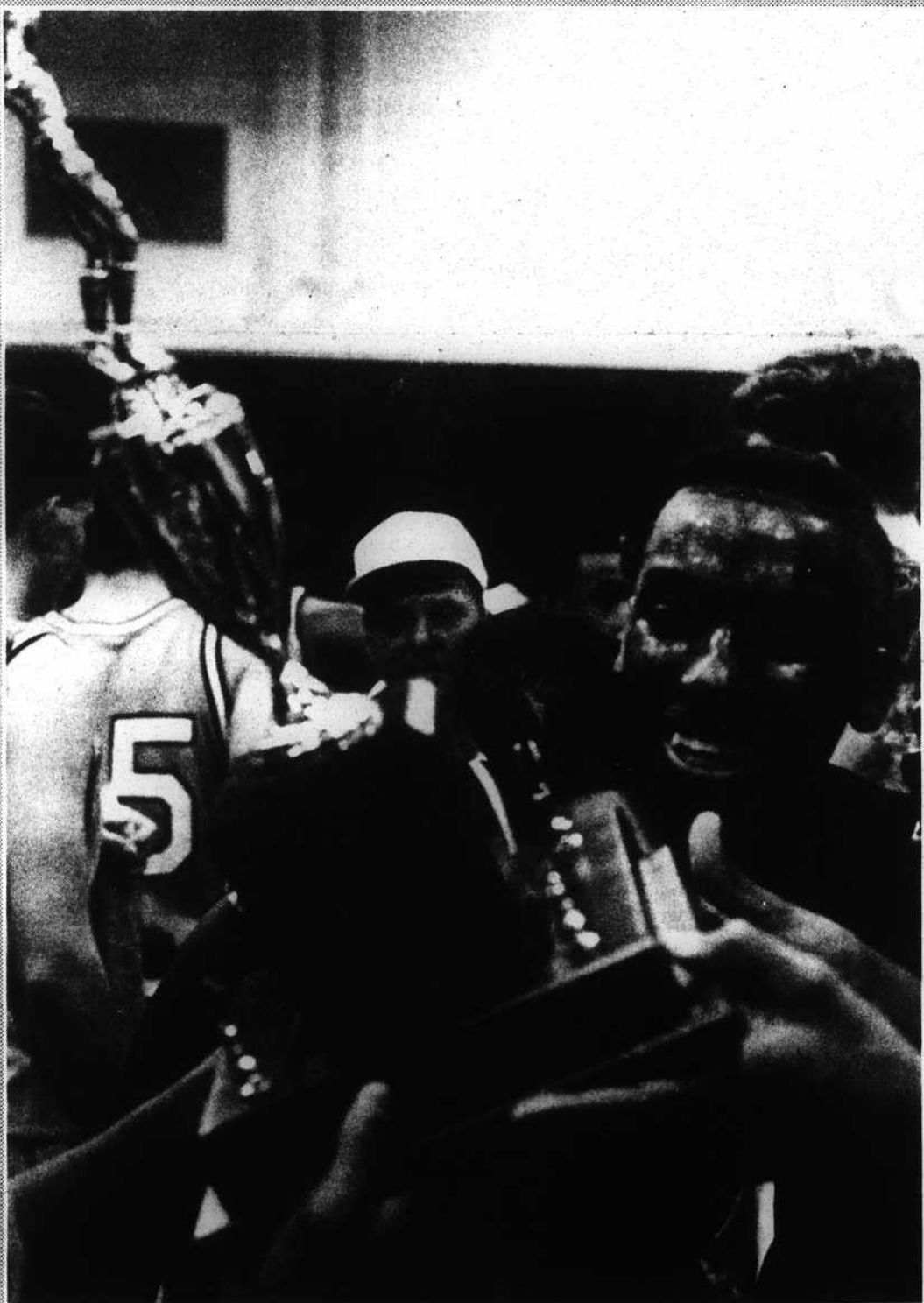
"They're not going to have any trouble with Odell Williamson," he added. "It certainly wouldn't cost the state anything."

Tax maps show Williamson is one of six persons or corporations that hold title to land along the route that passes through virtually undeveloped property south of N. C. 211 and west of St. James Plantation. Williamson's tract is valued at \$836,380.

Records show the other landowners involved are:

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## THE CHAMPIONS



On the Cougars' biggest basketball night - both girls and boys took conference crowns - the boys trophy was handed to Josh White for safe

delivery back to South Brunswick. White has been delivering all year, and Friday logged 35 points in the 81-70 defeat of Fairmont.

# DuPont is appealing \$2-million added tax

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

One of the county's largest taxpayers has received another huge bill it plans to challenge at an appeals hearing Thursday.

The DuPont Co. in Leland owes Brunswick County "around \$2 million" in taxes for the period covered by an internal audit from 1987-92, said county manager David Clegg.

But DuPont officials have scheduled an appeal of the case before the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners on March 11, 5:30 p.m., to contest the findings.

Commissioners will serve as the Board of Equalization and Review, which normally hears tax appeals, because that board hasn't been ap-

*'It looked like a mutually beneficial program. It was good for the firm, and it's good for the county.'*

Boyd Williamson  
Tax supervisor

pointed for 1993.

DuPont is the county's second largest annual taxpayer with a 1992 property valuation of \$256 million and a

tax bill of \$1.7 million. The manufacturing plant on Mt. Misery Road north of Leland is the nation's largest producer of Dacron polyester fiber.

Tax Management Associates (TMA) of Charlotte is in its 20th month of a three-year contract to find hidden property taxes owed the county. So far, 493 county businesses have faced some form of audit, said Boyd Williamson, Brunswick County tax administrator.

There are approximately 2,000 business accounts on the county's tax list, ranging from small family-owned restaurants to major corporations with home offices outside the county.

From the audits, the county has collected more than \$560,000 in discovered taxes, said Williamson. The

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# Babson elected to lead Brunswick GOP effort

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Shirley Babson of Bolivia, active in local politics for 30 years, was elected Saturday to serve her first term as Brunswick County Republican Party chairman.

Elected to consecutive terms on the Brunswick County Board of Education in 1976, she served four years as chairman.

Her goal for the next two years is to better organize precincts and to raise funds to help pay the mortgage on the headquarters building near Supply.

"I intend to run it like a business,"

said Mrs. Babson, "but I realize that there are a lot of volunteers involved."

The party has around 10,400 registered voters. She hopes to increase that number by 1,000.

"I think this is my time to be chairman," she added. "I know all about the party organization. I believe we can have a very strong party."

Mrs. Babson, 52, is married to William A. (Bunny) Babson and is a member of the Cape Fear Substance Abuse Board of Directors. She has served twice as secretary to the Republican party and as a delegate to the

Republican State Convention since 1976.

She has served as precinct chairman, township chairman and was appointed by governor Jim Martin to the Personnel Administrative Commission for Public School Employees.

Most recently she worked as co-chairperson for Jim Gardner's 1992 campaign for governor in Brunswick County.

Some party members were disgruntled two years ago when they didn't get appointments or jobs from

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# Water quality a matter of time

By Holly Edwards  
Municipal Editor

High levels of trihalomethane, a suspected cancer-causing agent, recently discovered in the Long Beach water supply can largely be explained by the amount of time the water stays in the lines before being used, state health official Ralph Harper said this week.

The substance is a byproduct of chemical reactions between chlorine used to treat the water and microscopic particles of organic matter from the upper Cape Fear River, one of the county's water sources. Therefore, Harper explained, the longer the water remains in the lines the more time chlorine has to react with organic matter and the more THM is generated.

If water remains in the lines long enough all of the chlorine will dissipate, but that can create a different problem: the appearance of chloroform in the water indicating bacterial contamination. Water at The Arboretum residential development at Caswell Beach recently tested positive for chloroform, and health officials blamed that problem on a lack of chlorine due to low water usage.

"It's a very awkward situation to deal with, and it's a real fine line between not enough chlorine and too much," said Harper. "It's a very difficult situation, and a common problem in beach areas with wide population changes."

While health hazards associated with THM are said to be caused by long-term exposure, health problems caused by bacterial infection are more immediate. Therefore, the state requires that chloroform-positive water be treated immediately.

In response to the problem at Caswell Beach, the chlorine level of the county's water was increased, and subsequent tests on the water supply at The Arboretum indicated it was no longer contaminated with bacteria.

Both Caswell Beach and Long Beach have also been flushing their water lines of unused water to prevent the buildup of THM and to keep the chlorine levels high enough to kill bacteria. While Harper said he believed that flushing is about all towns can do to keep their water systems safe, town officials complain that flushing programs are costly and wasteful, and don't always solve the problem.

"We flushed 52,000 gallons of water on the beachfront, and by the time we

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## OUTSIDE



### Forecast

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies on Thursday with highs in the 60s. Clouds move in on Friday, followed by rain on Saturday (highs 50s, lows 40s). Sunday's forecast calls for windy and cold weather, with highs in the 40s and lows in the 30s.

### Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, MARCH 11	LOW
10:10 a.m.		4:02 a.m.
10:47 p.m.		4:15 p.m.
FRIDAY, MARCH 12		
11:03 a.m.		4:55 a.m.
11:40 p.m.		5:06 p.m.
SATURDAY, MARCH 13		
11:58 a.m.		5:49 a.m.
----- p.m.		6:01 p.m.
SUNDAY, MARCH 14		
12:38 a.m.		6:46 a.m.
12:54 p.m.		6:57 p.m.
MONDAY, MARCH 15		
1:38 a.m.		7:45 a.m.
1:56 p.m.		8:01 p.m.
TUESDAY, MARCH 16		
2:39 a.m.		8:48 a.m.
2:57 p.m.		9:03 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17		
3:39 a.m.		9:45 a.m.
3:57 p.m.		10:03 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; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.