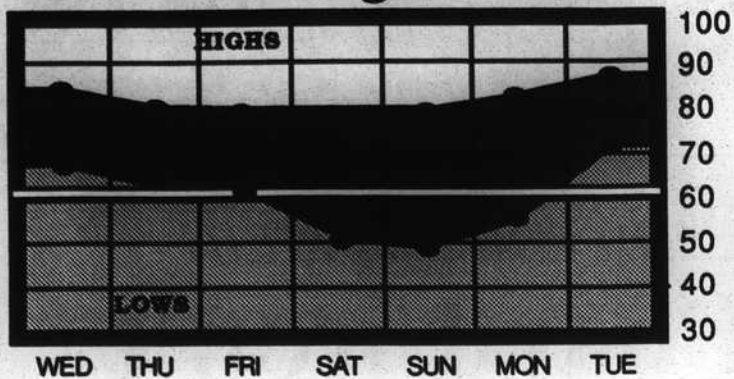


# OUR TOWN

## Past week's highs & lows



## Southport

Southport city workers began laying about 700 feet of sidewalk this week along Bay Street from the pilot tower to Port Charlie's Restaurant to officially start the first phase of the Riverwalk project. City officials hope this "good faith effort" will help them acquire all necessary time extensions to complete the project without losing the \$75,000 grant.

The city has received approval of the first 90-day extension request, but since this request was filed in March it would give the city only until the end of June to finish the project. City manager Rob Gandy said he has asked for an additional 90-day extension, which would give the city until the end of September to complete the project.

Gandy also announced that he will present his budget proposal for fiscal year 1993-94 to the board of aldermen on Tuesday, June 1, at 7 p.m. in City Hall. Aldermen are then expected to schedule workshops to discuss the proposal.

## Long Beach

The town council scheduled its first budget workshop for June 8 at 7:30 p.m. and the budget hearing for June 15 at 7 p.m., prior to its regular monthly meeting.

Governor Jim Hunt's crime commission announced this week it has awarded nearly \$9 million in federal grant money for law enforcement, violence prevention, crime victims and juvenile justice programs statewide, and Long Beach was notified that its share of the grant money will be \$13,684. Chief Danny Laughren said he applied for the grant to help fund a computerized police records system.

The computer system will enable the police department to readily access all crime reports and to keep track of all property reported stolen from local residents, he said. The total cost of the system is estimated to be \$18,423, Laughren said, and the town is expected to contribute \$3,684 over the next two years.

The federal grant money also will be made available over a two-year period, and Laughren said he expects to purchase only "the necessities" this year, such as a mainframe, keyboard and printer. Next year, he said, he hopes to purchase an additional work station.

## Bald Head Island

Paving of village roads by MAC Construction has reached the arterial stage this week with work starting at the Middle Island end of Federal Road. Village building inspector Gregg Turner indicated Monday that paving of Federal Road should be completed by the weekend, and that completion of the entire project, including both lanes of North Bald Head Wynd, probably will be finished by the end of next week.

Initially roads were supposed to be paved by Easter, but funding and planning delays prevented a timely start.

Paving of the lighthouse access road and chapel-village hall area was completed last week.

## Yaupon Beach

Police officer Scott Gilland has been hired by the Long Beach Police Department and Yaupon Beach is now looking for an officer to replace him, chief Aubrey Hickman announced. Persons can pick up an application at Town Hall.

A public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 1993-94 will be held prior to the regular monthly meeting on June 14, and a copy of the proposed budget will be available for public inspection after June 1. Currently, the tax rate is proposed to stay at 33 cents per \$100 of property valuation.

Town officials say they appreciate residents' cooperation during the seeding of areas disturbed during installation of the sewer lines. Residents are asked to stay off the seeded areas as much as possible.

## Boiling Spring Lakes

City clerk Barbara Cumbee is reminding residents this week that City Hall will be closed Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.

The board of commissioners will hold its regular monthly meeting next Tuesday, June 1. Cumbee said she hopes to have the fiscal year 1993-94 budget proposal ready for presentation.

The city planning board will hold its monthly meeting on May 31 at 7 p.m. in City Hall. Board members are expected to discuss a proposal to allow doublewide manufactured homes in the R-3 residential zone. Currently, only small, individual homes are allowed in that zone, while doublewide mobile homes are allowed only with special permits. Chairman Elmer Schorzman indicated that the discussion could lead to a review of all mobile home zoning restrictions.

## Caswell Beach

The board of commissioners will continue its budget workshop on Monday, May 31, at 4 p.m. in Town Hall, and will hold a budget hearing on June 10 prior to the regular monthly meeting at 5 p.m. Town Hall will be closed for business on Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.

Mayor Jack Cook and commissioner Bill Boyd are scheduled to meet with state Department of Transportation officials Doug Bowers and Jim Cook on Tuesday, June 8, at 4 p.m. in Town Hall. The meeting will focus on three topics: renegotiating the DOT's proposed rates to construct a bike path in conjunction with the project to repave State Road 1100, Caswell Beach Road; rebuilding the berm damaged during the March 13 storm to protect Caswell Beach Road in the event of another storm; and discussing alternatives to alleviate the flooding of Caswell Beach Road.

Finally, Boyd has filed a request with the Job Training Partnership Act program, administered by the Wilmington YWCA, to have a young person work at the recycling center and maintain the Town Hall grounds during the summer.



Southport city workers this week officially began the Riverwalk project by starting to lay nearly 700 feet of sidewalk along Bay Street from the pilot's tower to Port Charlie's Restaurant. City officials hope

this "good faith effort" will help them procure the necessary time extensions to complete the project without losing the \$75,000 state grant.

## Long Beach considers change

# First-floor repairs could be prohibited

By Holly Edwards  
Municipal Editor

The Long Beach Town Council is considering a change in its code of ordinances that would not allow replacement of the first floors of two-story houses that are more than 30 percent destroyed during a major storm.

Currently, the ordinance states that houses more than 50 percent destroyed must meet all FEMA, CAMA and town building code regulations in order to be rebuilt and repaired, explained building inspector David Clemmons.

The change would apply only to two-story houses or one-story houses with enclosed lower levels, Clemmons added.

Some local realtors are up in arms over the proposed change, however, and told council members last week

*'We're trying to help keep the upstairs, and eliminate all the damage we had downstairs. Anytime you can eliminate that damage, you can lower the damage to other people's property, too.'*

David Clemmons  
Building inspector

that it would unfairly punish oceanfront property owners.

"Are you trying to make oceanfront homeowners so mad they'll all go home?" realtor Dot Schuck asked town council during a public hearing last week.

Many houses would be virtually

uninhabitable without first floors, realtor Buddy Rudd pointed out. In some cases, he said, the first floor contains "necessities" such as water heaters, washers and dryers. And, if the first floor were eliminated, there would simply not be enough room in

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## Sales tax disbursed in county

Brunswick County governments received more than \$1.86 million from first quarter distribution of the local-option sales and use tax, a report from the N. C. Department of Revenue indicates.

The county itself received the largest share -- \$1,416,963. Long Beach received \$107,103, the largest municipal share allocated on a per capita basis.

Other area municipalities and their allocations included Southport, \$63,509; Boiling Spring Lakes, \$46,066; Yaupon Beach, \$20,345; Caswell Beach, \$4,891; and Bald Head Island, \$2,150.

Other Brunswick County towns and their allocations included Belville, \$2,230; Bolivia, \$6,208; Calabash, \$33,300; Holden Beach, \$17,631; Leland, \$49,641; Navassa, \$12,175; Ocean Isle Beach, \$14,782; Sandy Creek, \$6,638; Shallotte, \$28,731; Sunset Beach, \$19,028; and Varnamtown, \$11,153.

## All-America competition

# City doesn't make first team

By Holly Edwards  
Municipal Editor

"Of all the programs and projects I've been associated with, this is the biggest disappointment I've ever had," Southport mayor Norman Holden declared upon returning this week from the All-America City contest in Tampa, Fla.

For the second year in a row, Southport was selected from among 120 applicants to be one of 30 finalists to compete in the project. And for the second year in a row, the city was not chosen to be one of the top ten winners.

While the winners last year seemed to be cities that had recovered from a disaster, this year the winners seemed to have major drug and crime problems, noted city manager Rob Gandy.

"It seemed like we were penalized for problems we didn't have," Gandy said. "I'm pretty disappointed about the whole thing. If we went in there and flubbed it, I could understand not winning. But everyone worked so hard."

The total costs of the contest were estimated to be about \$13,500, and the All-America City committee has been holding monthly meetings since the application process began last November. And, since the city was selected to be a finalist, the committee has been meeting two to three times each week.

Finance director Sylvia Butterworth pointed out that the costs of the contest will be offset by more than \$3,000 in donations from citizens and businesses.

"We had a lot of support from the community," Holden said. "My philosophy is that something good comes out of bad things. I think this brought the community closer together and opened up more lines of communication."

Gandy also said he did not believe the contest was a completely negative experience.

"It allowed us time for networking with people from other cities, and to share common problems and solutions," he said. "You also have to realize we beat out 120 other cities just to get down there. As far as I'm concerned we're an All-America City, and I don't care what anybody says."

When asked if the city planned to re-apply for the award, Gandy replied, "I don't know if anyone wants to think about that right now."

The city received many compliments from other city officials on its presentation, and Gandy said several people told him they were sure Southport would be a winner this year.

"I don't see how we could have done a better job," he said. "We did a good job answering all the questions, our presentation went well. It's very disheartening."

The All-America City jury will send Southport a letter indicating why the city was not selected, Holden said.

The winning cities were: Washington, Wray, Colo.; Delray Beach, Fla.; Wichita, Kan.; Dawson County, Neb.; Cleveland, Ohio; Pulaski, Tenn.; Fort Worth, Texas; Laredo, Texas; and Oakland, Calif.