



Photo by Jim Harper

It was too wet for Danny Foster to work as a tree surgeon Monday so he took the day off to visit Caswell Beach. While he enjoyed the pleasant weather as the day cleared he was unable to locate any red drum with his gill net.

Owner wants to subdivide River's Edge borders on city zone violations

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

A controversial River Drive subdivision proposal would violate the city's present zoning ordinance and therefore will have to gain board of adjustments approval before any further action can be taken, the Southport planning board said Thursday night.

The proposal calls for the property at 122 River Drive to be divided into five lots, with a street running down the west side of the property. However, the street would be located eight feet from the house now existing on

the property, which would violate the 12.5-foot setback required by the zoning ordinance.

The location of the street also would create a zoning violation at the house next door, which would be only eight feet from the roadside as well.

It is up to developers of the proposed River's Edge subdivision to request that the board of adjustments review their plan. If that board approves the zoning variance, then the proposal could come back to the planning board for approval or denial. If the board of adjustments denies the

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If the board of adjustments grants the zoning variance, then the proposal could come back to the planning board for approval or denial

How well we perform

County may seek audit for schools

By Terry Pope
County Editor

One county commissioner says a closer look at the school system budget won't hurt.

District 3 commissioner Wayland Vereen of Yaupon Beach plans to ask his fellow board members to order a state performance audit of Brunswick County schools.

That announcement came at the close of a lengthy commissioners meeting Monday. It was viewed as an insult by some school board members who have battled the county over budget requests since June.

"I think it's something that's long overdue," said Vereen, "and we need it."

Vereen was given a copy of an audit performed in October, 1993, on the Wake County Board of Education system. That work cost Wake County around \$20,000.

"I wanted to give the board time to look at it and to think about it," said Vereen. "I'm going to ask that we pass a resolution to order one for our school system."

The motion may come at the March 21 meeting of the board, which will not meet March 7 since three members plan to attend the National Association of Counties winter conference in Washington, D. C.

"I think it's something that could be useful if it's used as a management tool," said Don Warren, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners. "I intend to sit down and talk with some of the school board members about it before I make a decision."

State auditors search for problems such as overlapping programs, inefficiency and whether employees are performing the jobs for which they are being paid. It also studies whether school supplies and equipment are being properly tracked.

"Some of the things they were able to determine in this audit were ways to save money," said Vereen. "It's in detail."

But to have an audit performed

takes time. One can't be done before commissioners have to prepare the schools' 1994-95 allocation. It may be the first time a state audit has been ordered for the county schools.

No one is predicting an audit will uncover problems at the central office.

"If everything we are told is true, then everything is above board," said Vereen. "It's everybody's money, not

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'Frustrated', Fairley withdraws from race

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

Frustrated by the school board's unwillingness to take an unpopular stand aimed at improving student achievement, Bill Fairley announced this week he will not seek re-election.

Fairley won a seat on the Brunswick County Board of Education in 1992 and had filed to run in the 1994 race. School board members must run for office every two years since Brunswick County voters approved a 1991 referendum to limit terms.

Now he says, "I'm out."

"The reason for that is I'm just utterly frustrated with the board's unwillingness to stand in the face of a threat they may not get votes," Fairley said. He said school board members "could have voted their conscience if they were secure" with four-year terms.

Last May, the Southport attorney had proposed a "student

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Ambitious project proposed to expand Long Beach center

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

Long Beach Recreation Center does not provide the space and services the town now requires and is a fire hazard during overcrowded parties on Halloween and Christmas, interim parks and recreation director Arch Wilson told the town council Tuesday night.

While the fire code stipulates that only 169 people can safely occupy the building, Wilson said up to 350

people cram into the building on special occasions.

Wilson and parks and recreation advisory board chairman Bea Haik Tuesday night presented a proposal to expand the recreation center by more than 25,000 square feet at a total estimated cost of \$2.5 million. The addition would include a gymnasium, kitchen, fitness center and indoor pool.

"You would not put 350 kids in jeopardy again," Wilson told the council.

Council members gave a nod of approval to the proposal, and directed advisory board members to continue with the project.

Council member Bill Easley said after the meeting the proposal was more ambitious than the council expected, but added that he was pleased with the advisory board's effort. He said he appreciated the board's independent effort to develop a plan for expansion without asking the town to fund a costly

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First time since April, 1992

Both CP&L units full power

Brunswick nuclear plant Unit 1 went to full power Friday night, joining the eminently successful Unit 2 in maximum electrical output for the first time since both units were shut down in April, 1992.

Plant vice-president Roy Anderson said Monday that a final system control test would probably be concluded by today (Wednesday), and after final reviews of the restart progress the unit, and the entire plant, will be operating in a normal mode.

Of the restart, Anderson simply said Monday, "It went very well." Both units were taken off the line by CP&L 22 months ago to fix walls in the emergency diesel generator building that did not meet earthquake-proof standards, as designed.

Thereafter the plant experienced cascading maintenance and repair problems which required more than a year to overcome

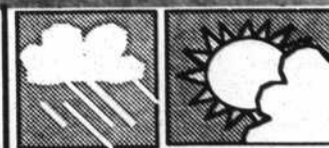
before Unit 2 restarted last May. Unit 2 has been in continuous operation since then, longer than any previous run by the unit.

Unit 1 was to refuel and restart in September after maintenance and repairs were completed, but discovery of cracks in the reactor shroud led to extensive study and eventual repairs.

Anderson said Monday that Unit 2 will be shut down in late March for a 90-day refueling operation, and at the same time the shroud will be modified — strengthened with bolted-on braces — to preclude any subsequent cracking problem.

Brunswick remains under close scrutiny by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which has expressed an intent to keep Brunswick on its "watch list" until sustained good operation of both units is demonstrated.

OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for wind and showers on Thursday with highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s. Friday and Saturday, expect partly cloudy skies with highs in the 50s and lows in the 30s. Cold weather arrives Sunday with a high only reaching 45 and lows in the 20s.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24	LOW
6:21 a.m.		12:01 a.m.
6:46 p.m.		12:41 p.m.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25		
7:09 a.m.		12:59 a.m.
7:35 p.m.		1:27 p.m.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26		
7:57 a.m.		1:48 a.m.
8:24 p.m.		2:12 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27		
8:44 a.m.		2:36 a.m.
9:14 p.m.		2:57 p.m.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28		
9:32 a.m.		3:26 a.m.
10:05 p.m.		3:55 p.m.
TUESDAY, MARCH 1		
10:22 a.m.		4:17 a.m.
10:59 p.m.		4:32 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2		
11:16 a.m.		5:11 a.m.
11:57 p.m.		5:25 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 Inlet, high -22, low -8.