

Sports
South Brunswick Cougars continue their streak against Wilmington girls teams - 1C

The State Port
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VOLUME 66/ NUMBER 17 SOUTHPORT, N.C. 50 CENTS

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Long Beach Inspections 'state audit' not sought

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Town councilor Helen Cashwell called on council Tuesday night to request a "state audit" of accounts kept by the Long Beach building inspections department, but council demurred.

"Council has a duty to protect town employees from any appearance of impropriety," Cashwell said. "I think we walk a fine line doing business with contractors. Council has a duty to safeguard money paid to the town."

In other matters brought before council Tuesday night, councilor Horace Collier asserted councilor Frances Allen had breached council policy by approaching Brunswick County officials with results of an engineering study the town had commissioned, but Allen said she would not be "shackled" by other council members in her quest to seek facts and figures.

Justifying her call for a state audit of funds that pass through the town's building inspections department, councilor Cashwell pointed to a report from independent auditor Menton Padgett last month which asserted funds received as construction clean-up bonds had not been posted to the town's general ledger and, in some instances, had not been returned in a timely fashion.

Cashwell said the town on June 30 held \$52,890 in clean-up bonds, generally \$100 bonds, some dating to 1981. She asserted some of that money had been collected as "floating bonds" and a poor audit trail made it impossible to determine the projects to which the floating bonds had been applied.

Floating bonds are monies posted by a contractor that may be used to assure clean-up of a series of projects as the contractor moves from job to job.

Cashwell also questioned the building inspections department's policy of granting credit to contractors for building permit fees. While she asserted Long Beach was unique in doing so, councilor Kevin Bell, a HVAC contractor, said he had credit established both with New Hanover County and the City of Wilmington for the same purposes.

Cashwell said inspections officials had not given all contractors equal access to credit.

"I have no problems as long as we see Long Beach, page 10



This right busy old elf seems to have been everywhere this season, but still he had time to listen to the holiday hopes of this youngster at his recent Doshier Memorial Hospital stop. Santa also had time to visit with Doshier patients as part of the tree-lighting ceremony.

Photo by Jim Harper

Trouble with trash Brunswick must recycle garbage plans

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Brunswick County began hauling garbage back to its landfill at Supply after a recycling plant in Fayetteville where trash had been hauled since January under a 25-year contract suddenly shut down Monday morning.

BCH Energy Corp. suspended operation of its sorting plant and incineration project "to facilitate the completion of necessary plant modifications." It has left county officials scrambling to deal with the setback which may take six months to resolve.

"We are taking our garbage to our landfill now," said county manager Jim Varner on Monday. "We needed to get our engineers together to decide what is best. We're taking our garbage to our landfill until we can work something out."

The county's 25-year contract to

It may take \$8 million to \$12 million and up to six months to replace conveyor belts at the materials recycling plant and incinerator

haul garbage out of the county began January 1, 1996, under a deal struck with owner and operator BCH Energy (named after the three counties of Bladen, Cumberland and Hoke supplying waste to the plant) and parent company Vedco Energy Corp. of Houston, TX. The plant was built on See Garbage, page 9

Southport Aldermen seem to link rezoning to city services

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Though warned by the city attorney their questions suggested an illegal contract for zoning was being sought, two Southport aldermen pushed Thursday night for a development company's assurance it would develop a 131-acre parcel to the board members' liking.

Alderman Nelson Adams, warned he could not ask a developer to commit to specifics of development as a condition of winning a rezoning request, convinced fellow board members to delay action on Oleander Development Company's request that the parcel, bounded by Moore and Leonard streets opposite Ferry Road in the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction See Rezoning, page 8

'I don't mind it being residential, but I think certain things should take place. If you're going to rezone an area, you should know what's going to take place.'

Paul Fisher
Southport alderman

Caswell Beach Modular request prompts review

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Although a recent request for a permit to place a modular home in The Arboretum bothers no one, the request itself prompted Caswell Beach commissioners to direct the town planning board to revisit provisions of the town's zoning ordinance applicable to modular and manufactured homes.

Modular and manufactured homes are those built entirely or partially off the site on which the home is to be located.

Patty Verrecchia had requested a permit to construct a modular home on lot 28 of The Arboretum. Commissioners Thursday determined building inspector Charles Britt was empowered by existing ordinances to grant the

See Review, page 9

School needs urgent

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

A new elementary school, a new middle school, ten additional classrooms at Bolivia Elementary and 11 more classrooms at South Brunswick Middle are the most urgent facility needs of See School, page 6

Between N.C. 211 and waterway New golf development is proposed

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Zion Hill Road is a narrow, country byway in a rural and agricultural zone between the Midway community and Supply.

It slices through pasture that's home to horses, who seem both undisturbed by traffic and heedless of change that may be in store if development plans by Bluegreen Corp. of Wilmington are approved by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners next month.

Bluegreen Corp. wants to turn more than 1,000 acres on both sides of Zion Hill Road, about a half-mile south of N. C. 211, from a rural tract to a golf course community that will provide housing for more than a thousand families.

Developers want it rezoned from rural to R-7500 (low-density residential) so they can design a planned unit development (PUD) to include golf courses and a mixture of single-family

Bluegreen Corp. has gained a unanimous recommendation from the county planning board for rezoning of the tract at Zion Hill Road

and multi-family homesites along with open space for recreation and nature, a project on par with existing communities such as St. James Plantation and Brunswick Plantation.


"This is what this county is going to become," said interim Brunswick County planning director Judy Russell. "Between what's going on along River Road with Jackey Creek, with

Brunswick Plantation to the south, everybody is wanting to do planned unit developments."

PUDs, unlike subdivisions, are not allowed in rural zones under the current zoning ordinance. Most take advantage of county water lines and provide other infrastructure needs, such as community sewer and paved streets, before the lots are sold. Developers submit a master plan initially and then go back to the county planning board for site-specific approval as the project actually advances.

"It gives developers more flexibility, as far as being creative with the design," said Ms. Russell.

Bluegreen Corp. has gained a unanimous recommendation from the county planning board for rezoning of the tract at Zion Hill Road. A first reading was approved by county commissioners Monday and a public hearing set for January 6, at 6 p.m. No master plan has been submitted to the county planning staff, but local representative for the company, Jay Houston of See Golf, page 8



Forecast
Winter is on it's way with colder temperatures in store for this week end. We can expect highs to only be near 50 and falling to the 30s at night.

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