

# OUR TOWN

## Boiling Spring Lakes

City Hall will be closed Tuesday through Thursday of this week in observance of the Christmas holiday. The New Year holiday will be observed next Wednesday. The regularly scheduled meeting of the city's board of commissioners on January 7 will not be affected by the holidays.

Commissioners and city staff will seek the assistance of the Brunswick County Mosquito Control Department in designing and executing a drainage control project in the Vista Lee subdivision. That area is prone to flood in times of heavy rains and mosquitoes proliferate there. Several ditches need to be cut and culvert must be installed. Water drained from the area is to be directed into Big Lake.

Having already commissioned and received an engineering report on the feasibility of constructing a public drinking water system, commissioners have said they want to explore the feasibility of a sewer system also. Commissioners will seek preliminary estimates to determine if costs can be contained by placing sewer lines at the same time water lines are installed.

## Long Beach

The state's Division of Coastal Management has awarded Long Beach a \$45,000 grant to build an oceanfront access -- similar to the scenic walkway on 20th Street SE -- from 30th Street, behind the recreation center, to the strand area.

Town staff proposes to get an early start on budget-making for 1997-98. A schedule approved by council last week directs staff to begin the budget process for next year on February 10 with the distribution of budget worksheets to department heads. Outside agencies are to submit budget requests by April 18. Council is to conduct budget hearings in April and May. On May 16, the manager's recommended budget will be presented to council. A public hearing on council's proposed budget will be conducted June 17. The budget may be adopted any time after the public hearing and before midnight June 30.

Want to serve your town?

Here's an opportunity, but it's not for the faint of heart. Council decided last week to start accepting resumes from those interested in replacing councilor Doris Hertel as a member of town council. Resumes and letters of interest will be accepted by the town clerk. Hertel last month announced her intention to resign her post effective February 1. She did not attend council's meeting of last Tuesday.

Council will conduct a special work session January 2 at 9 a.m. at the recreation center. The topic will be a personnel position and classification plan.

## Yaupon Beach

If your morning shower seems that much wetter, it's because water pressure lately has been higher. Town officials were forced to switch to the Brunswick County water delivery system when contractors began work to repair and paint the town's water tower on Trott Street. The county water system provides water at about 70 pounds per square inch. The town's well system provides water at about 50 pounds per square inch. Pressure is expected to drop again when work on the water tower is completed and the town begins pumping water from its well system again.

The town will collect Christmas trees from curbside on January 6 and January 10. The used trees will go to a worthy cause. They will be deposited at the dune line on the beachfront to trap sand and, it is hoped, to stabilize the dunes.

## Caswell Beach

Police responded to 41 calls for assistance in the month of November, chief Paul Osborne reported recently. In the month, officers from Caswell Beach assisted Yaupon Beach police officers in two criminal arrests. Nine criminal complaints were filed with the department in November, two domestic disputes were reported and 11 animal control complaints were received.

Police officers committed 720 man-hours to service and vehicles were driven 5,036 miles, burning 341 gallons of fuel.

Twelve single-family building permits were awarded for new construction, renovation and repair work valued at over \$475,000, building inspector Charles Britt reported. In the month, 12 construction inspections and three electrical, one plumbing and three mechanical inspections were made.

About 47 percent of the town's 1996-97 property tax levy had been paid by the end of November, tax collector Linda Bethune reported. She said the majority of the levy should be paid by January 6, the deadline for payment without incurring a penalty. Total levy for 1996-97 is just over \$163,000. About \$76,500 had been paid through the end of November.

## Southport

The city has been awarded \$20,979 in public assistance disaster aid for damages it suffered during hurricane Fran, the state's Department of Crime Control and Public Safety announced December 17. The check was mailed to the city this week. Money from this relief fund "reimburses agencies for the costs of responding to the storm, for debris removal and for repair or replacement of damaged buildings or infrastructure," the state department said.

Southport is one of 450 agencies in a 55-county region which applied to the fund for relief. Awards to ten cities and non-profit public agencies were announced last week. The ten agencies shared \$767,853 made available when President Clinton approved Gov. James Hunt's September 6 request for a disaster declaration.



Photo by Terry Pope

Bags filled with gifts and food were distributed last week at the Brunswick County school bus garage to more than 1,200 needy county residents. The Hope program, Adopt-a-Family program and food drives conducted at grocery stores and county schools. Volunteer and Information Center coordinated the effort through its Tree of

## Long Beach Manager: 'ETJ' building inspection worth keeping

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

In the year ended June 30, 1996, Long Beach recovered 92.8 percent of the cost of doing all building inspections through fees established for them.

This year, however, that percentage is expected to drop to under 48 percent, town manager Jerry Walters told town council December 17. Council's decision not to do CAMA permit inspections, a tapering off of needed fire code inspections and rising operating costs contributed to the decline.

Yet, Walters said, it is still beneficial to the town to inspect construction in the Long Beach extraterritorial jurisdiction, the one-mile area from town limits. Most building activity in the ETJ area now is in St. James Plantation.

Walters' report was ordered up after

'I still feel like where we're sitting now, that we probably give (St. James Plantation) more grief than we do benefit. I just don't see the benefit.'

Helen Cashwell  
Town councilor

some council members last month questioned the wisdom of providing services

in the ETJ. Building inspection is the most costly service provided in the ETJ, but, in addition to its building code, the town is also able to enforce its zoning and subdivision ordinances there.

That's important to sound planning, Walters said.

Justifying continued enforcement of ETJ rights, Walters said:

- Long Beach would remain positioned to control future development through its subdivision, zoning and building ordinances.

- It would maintain the ability to plan for development compatible with Long Beach in the event the town annexes portions of the ETJ area in the future.

- ETJ allows an area to become part of the community.

- Long Beach can control development in such a way as to allow it to receive

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## SILT now near goal, deadline

By Jim Harper  
Staff Writer

Organizers of the project to preserve developable land at Cape Fear in its natural state expected to reach the \$800,000 level early this week, on their way to a \$1-million "must" mark by December 31.

"And I don't feel that Bald Head Islanders are going to let the cape go for lack of \$200,000," said Smith Island Land Trust chairman Nancy Maguire on Friday.

Maguire said that SILT plans a post-Christmas telephone blitz to make sure every island property owner has an opportunity to contribute to preserving 28 acres of dune and woodland at an ultimate cost of \$6.5 million.

One of the SILT arguments for its project is that property values will increase across the island if the

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## Ferry gets Blue Devil paint job

The motor vessel *Southport* is receiving a facelift for the holidays.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation's Ferry Division is adding the first North Carolina private university color scheme to its collection of 16 state-supported college and university color schemes already displayed on ferries. The blue and white colors of Duke University will adorn the MV *Southport* along with emblems and information about the school.

"Interest has grown in our ferries since the adoption of the university color scheme," said transportation secretary Garland Garrett. "Our state's outstanding institutions offer great opportunities to our citizens, and the ferries display the great pride we have for these schools."

## Special meeting January 2 Classification, pay plan on Long Beach agenda

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

A newly proposed employee job classification and pay plan and a proposed new personnel ordinance will be the subjects of a special meeting of Long Beach Town Council on January 2.

Meeting December 17, council received a 40-page review of the town's present employee pay and classification plan and recommendations for its overhaul. The study was performed by the MAPS Group, a company which has performed numerous such studies for public

agencies and local governments in North Carolina.

The study has recommended a major realignment of the Long Beach employee compensation structure, setting new class specifications and new salary grades within each classification.

Becky Veazey, of MAPS Group, said the recommended plan would bring greater equity to the town's compensation program, helping it to both better recruit good employees and to retain strong performers.

The group's recommendations also include a new personnel ordinance.

"Changes to the old policy were too

severe just to amend it," Veazey told council.

One significant recommendation contained in the report is to establish a position of assistant town manager. It is recommended the individual selected to hold the position of assistant town manager be a person well-versed in human resources matters. The assistant town manager would be charged with implementing the new pay and classification plan and new personnel ordinance.

The study also recommends the addition of one more paid holiday for employees each year and the estab-

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