

Future power Deregulation of providers to impact city

By Richard Nubel Municipal Editor

Sometime soon, possibly around the turn of the century, North Carolinians will be able to choose the companies that sell them electricity for home use, just as they pick and choose long-distance telephone companies today.

Deregulation of the electric industry will allow that. It will usher-in a totally open marketplace for electric consumers and radically change the way electric generators, electric transmitters and electric distributors do business

Deregulation will directly affect the City of Southport as a municipal power distributor and it will directly affect the city's consortium of powerbuyers Eastern Municipal Power Agency and its administrative arm, ElectriCities.

How cities like Southport -- and the power agencies themselves -- prepare for the imminent deregulation of the electric industry was the prime topic of discussion as ElectriCities members met in Raleigh last week. Alderman Paul Fisher and city manager "" See Power, page 9

<u>Dosher</u> **Proposal**



Photo by Jim Harper

No question of who's the proud one here. In time, ten-month-old Jena Marie Walton of Long Beach will be proud of her dad, Frederick Walton, for his graduation from Brunswick Community College on Saturday night, but for the moment she is just interested in his tassels. More college graduation photos

Market values **County looks** to four-year revaluation

By Terry Pope County Editor

Brunswick County may cut its property revaluation cycle in half, from eight years to every four years, to keep up with changes in market value that drain the county of potential ad valorem tax dollars.

The last revaluation process was in 1994 with another scheduled for 2002, but the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners on Monday indicated it may want to go on a fouryear cycle of readjusting property values as early as 2000.

"In counties where you have the diversity, it may be a good consideration," said Brunswick County tax administrator Boyd Williamson. His department can perform a revaluation on the county's 100,000 parcels in 18 months

The problem is that under state law all property assessments for tax purposes are based on the year of the last county revaluation, in this case 1994, rather than on the current market

Regional water plan of interest to Long Beach

'I think you should reappraise not because of the level but because one group of citizens is being penalized at the expense of others.'

Bill Connolly Appraisal director

value.

For example, if lots in one subdivision sold for \$25,000 in 1994 but sell for \$40,000 today, all would be valued at \$25,000 on today's tax books to prevent inequities among See County, page 10

may avert bed appeal

By Holly Edwards Feature Editor

Dosher Memorial Hospital trustees Friday reviewed a proposed agreement to settle an appeal filed by Magnolia Health Care against state approval of Dosher's application to construct 60 skilled nursing beds.

Magnolia Health Care, which proposed to include the skilled nursing beds as part of a larger retirement community at Supply, filed the appeal two months ago with the state Office of Administrative Hearings.

The proposed settlement of the appeal will be forwarded to the Certificate of Need section of the N. C. Department of Human Resources, Haywood said. That agency will review the proposal in conjunction with the state attorney general's office and is expected to render a decision on the

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Neighbors section

Highway 211 corridor

Bond notes will fund first SBSD sewer line

By Richard Nubel Municipal Editor

N. C. Local Government Commission Tuesday approved issuance of \$1.1 million of bond anticipation notes for the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District.

Also approved by the division of the state treasurer's office charged with seeing to the credit-worthiness of local governments was a loan of nearly \$1 million from a state revolving fund administered by the N. C. Division of Environmental Management.

The bond anticipation note and loan approval will allow commissioners to award construction bids for a first-See Sewer, page 7

Wastewater flow from the N. C. 211 corridor project will be transmitted to Southport for treatment at that city's treatment plants

By Richard Nubel Municipal Editor

While the Town of Long Beach has committed over \$100,000 to development of a municipal groundwater source, it may be open to taking on partners in development of a regional drinking water system, mayor Joan Altman said this week.

Last week, Caswell Beach mayor Joe O'Brien mulled over options to assure that town a reliable, cost-effective drinking water source for the future. He said Caswell Beach's best option was as a partner in ownership of a regional water recovery and treatment system.

Long Beach and Caswell Beach now both buy treated drinking water from Brunswick County. But, distressed by Brunswick County's wholesale price increases, perceived poor water system managment practices and inability to provide long-

'Once we have those results in hand, we will be able to speak with other towns and communities about their water needs.'

Joan Altman Long Beach mayor

term price projections, Long Beach Town Council last year made up to \$300,000 available to study the feasibility of a municipal groundwater recovery and treatment system.

Caswell Beach has engaged in an all-out examination of its role in providing water to residents, property owners and visitors of the town. That examination -- which includes future water supply options -- was prompted

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Candidate filing period ends quietly Crowe, Altman unopposed; primary in Long Beach

By Richard Nubel Municipal Editor

Mayors Bill Crowe of Southport and Joan P. Altman of Long Beach will succeed themselves in municipal elections of 1997, barring a successful write-in campaign, but Boiling Spring Lakes voters this year will chose a new mayor from among six candidates who want that job.

With the Friday noon closing of the period in which citizens may file notice of candidacy for election to municipal and other local government offices past, voters now have a clear view of their options for local leadership.

Mayors Crowe and Altman will be unchallenged in their bids for reelection. Multi-term mayor Mark Stewart of Boiling Spring Lakes has decided not to stand for reelection, but there is no shortage of people who want his job.

While the mayor's race in Long Beach won't generate a nonpartisan primary election, 14 candidates for six seats on Long Beach Town Council will force an October 4 primary during which two will be eliminated. The purpose of the non-partisan primary election is to narrow the field of candidates to two per available seat.

Of other general observations that can be made at the close of the filing period, it can be said there will be little excitement in Caswell Beach this election year. Incumbents Bill Boyd and Paul O'Connor were the only candidates to emerge and will

succeed themselves barring a successful write-in candidacy. Here is a breakdown of the candidates who will stand for election in 1997:

Southport

Mayor: William (Bill) Crowe, 70, of 101 North Atlantic Avenue

Aldermen Ward I (vote for two): Incumbent Jim Brown, 58, of 230 River Drive; incumbent Paul Darrel Fisher, 63, of 110 River Drive; Paula D. Spelts, 620 North Howe Street.

Alderman Ward II (vote for one): Wayne Hewett, 47, 402 Burrington Avenue; Alleyah McKenzie-Muhammad, 58, 911 North Caswell Avenue; incumbent Philo N. (Phil) Joyner, 58, 812 North Caswell Avenue.

Long Beach

Mayor: Joan P. Altman, 44, 109-27th Street SW. Councilors (vote for six): incumbent Frances Allen, 68, 201-See Filing, page 11

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