



THE STATE PORT PILOT

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Photo by Jim Harper

Union and Confederate Civil War reenactors joined a large turnout of residents and visitors at John Smith Cemetery on Saturday to commemorate the service in the Union cause of Abram Galloway and

Abram Blount. Galloway and Blount, who served with the 37th Infantry Regiment of United States Colored Troops, lived in the community and are buried here.

Decision Monday? County plan for collection is questioned

■ Towns seeking some explanation for contract costs

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Reaction to Brunswick County's proposal to provide once-weekly curbside refuse collection for virtually every home under a countywide contract with Waste Industries Inc. has ranged from enthusiastic to very guarded in the Southport-Oak Island area.

Under terms of the \$5-million proposal, Brunswick County has asked all 18 of its municipalities to join it in a contract by which the county will pay Waste Industries the equivalent of \$10.98 per household per month from its general fund, the fund supported in part by property

taxes. In successive years of the proposed six-year contract, Brunswick County's general fund cost will be capped at \$5 million, but each property owner in the county will be billed at tax time for 2.5-percent-per-year contract cost increases. Those once-yearly assessments on tax bills will range from \$10.20 per household in year two of the contract to \$43.08 in contract year six.

Last week, mayor Tom Tully of Boiling Spring Lakes hailed the county proposal for once-weekly service as one that would save that city an estimated \$76,000 per year. Boiling Spring Lakes now spends the equivalent of \$5.09 per household on solid waste costs and will cut that to a fraction, paying only for semi-annual large-item collections.

Boiling Spring Lakes' board of commissioners became the first municipal governing board in the county to ratify the plan county officials have said all must execute by

See County plan, page 10

Not so, says attorney

Company says county ignored low trash bid

■ Management firm could have left out services

By Terry Pope
County Editor

County commissioners are expected Monday to sign a seven-year garbage deal with Waste Industries Inc. to provide countywide curbside collection service, but objections have been raised by another contractor.

Waste Management of Wilmington's claim to have submitted lower bids came at the 11th hour, four days after a retreat ended with 18 municipalities as county officials discussed Waste Industries' proposal. County attorney Huey Marshall said both companies were asked to submit proposals in October to take over the entire trash collection operation in the county, but only one complied with all specifications. Waste Management sent informa-

tion to the towns and municipalities last week to complain that its proposal "was not seriously considered or presented" during the three-day retreat between commissioners and town officials. Waste Management's cost comparison claims to save the county \$681,200 the first year based on providing curbside service to 40,000 residences at \$9.56 each, rather than the \$10.98 figure commissioners have negotiated with Waste Industries.

Waste Industries holds a three-year contract with the county to haul garbage to a Sampson County regional landfill and is currently operating under a six-month interim contract to haul and collect from county green-box locations. Information distributed by Waste Management last week did not stir town or municipal officials to question the county's decision to seek a \$5-million deal with Waste Industries. Even among county leaders, there has been no debate over the counter-proposal.

"Commissioners went about this

See Trash bid, page 10

Public forum helps choose future goals

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Just how big should Southport be? Aldermen are going to ask city residents to help them answer that question -- a question of far-reaching importance, all agree.

At a workshop devoted to discussion of the city's overtaxed wastewater management system Thursday, public services director Ed Honeycutt told aldermen if the city requires developers to deliver wastewater directly to force main lines -- bypassing gravity lines which feed the city's five overburdened pump stations -- Southport's wastewater management system can continue to operate until a decision is reached on how big an improved sewer system should be.

Naturally, the size of the wastewater management system the city builds will reflect how big the city is projected to be at build-out. For that

reason, aldermen want to know how big city residents want Southport to be.

Should the city stop at present city limits? Should it grow to the two Carolina Power and Light Co. canals? Should it expand farther out N. C. 87 and N. C. 211?

"We can essentially stay as we are," alderman Bill Delaney said. "Or, we can get on that train and invite everybody in. We have to ask the citizens: Do we want to ride that train?"

With that question in mind, aldermen have scheduled a public hearing for 7:30 p.m. February 19. The subject of that hearing: How big should Southport be?

Officially, notices of the public hearing say it is to "solicit comments, concerns and suggestions regarding future growth issues in the City of Southport's extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction -- that area lying between the present city limits and

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How shall Southport grow?

Aldermen want to hear how residents of Southport want their city to grow and where they think city services should and should not be provided.

A public hearing on those issues will be held at 7:30 p.m. February 19 at City Hall. City government wants to hear from you.

Southport

More facts would help in analysis

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

City staff will tell aldermen Thursday night it has been unable to analyze Brunswick County's consolidated solid waste proposal beyond year one of a proposed six-year deal with Waste Industries Inc.

And, Southport city manager Rob Gandy has expressed several reservations about the county's proposal to the city governing board.

Aldermen will entertain a proposed interlocal agreement with Brunswick County by which the city would allow the county to foot the cost of once-weekly solid waste collection in Southport.

In a memorandum to aldermen this week, Gandy suggested the county proposal was incomplete.

"We have analyzed the 'numbers' associated with this proposal, but can only do so

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Schools to better serve 'gifted' student

By Terry Pope
County Editor

School leaders hope an academically gifted program approved Monday by the Brunswick County Board of Education will identify top students earlier and offer them a higher level of instruction.

The plan drafted over the past 18 months

by a committee of 24 teachers, parents and administrators will be sent to the state in March for approval. Under House Bill 53, the N. C. General Assembly stipulated that school districts submit plans to better teach academically gifted students, with the plans in effect and updated every three years.

The increased emphasis in Brunswick County is identifying gifted students by the

time they reach third grade, using end-of-grade test scores as the primary indicator rather than standardized tests as used in the past.

"We hope to identify students earlier who are academically gifted," said Mary McDuffie, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. "We think that assessment will tell us about our other

needs."

Most of the stipulations in the new plan are changes that are already being made on a daily basis in the county, she said. However, in the past, Brunswick County did not do a comprehensive assessment of third graders, but neither did most other school systems in

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