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## Southport

### Same rate, lower fees proposed

By Richard Nubel  
 Municipal Editor

It will actually cost property owners \$71.52 less to live in Southport next year.

City manager Rob Gandy this week published a proposed \$7.06-million 1998-99 budget for the City of Southport which calls for no increase in the city's present property tax, no increase in water, sewer or electric fees and a \$5.96-per-month reduction of residential solid waste fees.

The budget proposal, which actually comes from Gandy and the city's budget committee -- aldermen Nelson Adams, Jim Brown and Bill Delaney -- is lean by any standard. While electric fund unappropriated balance is characterized as "critically low" in Gandy's budget message, no rate adjustment is advocated. To balance the city's water and sewer fund without rate increases for these two services, \$100,000 was appropriated from water and sewer fund balance and an additional \$39,365 was transferred to the water and sewer fund from the city's solid waste fund unappropriated balance.

All funds -- general, water and sewer, electric and solid waste -- have been balanced without inter-fund revenue transfers, however. Each of the three enterprise funds will operate as stand-alone ventures in the year to begin July 1, if aldermen adopt the proposed budget.

In his budget message, however, Gandy says all unappropriated fund balances, except the electric fund balance, are strong. Fund balance is a sum of money that is not appropriated for a specific purpose. It is available for appropriation in emergencies -- like hurricanes here -- and provides a source of funds when cash flow is poor.

"Barring any unforeseen emergency between this writing and the end of the budget year, all funds (unappropriated balances), with the exception of the electric fund, seem to be holding their own," Gandy wrote. "... the (electric fund) cash situation is improving slightly; however, fund balance reserves remain critically low."

The proposed budget for the City of Southport in FY 1998-99 will be the subject of a 6 p.m. public hearing to be held June 18 at City Hall.

#### General fund

Retaining the city's present property tax rate of 53 cents per \$100 valuation will provide the city with an estimated \$589,354 -- or just over 32 percent of the total proposed \$1.833-million general fund for 1998-99. The tax levy is based on an estimated total citywide valuation of \$117.7 million and a 94.5-percent tax collection rate.

The general fund is projected to See Southport, page 6



Photo by Jim Harper  
 In the current trout run on Oak Island piers live shrimp are the ticket to success, and anglers stood in line for tickets along the Oak Island shore throughout the weekend. These cast-netters were busy at the 40th Street causeway in Long Beach on Friday evening.

## Three-cent increase Long Beach budget looks for 'ins, outs'

By Richard Nubel  
 Municipal Editor

With seven miles of beach strand and the largest population of any municipality in Brunswick County, Long Beach is a town of big ideas and many of them.

Some of these ideas and even some dreams have found their way into town manager Jerry Walters' \$6.756-million budget proposal for 1998-99 and some of them have not.

What's in and what's out for 1998-99?

Although a three-cent property tax increase remains in the budget after two town council budget workshop sessions, the budget proposal for 1998-99 is not as chock full of projects and capital expenditures as many Long Beach budgets have been in the past five years. "It looks like a -- pardon the

'It looks like a -- pardon the expression -- plain vanilla budget, but in fact it is not.'

Jerry Walters  
 Town manager

expression -- 'plain vanilla' budget, but in fact it is not," Walters said. "It's a little different this year in that many of the projects council authorized in the past are done."

The proposed budget for 1998-99 See Long Beach, page 7

## Fire districts on county's front burner

By Terry Pope  
 County Editor

County officials appear ready to establish flat fees to fund fire and rescue units but will await data on what those fees will generate if special legislation passes the N. C. General Assembly.

State Rep. David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach) has drafted a special bill patterned after one used to implement fees for North Whiteville Fire District in Columbus County.

Redwine is holding onto the bill until the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners can decide what kind of fees it wants to charge and how the county will collect the fees. The board tabled a decision Monday and has asked for more information from county finance director Lithia Horne on how billing to tax accounts would include a built-in growth factor or instead cause problems.

"I think there would be a mad rush

'Every time the truck starts, it's the same price, whether it's racing to a \$300,000 stick-built home or a mobile home.'

Huey Marshall  
 County attorney

into the tax office to consolidate accounts," said county attorney Huey Marshall.

If billed based on county tax accounts, with set fees for homes, businesses and vacant lots, it means See Districts, page 11

## SBSD as municipality But what do the people think?

By Richard Nubel  
 Municipal Editor

Despite the appearance that incorporation is a defense against annexation by Yaupon Beach, Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District commissioners

Monday morning said they will "pursue" becoming a municipality.

Commissioners also named Barbara Stein to the position of district manager. She has served as "acting" manager of the sanitary district since January and was an administrative assistant prior to that time. The board continued

Monday to tussle over recommendations for a replacement for former commissioner Tommy Bowmer, who resigned his seat earlier this month, citing health reasons.

Only commissioner Ginger Harper opposed pursuit of incorporation by Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District.

Commissioners Gene Formy-Duval and Lucille Laster and chairman James W. (Bubba) Smith voted to seek to incorporate the district as a municipality just as Yaupon Beach is seeking to annex 483 acres in the southern part of the sanitary See People, page 6

'They have an opportunity to come. Some of them work at night. You can take a day off to come to a meeting, if you're interested.'

James W. Smith, of 8 a.m. public hearing

## Jackson shipping out after 44 years

### Traffic management at Sunny Point 'high-stress' job

By Laura Kimball  
 Feature Editor

On her last day of work, Hortense Jackson remembered the most hectic times she's experienced at Sunny Point, an ammunition transfer station and the only military ocean terminal left in the U. S.

"The hard work as a traffic manager came when the cargo came back from the Gulf War. And behind that the Cold War munitions came back," she said.

Jackson, who retired Friday from her job as chief of the traffic management division at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, has worked for the U. S. government for 44 years. As chief of traffic management, she was responsible for reviewing inbound cargo, determining the status of carriers and arranging for munitions to be promptly transferred from one vehicle to another.

"It can be hectic. This is rated as a high-stress job because ammunition is a very controlled, very regulated item," she said.

Jackson started her career at Fort Bragg in 1954, the same year she graduated from high school in Fayetteville. Her first job was in the quartermaster laundry, and she later moved to the Directorate of Logistics, where she was assistant item manager for 13 years.

In 1968 Jackson began working at Sunny Point as a clerk typist. She moved to the position of chief of the freight traffic division in 1979 and became chief of the traf- See High-stress, page 11

## Donors may 'Relay' cancer contribution

Contributions to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life '98 can be mailed using a form on page 14 of this week's *State Port Pilot*.

Those who send their contributions in this manner qualify for awards including three-nights' accommodations at the Omni hotel in West Palm Beach, FL, dinner and show for two at Medieval Times in Myrtle Beach and dinner for two at Laredo's in Southport. The awards are provided by *The State Port Pilot*.

Also, *The State Port Pilot* invites individuals who wish to participate in the 24-hour relay at South Brunswick High School to join the newspaper team by phoning Renee Elliot at 457-4568. These volunteers also qualify for the awards.



JACKSON