

Around Brunswick

Shores: Refund for SBWSA bills due

CAROLINA SHORES -- Now that the break between Carolina Shores and Calabash is complete, residents here should not have to pay for the stormwater and wastewater management plans of Southwest Brunswick Water and Sewer Authority, officials of the new town say.

In fact, Carolina Shores commissioners say, residents should be refunded payments they have already made to the regional authority.

While a part of Calabash, residents of Carolina Shores were liable for authority costs along with residents of Sunset Beach and other portions of southwestern Brunswick County the authority plans to serve.

But, now a separate entity, the authority's services are not needed. Carolina Shores is served by the private Carolina Blythe sewer system. The town also has taken over a stormwater management system from a property owners association.

In a letter to authority director Joe Tombro, Carolina Shores commissioners say they want to stop assessing property owners and forgive unpaid stormwater assessment bills residents have received. The board also wants all previous assessments refunded Carolina Shores property owners.

Tombro has not commented publicly on the demands. SBWSA is defending itself against a lawsuit brought by a group protesting stormwater assessments. Carolina Shores commissioner Gere Dale is president of the protest organization and mayor Teddy Altreuter is an active member of the group.

Schools to get over \$225 K from feds

WASHINGTON, DC -- Brunswick County's school system will receive \$225,342 from the federal government this year to help increase faculty size and cut class size, 7th District U. S. congressman Mike McIntyre announced this week.

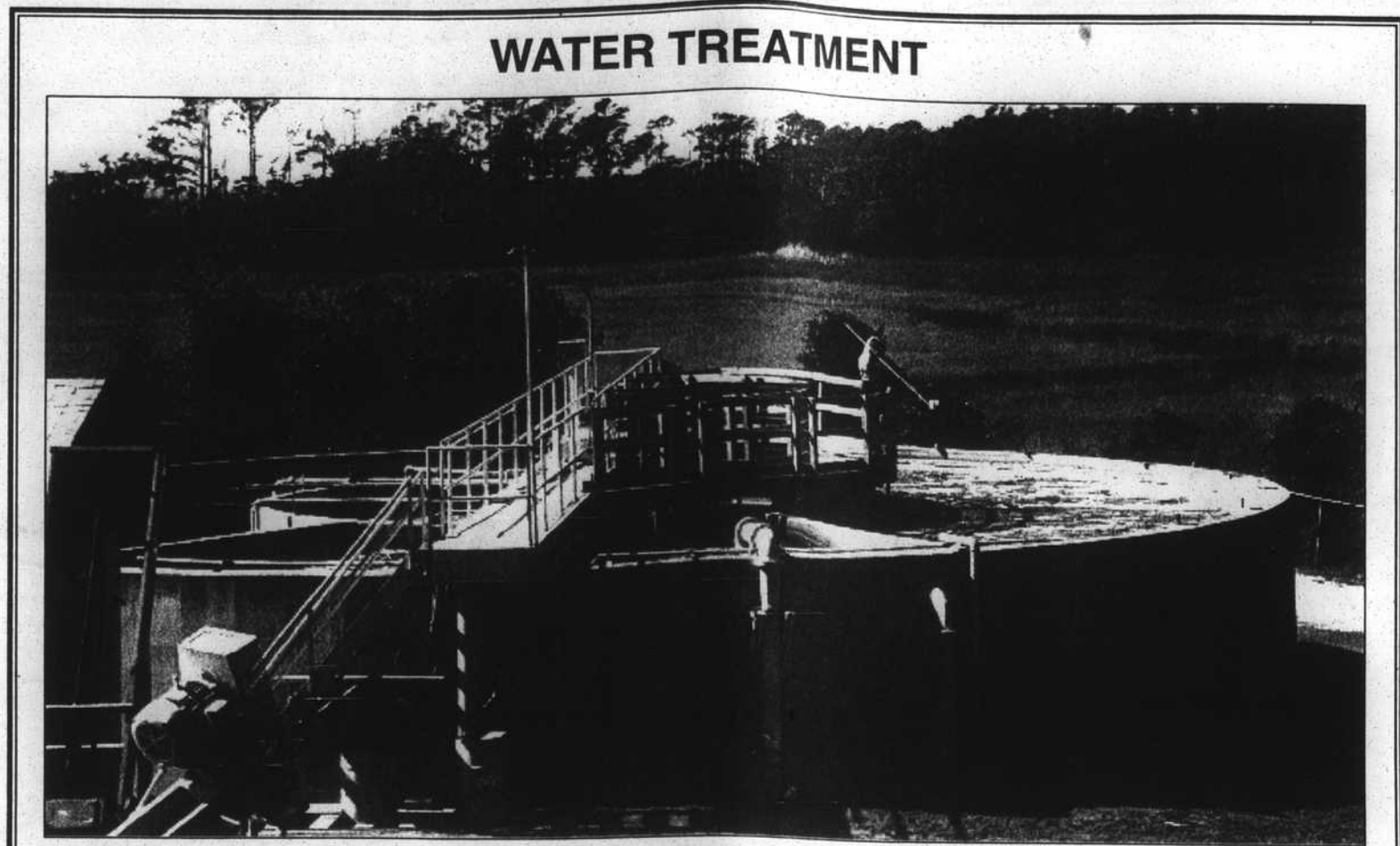
The sum for Brunswick County is part of a \$4-million package headed for southeastern North Carolina schools, the congressman said.

"There is nothing more important to this country's future than making sure our children have a good education," McIntyre said. "In order for our kids to learn and compete in the global economy, America's schools must be able to accommodate smaller class sizes."

The federal appropriations bill will provide \$1.2 billion nationally for the first year of a proposal to reduce class size in the first through third grades to an average of 18 students.

Registrar publishes September report

BOLIVIA -- Services of the



WATER TREATMENT

Replace and repair: Approval of a November 3 bond referendum will increase the pool of funds available to communities.

Photo by Richard Nubel

Of life and livelihood

Local and state leaders urge \$800 million bond issue

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

City of Southport officials have begun to grapple with the need for money to expand the city's inadequate wastewater treatment capacity which will facilitate a spate of residential growth.

But first, city officials must face the need to complete more than \$400,000 worth of repairs to Southport's aging wastewater collection system.

Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District may need money soon to expand treatment capacity in its service area along bustling Long Beach Road. Officials there expect flow to

be near capacity when the district's 500,000-gallon-per-day treatment plant comes on line later this year.

Long Beach has just announced plans to begin the first phase of a municipal wastewater collection system and it is projected Yaupon Beach will need to add capacity to its wastewater treatment plant as its partnership with neighboring Long Beach continues.

All wastewater management system development on Oak Island is being undertaken with the idea that each individual improvement will become part of a larger, regional wastewater management system serving most of southeastern Brunswick County some day.

Water and sewer project needs exceed \$11.34 billion in North Carolina.

Boiling Spring Lakes has asked Brunswick County to help it construct a water distribution system, but will examine other ways to bring a public drinking water supply to residents.

See Clean water, page 6

Brunswick County Register of Deeds office generated \$152,522 in September, nearly \$20,000 more than in the same month one year ago, registrar Robert J. Robinson reported this week.

Recordation of deeds, deeds of trust, plats, maps and other instruments generated \$36,555. Issuance of marriage licenses brought \$2,720 to the office. Miscellaneous income totaled \$4,797 in the month and excise tax collections totaled \$108,450.

The Brunswick County Register of Deeds office processed 2,464 documents in the month, 304 more than in September, 1997.

Office expenses for the month of September, exclusive of salaries, wages and benefits, were \$93,361, Robinson's report says.

Redwine supports juvenile justice bill

RALEIGH -- Rep. E. David Redwine, of Brunswick County and House District 14, voted Wednesday of last week for an overhaul of the state's juvenile justice system. The measure before the House aims at ensuring swift, sure punishment for juvenile offenders.

The compromise bill includes

stiffer penalties and more facilities to hold juvenile offenders, and community-based prevention efforts to deter juvenile crime in the state.

"Passage of this bill marks a major accomplishment for the 1998 session of the General Assembly," said Redwine, who was a sponsor of the bill. "We came to town knowing that juvenile justice reform would be a major item on the agenda and we have addressed this serious, complex problem."

Major portions of the bill grew out of a special commission appointed by Gov. James B. Hunt last year to study the problem of

juvenile crime. Redwine served that committee.

Key components of the bill include: The establishment of an Office of Juvenile Justice; the ability to hold juveniles who commit the most serious crimes until the age of 21, instead of 18, the current age for release; the ability to hold juveniles committing other crimes until the age of 19; a provision whereby the State Bureau of Investigation can keep fingerprints of juvenile offenders until the offender is 18 years of age or 18 months after his release, whichever is longer.

"The final bill strikes the right

balance between tougher penalties for juvenile offenders and increased treatment and prevention programs," said Redwine, who helped craft the compromise between House and Senate negotiators.

Budget considerations are still to be worked out by another conference committee. The House version of the bill includes a \$6.5-million budget for the first year; a Senate version contains \$19.8 million for the first year. Much of the difference was in prevention programs.

Plant fined for level of effluent chlorine

CAROLINA SHORES -- The privately owned Carolina Blythe wastewater treatment plant has been fined for exceeding permissible levels of chlorine in system effluent.

A representative of the N. C. Division of Water Quality said high levels of chlorine were detected in system effluent on ten unannounced inspections. Chlorine may not be present in wastewater system effluent in concentrations higher than 17 parts per billion, under state law.

The plant's operator said a new ultraviolet light sanitizing system had been installed to replace chlorination as the final step in the tertiary treatment process. But, the plant continued to introduce chlorine into the effluent in warm weather to eliminate algae.

The UV system itself is of concern to the Division of Water Quality. Carolina Blythe installed the system without first applying for appropriate state permits. Permit applications are now being made after the fact, company officials say.

CRP enrollment for farmers has begun

BOLIVIA -- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollment will be conducted for seven weeks beginning October 26. R. Coke Gray, of Brunswick County Farm Service Agency, said.

CRP allows farmers, ranchers and other cropland managers to enter into contract with the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation to place erosion-prone lands into other environmentally sensitive uses for periods of between ten and 15 years.

"This is another opportunity for landowners to sign up for a voluntary program to get financial and technical assistance for improving their land, water and wildlife resources," Gray said. "If you haven't tried to get into the program, if your CRP contract offers were not accepted in the past, or if you have contracts expiring, this is the time to make new contract offers," Gray said.

Interested landowners may write Brunswick County Farm Service Agency at P. O. Box 110, Bolivia, NC 28422. The telephone number is 253-4448.

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