

Local projects affected

Clean water

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dents if the county can't help.

Virtually every local government entity in the Southport-Oak Island area is involved in some way with building or expanding water and sewer facilities. To local governments here, passage of a proposed \$800-million Clean Water Bond referendum on Election Day, November 3, is critical.

"Passage of this critically important measure next week will make low-interest loans and some grants available to use to help us create an infrastructure that is desperately needed," Long Beach mayor Joan Altman said. "This assistance will be essential if we are to establish the regional wastewater management system all area local governments have made a priority."

Southport is one of the 60 percent of all sewer system operators in the state facing the need to substantially replace collection lines and is one of more than half of all operators with rain and groundwater flooding collection systems, according to a recent statewide report of local government water and sewer needs.

"First and foremost, funds from this bond issue will be available for rehabilitation of existing wastewater systems. That is exactly our need today," said Southport city manager Rob Gandy. "The City of Southport will need to expand its treatment capacity soon, but first it must repair what it has. If this bond referendum is approved, we will have a perfect way to tackle our first problem."

But, Southport-Oak Island's needs account for only a small portion of the \$1.34 billion in local government water and sewer project needs documented in a study conducted by

the N. C. Rural Economic Development Center, the State of North Carolina and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The joint project called "North Carolina Water and Sewer Initiative" recently published that finding in a report called "Clean Water: Our Livelihood, Our Life."

The report bolsters the N. C. Rural Center's endorsement of the \$800-million November 3 referendum and calls additionally on state officials to:

- Set aside funds to rehabilitate sewer collection systems.

- Encourage regional water and sewer systems to improve service and reduce costs.

- Pursue wastewater treatment alternatives to reduce costs and protect resources.

- Make capital improvement plans a priority for guiding local investments.

- Establish a cooperative technical assistance program for small communities.

- Create a dedicated source of funding for water and sewer improvements.

- Complete and maintain sewer data for improved planning at all levels.

Most governing boards of towns and cities in Brunswick County and county commissioners have endorsed resolutions asking voters to approve the Clean Water Bond referendum next Tuesday.

"Efficient, effective water and wastewater systems are critical to public health and to protection of our sensitive coastal ecology," mayor Altman said. "Approval of the Clean Water Bond referendum on Tuesday is simply the right thing to do."

Future needs may require demolition

Dosher

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until the new patient wings were built in the early 1980s. "This plan has the option to renovate the old section of the hospital and another for removing the old section," Haywood said.

The administrator said further expansion of the hospital facility is made more difficult as the hospital is "locked-in" on three sides by roads. Renovating the old Dosher hospital building may also be cost-prohibitive, Haywood said. Any renovation would require the building be brought into compliance with present-day building codes. That

means, for instance, an expensive four-hour firewall would have to be built where the old section joins the new.

Opting to keep the old Dosher hospital building would mean any further expansion on-site would be nearly impossible.

"If that is the road we choose, that, in effect, limits all future development," Haywood said. "It looks like their recommendation is leaning very heavily toward taking it down when the time comes."

Trustees are reviewing the architect's written report and a meeting with planners will be scheduled in either November or December.

With Dosher's fiscal year concluded September 30, chief finan-

cial officer Jim Shomaker reported the facility ended the year just over \$1 million in the black. Operating revenues exceeded expenses by nearly \$314,000 for the year.

"Any small hospital like we are that ends up the year in the black is doing a darned good job," trustee Gib Barbee said.

While Dosher's performance was solid this year, operating revenues in the prior year exceeded expenditures by \$500,000 more than in the year ended last month. Non-operating revenues drove the positive bottom line to \$1.92 million in the prior fiscal year, over \$900,000 more than in the year just ended.

In other business brought before the board of trustees of Dosher

Memorial Hospital Monday:

- Staff privileges were granted Dr. Janice Fisher, who has joined Oak Island Medical Center; Dr. Thomas Holland, whose practice is located in the Dosher Professional Building on Oak Island Drive in Long Beach; Dr. Kathleen Leon, an ophthalmologist who has joined Dr. Timothy Kelly's Oak Island practice; and Dr. Neil Thompson, who has joined the hospital's emergency room staff.

- A \$42,200 contract to renovate the Dosher Professional Building in Long Beach was awarded Stiller Construction Inc. of Southport. The building will be made suitable to house a new hospital imaging center.

Grants to be affected?

Yaupon

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Mayor Joan Altman said it was too early to say whether or not a referendum would be necessary or even possible.

"I don't think it is fair to ask if there is going to be a referendum when we haven't yet had time to sit down and discuss it as a community," Altman said. She said many who have had problems with the consolidation idea felt better after they had their questions answered.

In addition to the November 1 joint meeting of the two town governing boards when the three task committees will report, public information meetings for all have been scheduled on December 1 and February 2 at Long Beach Recreation Center and on January 5 and March 2 at Ocean View United Methodist Church.

"Citizens of both towns are invit-

ed to actively participate," mayor Altman said.

The three reports to be issued by task committees on November 1 will serve as the basis for a consolidation newsletter which will be published and mailed to residents and property owners of both towns, the mayor said. The newsletter, with its discussion of the consolidation process, will be sent to residents prior to the first public information session on December 1 so citizen questions can be addressed.

"This process has started very quickly because it was brought up quickly," mayor Altman said. "I remain very committed to the process. I think it is the way to go."

Still, the public will have many opportunities to question and shape the consolidation discussion. Consolidation cannot be completed without a favorable action of the N. C. General Assembly.

"It's not a done deal until the legislation is passed," mayor Altman said.

To be sure the best man wins, vote Tuesday for Ronald Hewett

Don't take good law enforcement for granted. Get out and vote for Ronald Hewett and urge your friends and family to vote for him.

You know him, he knows you. He is a person you can talk to in time of trouble and one you can count on to be understanding and discreet.

Ronald Hewett has kept his promises to the people of Brunswick County since he was elected Sheriff four years ago. He is proud to be running on his record for reelection to another term.

He promised to make the Sheriff's office more responsive to the public by keeping the doors open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. A trained deputy is on duty at the office around the clock. Over 72,633 calls have been answered.

He promised to make our homes and streets safer. And, while Brunswick County has grown tremendously, crime has declined during the past four years. Since Sheriff Hewett has been in office, statistics show the Sheriff's Office has been hard at work. The job is being done in Brunswick County.

Four years ago he warned that he would be tough on those who try to sell drugs in Brunswick County. In the past four years the Sheriff's office made 2,528 drug-related arrests, seized more than \$166,330.35 from the drug traffickers and confiscated narcotics with a street value of over five MILLION dollars!

Ronald Hewett is proud that Brunswick County has been recognized by the North Carolina National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force for having an "outstanding marijuana eradication program."

Brunswick County has been identified as one whose law enforcement officers are dedicated and very effective at eradicating marijuana. Ronald Hewett accepted an award from the

NCNG Joint Counterdrug Task Force Oct. 15 "for outstanding performance during the 1998 Bladerunner Operation."

Domestic violence cases have also been a priority with this Sheriff, with 8,801 calls to date and 753 arrests. A domestic violence triage unit has been formed to send the strong message to would-be offenders that this Sheriff has "zero tolerance" for all kinds of crime. Looking after families and children will remain at the top of the list with Sheriff Hewett, a family man himself.

Resource officers are now in all county high schools and middle schools to make them safer for our children.


Since 1995, deputies have worked at night keeping businesses as safe as possible, making 95,750 burglary prevention checks. Neighborhood patrols have also been stepped up to keep residential breakins down. Value of stolen property recovered is nearly four million dollars!

Not only are his patrol officers more visible on the streets, they are active in community affairs. The Sheriff's office has adopted Bolivia Elementary School and each week tutors children with a one-on-one approach.

For this community involvement, the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department was nominated this year to receive the Governors Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. This was the only sheriff's department in the state to be so honored this year.

Our sheriff and his officers are not just people with handcuffs, they are there for our community and are involved with the community.

You have a very important weapon with which to fight crime. It is your vote. Make it count. Cast it for Ronald Hewett so he can continue to serve.



COME JOIN SHERIFF HEWETT FOR SUPPER

FISH FRY

Leland Community Building

SATURDAY, OCT. 31

4:00 PM

Authorized by Mike McIntyre for Congress

Ronald E. HEWETT

SHERIFF

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT RONALD E. HEWETT SHERIFF, ALBERT PARKER, TREASURER

COME JOIN SHERIFF HEWETT AND CONGRESSMAN MIKE MCINTYRE FOR

SEAFOOD

Calabash V.F.D.

SUNDAY, NOV. 1

4:00 PM

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Why Re-elect

Glenda C. Browning

to the Brunswick County School Board?

In her four year tenure, she has served two years as Vice-Chair and the last two years as Chairman of the Board. During those four years, the following changes have occurred in our county school system:

- Reading Scores - UP!
- Math Scores - UP!
- Minority Scores - UP!
- Competency Test Percentages (exceed state and region) - UP!

- Writing Scores - UP!
- SAT Scores - UP!
- School violence - DOWN!

- 13 of 14 schools made EXEMPLARY status by exceeding 10% improvement over goals set in state-wide ABC program. One is a SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION.
- College and Technical classes available to high school students through the Center for Advanced Studies at Brunswick Community College.
- Teen Court implemented

When you vote for Board of Education,

Vote

Glenda C. Browning

District 5

Always, Children First

