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SBSD tap-on Dec. 31

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Residents of Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District will be authorized to begin making taps to the district's new wastewater management system in time for the new year.

"The district will go on line on December 31," commissioner Lucille Laster, district secretary, said this week. Letters advising residents they may make taps to the system beginning that day will be mailed one day earlier.

Although residents of Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District have long awaited the start-up of the district's 500,000-gallon-per-day wastewater treatment plant on Georgetown Road, some may not know how to go about making a mandatory tap to the system. Lines have been brought to the edge of all properties and it is the responsibility of each property owner to engage a plumber to make the actual tap to the home within 90 days of the December 31 system start-up. Taps to the system by all property owners were made mandatory in order to assure repayment of bonds sold to build the wastewater management infrastructure.

"We are going to give everyone 90 days to make their taps, because we know it will take some time," commissioner Laster said. "We want to emphasize that property owners have to have a permit to tap onto the system and they have to have a water meter before they can get the permit."

To simplify the permitting process and the acquisition of water meters, commissioners have created special "packets" of information which are available to property owners at the district office at 4310 Long Beach Road. The package of information explains what is needed to obtain a permit and a tap and outlines the process step-by-step.

"All connections to the system will have to be inspected," commissioner Laster said.

Tap inspections are to be done in-house by a contract-employee of the district. Residential property owners will be required, as part of the tap process, to pay a \$25 inspection fee. A reinspection fee will be charged if the inspector must, because of improper installation, return to the property for a second inspection.

"It is critically important for residents of the district to know that they must have a permit to tap to the

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ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS ...



Melissa Gordon tells her wishes to Santa at the annual "Flight Before Christmas" held at Brunswick County Airport. Hours before, Santa had made another appearance at the Bolivia Christmas Parade (below). (Photos by Jim Harper)

Jolly ol' St. Nick

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor



Santa's final preparations for Christmas were completed Saturday when he soared above Brunswick County in a private plane and landed at Brunswick County Airport to talk to excited kids.

The fourth annual "Flight Before Christmas," organized by the county parks and recreation department, assisted Santa in scoping out local rooftops and chimneys so he won't be in for surprises on Christmas Eve.

"You've got to make sure there are no obstacles in the way," he said of his pre-Christmas rounds.

Santa, known as Bruce Mitchell for 11 months of the year, said local residents are notorious for putting up antennas and ladders
See Santa, page 10

Bridge corridor

Agency asks more details of town plan

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

An environmental agency once squarely opposed to a roadway corridor connecting a planned bridge at North Middleton Street to the N. C. 211 and Midway Road intersection appears to have opened the door to discussion of that corridor.

In a December 15 letter, John M. Hefner of the Raleigh Field Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service said the agency could better assess a Middleton-to-Midway corridor if DOT revises its Environmental Assessment (EA) to include the Second Bridge to Oak Island Corridor Development Plan completed for the Town of Long Beach early this year.

"The Service has requested NCDOT prepare a revised EA which incorporates the corridor development plan into both the

(U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service) has at least invited discussion of the three most direct routes the people of Oak Island prefer.'

Joan Altman
Long Beach mayor

overall purpose of the project and the evaluation of (corridor) alternatives," Hefner wrote. "The environ-
See Bridge, page 10

TIP requests

County's road needs ignored, officials claim

By Terry Pope
County Editor

On closer examination, this year's list of highway priorities has not changed very much from last year for Brunswick County and its municipalities.

Perhaps that is what prompted officials to feel there has been little progress made, resulting in a public lashing of the N. C. Board of Transportation at a joint meeting between towns and county leaders last week.

"They don't live here," said JoAnn Bellamy Simmons, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of

Commissioners. "We can't handle it with the influx of people we have now. From their Transportation Improvement Program, what they seem to want to spend the money on are bridges. Besides these bridges being replaced, we need some maintenance on our roads."

When county officials deliver their highway priorities to the state Board of Transportation next month, they hope to add pizzazz to their presentation and get noticed. The top demands are a second bridge to Oak Island to provide another evacuation route in the event of a major storm or industrial
See Roads, page 6

Southport possible venue

Pan-Am game effort for sail

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

The USA is likely host to the 2007 Pan-American Games. North Carolina and Raleigh are the likely host state and city to the 2007 games.

And, get this, Southport is the likely venue for the sailing competition for the 2007 Pan-American Games if all these suppositions are correct.

It was a strange corner of the city in which to find sporting news, but Doshier Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees was the first public body in Brunswick County to receive a briefing on plans to make Southport the sailing venue for the 2007 Pan-Am Games.

Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution in support of Gov. James B. Hunt's attempts to bring the games to North Carolina. The resolution further declares Doshier Memorial Hospital's willingness and readiness to take on responsibilities for the health care of the 150 to 200 athletes that would be part of the yachting competition.

"If we can handle 30,000 to 70,000 people on the Fourth of July, we can gear up for this," chief of staff Dr. Keith Reschly told trustees. A competitive sailor himself, and an active member of the Cape Fear Yacht Club at Southport Marina, Reschly sought and won trustees' endorsement.

"They're looking to hold the sailing competition in Southport, but there are an unbelievable number of hurdles to jump through," Dr. Reschly said.

Members of the Cape Fear Yacht Club have, to date, been facilitating the flow of information about Southport and its facilities to state officials who are in contact with the International Olympic Committee, organizer of the Pan-Am Games.

The Pan-Am Games are held every four years, one year before the Olympic Games. Competition is limited to countries in North America and South America.

Reschly told trustees North Carolina's position as a potential host state to the 2007 Pan Am games looks solid.

"Governor Hunt got it in his head that the games should
See Pan-Am, page 10



Groundbreaking

Community Building Committee chairman Ken Mabe turns the ceremonial shovelful of dirt Thursday as ground is broken for the new Southport facility. Members of the city board of aldermen and architect John Thompson look on. (Photo by Jim Harper)