

THE STATE PORT PILOT



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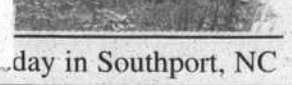
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CASTING OFF



The last line is cast off and the Coast Guard 110-footer Staten Island is underway after an overnight stop at the Southport city pier. Cutters and buoy tenders are periodic visitors here, giving residents and visitors alike an opportunity to see an ocean-going craft up close.

Photo by Jim Harper

Town of Oak Island Legislators consider bill to consolidate

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

(Wednesday), Altman said.

Residents of Long Beach and Yaupon Beach gave their town leaders a hearty thumbs up at Tuesday's final public forum on consolidation, paving the way for legislation to be introduced to the General Assembly this week that will make the Town of Oak Island official. "We wanted to make sure there were no major concerns from the public that would delay the bill being introduced," said Long Beach mayor Joan Altman, after a two-hour-long forum where no new concerns were voiced. "Now we'll proceed and look forward to consolidation becoming official July 1."

Tuesday's meeting was the final of four public forums held over the past three months to answer questions and clear up misconceptions about the consolidation of Long Beach and Yaupon Beach.

Used mainly to summarize the main ideas expressed at prior meetings, the final forum attracted a smaller audience of about 80 to Ocean View United Methodist Church in Yaupon Beach. Past meetings brought out larger groups, the first one peaking at about 170 residents.

Facilitator Glenn Harbeck outlined the last five months for the group, taking them from the day in October when the two towns first expressed the desire to move forward with consolidation to the information gathering and sharing ses-

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Boiling Spring Lakes

'Modular' debate hits home Tuesday

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

Nearly 100 homeowners, property owners and hopeful home builders crammed into Boiling Spring Lakes City Hall Tuesday night to discuss the hottest topic in town: Modular homes.

The public meeting was called to discuss proposed changes to the town's zoning ordinances which would allow modular homes in all residential zoning districts. The ordinance also would include certain construction requirements for all homes and provide criteria for transportation, placement of modular homes and removal of the transportation device from the area.

Modular homes have been an issue in Boiling Spring Lakes for almost five years, but the argument was revived last month when it was announced that the city planning board recommended modular homes be permitted in all areas of the city.

The current ordinance states that modular homes are only allowed where

'The public has a stigma against modular homes. Right or wrong, that's what they think. I'm concerned that modular homes will reduce property values.'

David Crawford

mobile homes are allowed. Some town commissioners are concerned whether or not Boiling Spring Lakes can legally discriminate against modular homes since

See Modular, page 8

St. James entrance Rezoning may allow facilities

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Developers at St. James Plantation say they want to build a village-type commercial area just west of the entrance on N. C. 211, protected by a berm where residents can bike or walk to the stores and shops without traveling far.

County officials feared rezoning the large tract would allow commercial strip development along a highway that is already congested and will become even more so in the future.

Brunswick County commissioners Monday sided with St. James and opened the door to commercial zoning on property that borders N. C. 211 for about six-tenths of a mile and extends 400 feet deep. Tri-City Inc., based in Rockingham, manages the 22-acre tract along with St. James developers.

Mark Brambell, project manager for St. James Plantation, said if the tract were to remain residential it would allow for more driveway connections than one planned, village-type commercial project which the golf course community has in mind.

"I feel it would be more desirable to have limited access," said Brambell.

The tract was rezoned by unanimous

'The weakness is in our ordinances. To sit here and deny someone use of their property because we don't agree with what our ordinance says isn't right.'

Leslie Collier
District 3 commissioner

vote of commissioners from low-density residential (R-7500) to commercial manufacturing (CM), the same zoning as the tract directly across the highway from St. James. Brambell said CM would allow more flexibility for devel-

See Rezoning, page 13

County rekindles fire, rescue tax talk

By Terry Pope
County Editor

It's time to talk about countywide fire and rescue funding options again. The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners has scheduled a special meeting Wednesday, March 10, at 3 p.m. to debate how to better fund the county's volunteer units.

District 2 commissioner David Sandifer of Holden Beach asked the board Monday for the special meeting and indicated the county is facing a March 24 deadline to submit special bills before the state legislature, the way special fire and rescue districts are established by the N. C. General Assembly.

"This is something that's been left hanging for two years," said Sandifer. "It's

See Fire tax, page 16

Sanitary district Board changes are 'probable'

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District commissioner Charles Welling refused a citizen's call for his resignation Monday, but said there might be some new faces on the district board of commissioners shortly.

"You'll probably see a lot of changes in the next month," Welling said. "There'll be some new people if you'll just hold your horses."

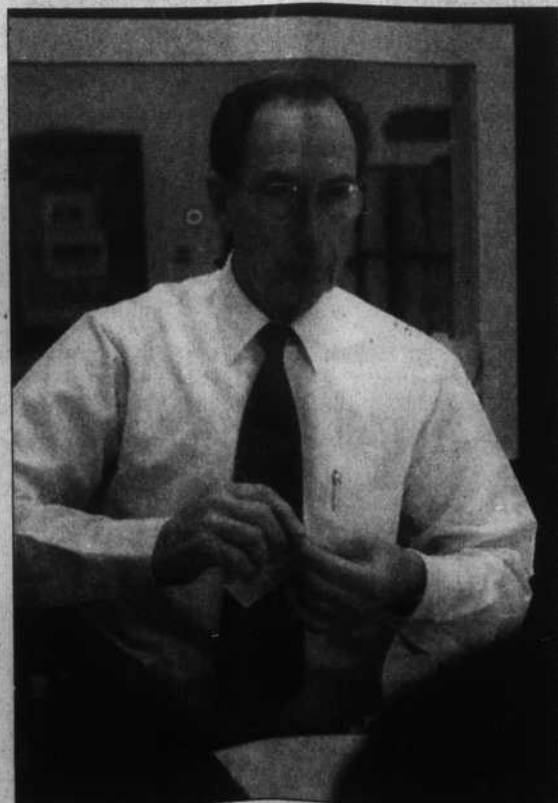
Welling's comment came after district resident Jenny Austin noted Welling last week had refused to accept the district chairmanship or its finance officer position. She said he had indicated he might not remain on the board through November.

"If you have that attitude, you ought to step down," Austin told Welling.

Last week, commissioners struggled to fill leadership positions after commissioner Lucille Laster resigned her duties as secretary and finance officer for the district. She told fellow commissioners she intended to move to a new home out of the district and asked board members to give her a three-year contract as district manager. She has not resigned her post as commissioner, though residency is a requirement of that job.

Welling and former district chairman James W. (Bubba) Smith wanted to hire Laster as manager, but commissioners Ginger Harper and

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Ron Law can now be contacted via Post Office Box One, Bolivia, NC 28422.

Postmaster closes box at Bolivia

Bolivia Post Office visitors will be missing a familiar face today as Ron Law is enjoying the first day of his retirement somewhere else.

Named postmaster of the Bolivia office in August, 1973, Law was on hand when the facility moved to the present site in 1976. Counting his previous service at Spring Lake, Law takes 33 years of experience into retirement with him.

Where does the Ohio native intend to spend his leisure years?

"Right here," Law said Monday.

He said a major reason for his decision to retire was to enjoy the company of two granddaughters. His decision to remain in Bolivia is based on its being located conveniently between the two grandchildren.

Shallotte's 100th year

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

On Saturday, Shallotte will be one hundred years old.

In observance of the event, a Centennial Celebration will be held March 5 to March 13.

Festivities will begin from 6 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 5, at Shallotte Middle School with an opening ceremony.

On Saturday, March 6, Shallotte's Main Street will host a Centennial parade, which begins at 10 a.m. at Jones' parking lot and ends at Shallotte Middle School.

Storytelling will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the middle school, and much more entertainment will follow at the middle school until 6 p.m.

The program includes Brunswick School of Dance and the West Brunswick High School Showgirls at noon; The Altarmen and Julie at 12:30; Shallotte Middle School Bell Choir at 1 p.m.; The Dance Connection at 1:30 p.m.;

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