

# CP&L Tops Tax List At \$3.9 Million

BY RAHN ADAMS  
Carolina Power & Light Co. headed the list of Brunswick County's largest taxpayers for 1987 and accounted for one-fifth of the county's tax base.

According to the Brunswick County Tax Administrator's office, CP&L's property in Brunswick County, which includes a nuclear power plant in Southport, was valued at almost \$778.5 million last year.

With the county's 1987 tax rate at 50 1/2 cents per \$100 valuation, CP&L's property taxes last year amounted to more than \$3.9 million.

That figure exceeded the combined tax amounts for the county's next four largest taxpayers: E.I. Dupont de Nemours & Co., N.C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEM-PA), Pfizer Inc., and International Paper Co.

According to Tax Administrator Boyd Williamson, Brunswick County's 1987 property valuation was \$3,878,181,448 with a tax levy of \$19,584,886.26.

Williamson said utility companies "represent about a billion dollars of the county's total tax base."

CP&L accounts for about 20 percent of the local tax base, while the 10 largest taxpayers in Brunswick

County make up about 37.5 percent.

Ocean Isle Beach developer Odell Williamson, Federal Paper Board Co., Bald Head Island Inc., Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC), and Sunset Beach & Twin Lakes rounded out the "Top 10" taxpayers list.

The list included only two changes from 1986: Dupont bumped NCEM-PA (See TOP, Page 2-A)

## 10 Largest Taxpayers For '87

PROPERTY OWNER	VALUATION	TAX AMOUNT
Carolina Power & Light Co.	\$778,449,597	\$3,931,170.48
E.I. Dupont de Nemours & Co.	242,170,011	1,222,978.75
N.C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency	232,057,531	1,171,890.53
Pfizer Inc.	62,379,333	315,015.63
International Paper Co.	30,856,589	155,825.81
Odell Williamson	30,056,089	151,784.04
Federal Paper Board Co.	24,632,050	124,391.86
Bald Head Island Inc.	23,317,353	117,752.73
Brunswick Electric Membership Corp.	16,614,372	83,902.58
Sunset Beach & Twin Lakes	16,369,096	82,765.02

SOURCE: BRUNSWICK COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Twenty-sixth Year, Number 9

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Shallotte, North Carolina, Thursday, January 7, 1988

25c Per Copy

24 Pages



INCUMBENT CLERK OF COURT Diana Morgan (right) was the first candidate to file for the May primary elections, as the filing period opened Monday

at the Board of Elections office in Bolivia. Also pictured is Lynda Britt, elections supervisor.

STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS

## Candidate Interest High As Filing Period Opens

Eleven county residents, including six incumbents, declared themselves candidates for public office Monday and Tuesday as filing began for the May primary election.

"I don't think I have ever filed this many (candidates) on the first day," said Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt.

But according to Britt, the opening day of filing Monday held with tradition, as mainly Democrats showed up to pay their filing fees.

She said eight of the nine candidates who filed Monday are Democrats, as are the two candidates who filed by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

In the Democratic District 1 commissioner's race, incumbent Chris

Chappell, 37, of Calabash Acres, filed for re-election. Major White, 47, of Ash, and Harold E. Hickman, 62, of Route 4, Shallotte, also filed for the District 1 seat.

No other commission candidates—including District 3 incumbent Jim Poole and District 4 incumbent Frankie Rabon—filed by Tuesday afternoon.

Board of Education incumbents Douglas W. Baxley, 41, of Shallotte, District 1, and Marvin McKeithan, 45, of Route 2, Bolivia, District 4, filed for re-election. Both are Democrats.

The District 3 school board seat held by incumbent Democrat James Forstner will also be decided this

year.

Frank Galloway, 26, of Bolivia, filed as a Democratic candidate for register of deeds, which is currently held by Democrat Robert Robinson.

In the Democratic race for clerk of court, incumbent Democrat Diana Morgan, 35, of Long Beach, and Joe Stanley, 36, of Shallotte, filed. Republican John R. Ramsey, 44, of Long Beach also entered the race.

County Coroner Greg White, 26, of Supply, filed for re-election.

State Rep. David Redwine, 40, of Ocean Isle Beach, also filed for re-election to his 14th District N.C. House seat.

The filing period closes at noon on Feb. 1.

## County Threatens Legal Action In Dispute Over Long Beach Water Rate

BY RAHN ADAMS  
"We'll do whatever's necessary to stand on our convictions," Long Beach Mayor Johnny Vereen said, after receiving word that Brunswick County Commissioners Monday threatened to take Long Beach to court if the town doesn't settle a water rate dispute with the county within a month.

"It sounds like the commissioners made it pretty clear by their action last night... They're trying to force us to pay it," Vereen said Tuesday, referring to the \$50,000 that the county contends the town owes for water.

During their regular meeting Monday night in Bolivia, county commissioners unanimously approved a motion by Commissioner Chris Chappell to instruct County Attorney David Clegg to settle the Long Beach water contract within 30 days or "seek legal

action against the town."

Commissioners also unanimously voted not to cut off water service to any Brunswick County water customer until the Long Beach dispute is settled, and delayed action on a proposed water leak policy.

Clegg said the rate dispute began about 1 1/2 years ago when the county raised its wholesale water rate to \$1.20 per 1,000 gallons and Long Beach continued "making timely payments" at the town's old contract water rate of \$1 per 1,000 gallons.

"The crux of the matter is it's the same old contract problem which we have addressed successfully with every other municipality," Clegg told commissioners. "They've been the holdout. All of our other municipalities operate under a water users' agreement."

But according to Vereen, Long

Beach officials feel the town's 1980 contract is still in effect, despite the county's contention that Long Beach's water rate was raised to help pay for expansion of the county's unified water system.

"We signed a bona fide contract with those folks (commissioners) in 1980," Vereen said. "We maintain we want to stick with the contract we've got... It didn't have any provision for being increased. They are in violation of the contract by trying to raise (the town's water rate)."

Vereen added that the town has received "nothing but complaints about the water," which is pumped from the county's old water plant on N.C. 211. He said the water tastes bad, has a high chlorine content and contains foreign particles.

Rabon's Motions  
The commissioners' discussion of

the Long Beach dispute, which was not on the meeting agenda, was initiated by Commissioner Benny Ludlum.

"I just feel like if a citizen can be cut off (for not paying a water bill), a town can too," Ludlum said.

An initial motion by Ludlum to give Long Beach 30 days to pay \$50,000 or have its water turned off failed by a 3-2 vote, with Commissioners Grace Beasley, Frankie Rabon and Jim Poole opposing the motion. Chappell joined Ludlum in support of it.

Before the vote, Clegg said, "I can definitely see some legal ramifications of it (cutting off Long Beach's water)... I think you'd be creating a considerable detriment to the health and welfare of a sizeable chunk of Brunswick County residents."

"I don't care what the legal standpoint is," Ludlum responded. "Water is water. Either cut them off or make them pay. That's just what we do to anyone else."

After his first motion failed and

Chappell's motion passed, Ludlum immediately moved that no county water customers be cut off from service until the Long Beach dispute is resolved. The motion passed unanimously, with little discussion.

Proposed Leak Policy

Earlier in the meeting, commissioners delayed action on a proposed policy that would allow financial relief when a major water leak occurs in a private line, creating a "financial hardship for the con-

(See LEGAL, Page 2-A)

## Bolivia Woman Charged With Husband's Murder

BY RAHN ADAMS  
Authorities Monday said they had uncovered no motives in a domestic snooting over the weekend that left a Bolivia area man dead and his wife charged with first-degree murder.

Brunswick County Sheriff John C. Davis said Billy Ray Randolph, 33, of Route 2, Bolivia, apparently died of a single gunshot wound to the chest in the 4 p.m. Saturday incident at the couple's Randolph Road residence.

Inez Mabel Hewett Randolph, 33, was arrested at the murder scene by sheriff's deputies after the shooting

was reported by the couple's neighbors, Davis said.

"We have no motive for it at this time," Davis said Monday. "Our investigation is still continuing. We're still questioning people."

Det. Larry Joyner is handling the investigation.

According to Davis, the alleged murder weapon was a 22-caliber rifle.

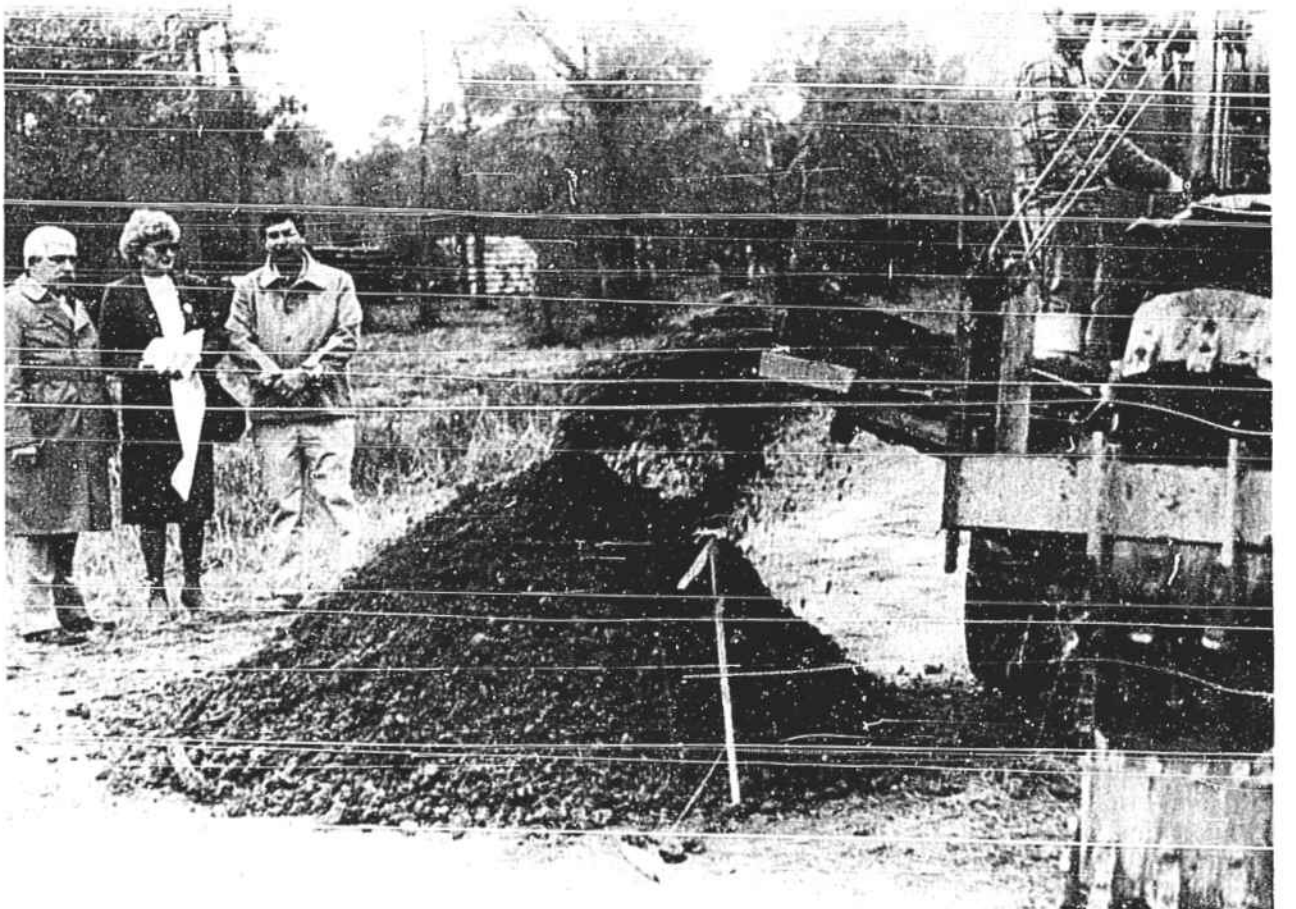
The victim's body was taken Monday from The Brunswick Hospital in Supply to the Regional Medical Examiner's office in Jacksonville for

autopsy, Davis said.

Ms. Randolph was charged with first-degree murder and is being held in the Brunswick County Jail without bond.

She made her first appearance in Brunswick County District Criminal Court Monday morning, at which time Judge William C. Gore set her probable cause hearing for Jan. 20, also in district court.

Shallotte attorney Roy Trest was appointed to represent Ms. Randolph, who stated in court that she was unemployed and had no income.



BRUNSWICK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (from left) Frankie Rabon, Grace Beasley and Chris Chappell watch as workers with Mark H. Johnson General Contractors begin digging the trench for the first water

line to be installed in a county special water assessment district. The groundbreaking ceremony was held Monday in Shangrila subdivision, which is part of S.A.D. 2.

STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS

## Student Bus Driver Suspended

BY RAHN ADAMS  
Officials at West Brunswick High School Monday suspended a student bus driver who was charged with driving while impaired during his afternoon bus route as school closed for the Christmas holidays.

West Brunswick Principal David Corley said Monday that Terry Trell Clifton, 18, of Shallotte, initially was suspended for 10 days, although school officials are considering a "long-term suspension."

"We are looking at some form of long-term suspension," Corley said, "but we're going to wait until the case is decided (in court)."

Corley said he would make a recommendation to Interim Superintendent John Kauffhold to extend Clifton's suspension if the stu-

dent is convicted of DWI. Clifton was scheduled to appear in Brunswick County District Court on Tuesday, Corley said.

According to the N.C. Highway Patrol and Sunset Beach Police, Clifton was arrested for DWI Dec. 18, after Bus 61—carrying at least 15 passengers—careened through Sea Trail subdivision off N.C. 179, damaging a fire hydrant and water pipe at a construction project. Damage to the bus was estimated at \$600 to \$700.

No one was injured in the incident.

Corley said Monday he also suspended eight other West Brunswick students who were "involved in drinking" that day on Bus 61. The suspensions ranged from five to 10 days, he said.

The students will not be allowed to ride the school bus for at least 12 weeks, and some will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities at school for varying periods, he said.

In addition to the nine students who were suspended, Corley said three "non-students" were involved in the Dec. 18 incident. Two of the three were students at West Brunswick during the last school year, while the third is a student at the Brunswick Alternative Center, he said.

Five girls on Bus 61 "were not involved," Corley said. "They were there but they weren't participating in the drinking activities." None of the five girls were disciplined, he said.

## Construction Work Begins On S.A.D Water Line Expansion

BY RAHN ADAMS  
After at least two years of planning, county officials saw water line construction begin this week in Brunswick County's first two special assessment districts.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Monday on the site of S.A.D. 2 in the Shangrila subdivision off N.C. 179 between Brick Landing Plantation

and Bent Tree Plantation.

According to contractor Mark Johnson of Fremont, materials were to be delivered Wednesday to S.A.D. 1, which is located in the North Holden Beach area.

Johnson's firm was low bidder on both projects, which have a combined cost of \$450,058.91.

Although the contractor has until

June to finish the projects, Johnson said Monday he expects work to be completed in three to four months.

Commissioners Grace Beasley, Chris Chappell and Frankie Rabon, and Utility Operations Board members Robert Nubel, Ed Gore and Jimmy Oldham were among the county officials to participate in Mon-

(See WORK, Page 2-A)