

Dana Shores residents seek cooperation

By BRUCE WITWER
Times Staff Writer

Dana Shores residents are beginning to believe that city-county governmental cooperation may be a myth.

The point was highlighted last week when residents asked Mayor Dick Greco's aide George Barrett at a civic meeting how they could go about getting city sewer services. Residents on the south end of the subdivision now enjoy this privilege.

EARLIER, A GROUP of dissatisfied residents of the push suburb asked the local legislative delegation to amend them out of the Tampa city limits, complaining they are taxed far — but don't receive — any municipal services worth mentioning.

Barrett said that an inter-governmental agreement, such as in effect in the northeast part of the county, would be one answer, or meetings with city and county officials on the matter another.

However, the possibility of city and county officials meeting appears remote at best. Politics seems to be one stumbling block.

ONE COUNTY official said commissioners are reluctant to agree with the city because they would be saddled with any complaints of service without really having jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, polluting of bay waters surrounding the subdivision continues at a rapid pace. Pollution Control Director Don Rogers termed it "very critical."

Barrett said the city could conceivably include Dana Shores within its upcoming fourth annual sewer bond program. The county is also studying the area for its own utility service.

Rogers also noted the possibility that the county would

not be able to market its sewer bonds and be in a jam that way.

COUNTY commissioner Rusty Rodriguez, sanitation committee chairman, said he does not feel county and city cooperation can be termed a "myth."

"THIS PROBLEM is eight years old and we've had many meetings on the subject," Rodriguez said. "The history of these past meetings have been that they are to no avail."

Rodriguez said attitude of local legislators to see consolidated government to a successful conclusion would forestall any immediate planning, which would allow linkup of services for Dana Shores residents.

The commissioner did note, however, that the county has not held any meetings on the subject with Greco.

"It might be the answer, we

ought to look into it," Rodriguez said.

Rogers explained one reason the county might be reluctant to talk with the city is that Tampa has dragged its feet on past inter-governmental agreements.

"It has caused the county to look with less than favor on cooperative ventures," Rogers said.

One official described the city and county as "two brothers on a farm who will work together in an emergency, but not readily."

"There needs to be more cooperation," Rodriguez said.

Rogers said he has had builders come into his office "with tears in their eyes" over scheduled city service in inter-governmental areas that never materialized.

Barrett said the city would be "more than willing to work with the county, if they've got anything to offer."

The residents at Dana Shores hope they have.

Would Medicaid help TGH woes?

By JUDY REDFERN
Times Staff Writer

Legislative passage of a Medicaid program might help ease the financial trauma of Hillsborough County hospitals — or it might not.

J. Danforth Brown, chairman of the Hillsborough County Hospital Council, told The Times today he is trying to avoid speculation on the effects of such a program, but noted that the bill faces much legislative opposition.

HE ALSO MENTIONED that New Mexico recently pulled out of its Medicaid program.

budget, I've been asked not to make any comment," he said.

The welfare and hospital budgets will be submitted to the hospital and welfare board in July.

The Medicaid bill is still in the house public health committee, but reports indicate it is near a favorable vote.

Medicaid would provide state and federal money for medical care for elderly persons who do not qualify as county welfare recipients but are not financially able to pay costly medical bills.

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