



EMERALD TIDINGS

Island Review

February 21, 2007 Print Edition

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Emerald Tidings, composed monthly by Town Manager Frank Rush, is the official newsletter of the Town of Emerald Isle.

Police Station Renovation and Expansion Design Finalized



The Emerald Isle Police Station will soon get its own "extreme makeover"! The Board of Commissioners recently reviewed and approved the design for a significant renovation and expansion of the Police Station, located at 7500 Emerald Drive.

The Police Department has occupied its current space at the east end of the Town Hall building for more than 20 years. The department has grown over the years, resulting in a cramped work environment

and a less-than-desirable setting for the public to conduct business with the Police Department.

The Police Department's 22 full-time employees currently occupy approximately 2,060 sq. ft. The plan calls for the Police Department to expand into the approximately 2,460 sq. ft. space currently occupied by Town Hall administrative staff, and both areas will be renovated to create a new, better organized Police Station consisting of approximately 4,520 sq. ft.

The renovated and expanded Police Station will include a new, larger public reception area; segregated work areas for Police administrative, communications, patrol, and investigative functions; improved holding, testing, and interrogation areas; a comfortable patrol room; and greatly improved evidence, property storage, and records

facilities.

The new Police Station is expected to meet the Police Department's needs for the next 10-20 years, with the current Town meeting room available for future expansion when needed. Town Hall administrative staff will be temporarily relocated (likely to the Town Hall meeting room) while a new Town administrative office building is constructed near the Town Hall tennis courts. The new Town administrative office building will house administrative staff, and be expandable for a future new Town meeting room when needed.

Construction of the Police Station renovation and expansion is expected to begin later this spring or summer. The Town intends to seek construction bids for this work in the coming months. Additional information about the temporary location of the Town Hall administrative staff will be announced in the coming months.

We look forward to completing this much needed project as we strive to maintain a well-equipped, well-trained, and professional law enforcement agency.

Carteret County Tax Office to Begin Considering Appeals of New 2007 Tax Values

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By now, all Emerald Isle property owners should have received a notice informing you of the new 2007 tax value assigned to your property. As reported earlier in Emerald Tidings, the 2007 tax values increased significantly all over Carteret County, especially in Emerald Isle where the Town's total tax value increased by approximately 192%.

If you believe that the new 2007 tax value assigned to your property is incorrect, you do have the right to appeal. The Carteret County Tax Office will begin conducting informal appeals later in February and March, and the deadline for filing an informal appeal is February 15. You should submit the form included with your new tax value notice and either mail or hand-deliver the appeal and any supporting information to the Carteret County Tax Office by February 15.

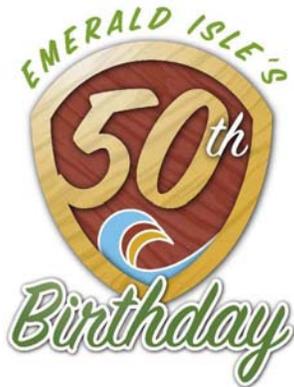
If you miss the February 15 deadline for informal appeals, or if you disagree with the decision made regarding your informal appeal, you do have the right to appeal to the County's Board of Equalization and Review, and independent body appointed by the Carteret County Board of Commissioners. Deadlines for filing an appeal to the Board of Equalization and Review will be announced in the coming months.

If you disagree with the decision made by the County Board of Equalization and Review, you then have the right to appeal to the NC Property Tax Commission. Appeals to the NC Property Tax Commission must be filed within 30 days of the decision by the Board of Equalization and Review.

For more information on the appeals process, contact the Carteret County Tax Office at 252-728-8485 or visit <http://www.co.carteret.nc.us/departments/taxdept/taxinformation.htm> .

## **Emerald Isle's 50th Birthday Celebration Continues - Upcoming Events**

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The Town of Emerald Isle is 50 years old in 2007, and many great events are planned to commemorate this milestone! Mark your calendars for these upcoming events commemorating the Town's 50th Birthday:

Thursday, February 8, 2007 - "Fish Tales" at Bogue Inlet Pier Arcade - 6:00 pm - Come share your stories about Emerald Isle's past, or simply listen to others' tales of bygone days in Emerald Isle. For more information, contact Diane Schools at 252-354-2916. Additional "Fish Tales" events will be scheduled later in the year, so stay tuned!

Friday, February 23, 2007 - "50s Sock Hop" - 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Community Center - Greasers, squares, prom queens, cheerleaders, and other 50s characters are all welcome for a night of sock hoppin' fun. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 252-354-6350.

Thursday, March 8, 2007 - "Irish Potluck Dinner" - 6:00 pm - Community Center - Dress in green, bring an Irish-themed covered dish, bring an instrument, and enjoy the fun! For more information, contact Diane Schools at 252-354-2916.

Saturday, March 31, 2007 - "Wooden Racquet Tennis Tournament" - 9:00 am - Town Hall Tennis Courts - Even if you're too young to remember playing tennis with a wooden racquet and white tennis balls, you'll enjoy this event! The tournament is open to all ages, with seeding to accommodate all ability levels. All are encouraged to dress in 50's tennis attire. Bring your own wooden racquet or use one of ours. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 252-354-6350.

Additional information about future events will be published in upcoming editions of Emerald Tidings. Planning for the grand celebration event, scheduled for a Saturday in September or October is underway, and details will be announced soon! For general information about the entire 50th Birthday celebration, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 252-354-6350.

Town of Emerald Isle Joins the E-Gov Community

The Town of Emerald Isle has a new link on its website (www.emeraldisle-nc.org) titled Citizen Online Services, which provides a new and easy way for residents and businesses to make suggestions, request information, and/or request action – any time of day or night by using the Internet. If you want to access it directly, the URL is www.egovlink.com/emeraldisle-nc. The program is hosted by E-Gov Link, a company in Cincinnati. E- Gov Link is currently being used by over forty communities, in twenty different states, and supports more than 1 million residents and businesses.

The program is very user-friendly. While not required, it's recommended that a first-time visitor to the Town of Emerald Isle E-Gov Link complete the online registration process. This process takes less than 2 minutes. Once a user is registered, the data will never

need to be re-entered in the future and the submitter will have easy access to their previously submitted action requests.

In addition to being an excellent method to communicate with local government, E-Gov Link is also a great tool for internal communications. The robust reporting structure, coupled with the automatic notification escalation process, gives each department the ability to monitor the work flow and to ensure that Action Line Requests submitted to their department are being processed efficiently.

In addition to the new Action Line, the Town of Emerald Isle will also be implementing E-Gov Link's Community Calendar and Document modules. The addition of these new E-Gov services will complement the existing line of Online Services such as Online Auctions, Online Bids & RFP's, Online Pier Donations, and Online Tax Payments.

The Town of Emerald Isle is committed to the continued expansion of our Online Services in order to meet the ever-growing desire from our citizens for better access and ease of communicating and obtaining information online. These new services will continue to be a work-in-progress. As we get a better feel from our citizens and businesses during the implementation phase of these new programs we will continue to be able to respond and improve our Online Services!

Please check out our new array of online services by visiting: <http://www.emeraldisle-nc.org/EGovernment.htm>

Seeking Pieces of Emerald Isle's History

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Do you have a little piece of history to share about Emerald Isle? We are seeking photos, stories, recipes, factoids, memorabilia, postcards, etc. about Emerald Isle to help commemorate Emerald Isle's 50th birthday. If you have a piece of Emerald Isle's history you would like to share, you can email digital copies to Stephanie Rudolph at [sgrudolph@yahoo.com](mailto:sgrudolph@yahoo.com) or Laura Lee Davis at [lsqrdavis@gmail.com](mailto:lsqrdavis@gmail.com) or you can mail your items to Laura Lee Davis at Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation, 7500 Emerald Drive, Emerald Isle, NC 28594.

Please mail or email all items prior to Thursday, March 1, 2007. All items will be returned to you following the birthday celebration. Be sure to include your name, address and telephone number with your submission. Help us celebrate 50 fabulous years by submitting your little piece of EI history! Call 252- 354-6350 for more information.

## New Village West Zoning District Coming Soon



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Town staff will present a draft ordinance to create proposed new Village West zoning districts to the Planning Board at their February 26 regular meeting. The draft ordinance, if ultimately approved by the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners, will implement the Village West vision for the Islander Drive area that was outlined in the Town's 2004 CAMA Land Use Plan.

The new Village West zoning district and Village West Conditional Overlay zoning district are modeled closely after the Village East and Village East conditional overlay zoning districts created by the Board of Commissioners in October 2006. The main idea behind Village East and Village West is to allow mixed use development (both commercial and residential) in the same area, and even in the same building, and to create a more "village-like" environment in these areas. Both the Village East and Village West areas are likely targets for redevelopment in the future, and the Town's goal is to create special and unique areas with an emphasis on public spaces and a sense of community.

As noted above, the Planning Board will review the draft ordinance at its February 26 meeting. Depending on the Planning Board's review, the Board of Commissioners is expected to consider the draft ordinance at its March 13 and/or April 10 meetings. Public participation is welcome and encouraged at both the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners meetings. For more information, contact the Planning and Inspections Department at 252-354- 3338.