
EMERALD TIDINGS

Island Review

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

FEMA Ophelia Beach Nourishment Project Complete!



Great Lakes Dredge and Dock completed the FEMA Ophelia Beach Nourishment Project in Emerald Isle on February 28. Work began on January 10 and continued throughout January and February.

The project resulted in the placement of more than 600,000 cubic yards of beach-quality sand on two distinct reaches of beach in Emerald Isle. Reach 1 covered the area between Conch Court and Lee Avenue, and Reach 2 covered the area between 6th Street and Connie Street.

This \$6.9 million project was financed by FEMA and the NC Division of Emergency Management. The project replaced sand lost to erosion during Hurricane Ophelia in September 2005. The replacement of this lost sand results in a wider beach that will provide additional storm protection if / when the Town experiences a future hurricane.

The sand used in the project is of excellent quality, and was dredged from the US Army Corps of Engineers' offshore disposal site for material dredged from the Morehead City Port shipping channel.

The Town is pleased to complete this beneficial project, and greatly appreciates the assistance of FEMA and the NC Division of Emergency Management.

More Sidewalks Complete

Additional sidewalk segments have been completed in several locations around Town as the Town continues its commitment to providing safe and enjoyable bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

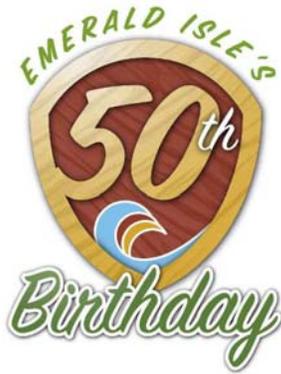
A new segment on the north side of NC 58 from Town Hall to Lee Avenue provides a safe pedestrian connection from the Archers Point area of Town to the Town Hall complex

and commercial areas. The completion of this segment results in a continuous 2.2 mile length of concrete sidewalks on the north side of NC 58.

Sidewalk "stubs" have also been completed at each of the Town's signalized intersections. These "stubs" connect the existing sidewalks and bike paths to the edge of NC 58. NCDOT is scheduled to install new pedestrian crossing signals and crosswalks at these locations prior to Memorial Day weekend.

The Town is pleased to provide these additional amenities, and continues planning for additional sidewalks and bike paths in the future.

More 50th Birthday Events!



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:

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.

March - August, 2007 - "Emerald Isle As You Know It" Photography Contest - Photographers are invited to submit images that capture the true spirit of Emerald Isle. Entry fee is \$10 per photo submitted, and individuals may submit up to three photographs in one division only. (Divisions are: Professional, Amateur/Adult, and Amateur/Youth.) Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third in each division; only one prize per household. Photos MUST be accompanied by an official entry form. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 252-354-6350. All entries must be postmarked by August 3, 2007.

Saturday, April 14 - "Surfer's Saturday" - 6:00 pm - Bogue Inlet Pier - Join us for this cookout at Bogue Inlet Pier! Come share your old pictures, old surfing stories, and other recollections about Emerald Isle's past, or simply listen to others' tales. All ages welcome. For more information, contact Diane Schools at 252-354- 2916.

Saturday, April 28 - "Dinner & a Movie" - 5:00 pm - Community Center - Alicia Baucom of Cape Carteret, winner of ABC's "Desperate Housewives, Desperate for Dinner" challenge, and Colleen Maloney, "Good Morning Eastern Carolina" anchor, team up to host an evening of delicious entertainment. The festivities begin at the wine tasting and cheese bar where you won't want to miss the opportunity to taste an absolute perfect pairing to Alicia's Shrimp and Grits entrée. Move from the wine tasting to your table and feast your eyes on a delectable demonstration of the evening's appetizer, entrée and dessert preparation. Linger over dinner and dessert while you take in a classic movie on the theatre-size movie screen. Tickets are \$50 per person and include wine tasting, appetizer, dinner, dessert, recipes, movie and a chance to win a classic raffle prize. 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 Improving Bogue Sound Accesses in Eastern Emerald Isle

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Public water access, stormwater management, and aesthetically pleasing facilities are all key goals of the Town of Emerald Isle. Over the past couple of years, the Town has been able to combine all three of these goals into projects at Bogue Sound public accesses in eastern Emerald Isle.

Through a combination of efforts by the Town's Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works Department, the street ends at 1st Street, 4th Street, 19th Street, 24th Street, and Park Street have all received major improvements. In each case, a new bulkhead has been installed to stabilize the shoreline and improve aesthetics. Where required, new steps have been installed to provide a safe route to the water's edge. Additionally, several of these areas have newly planted grass and /or a new catch basin to capture and infiltrate storm water runoff before it reaches Bogue Sound.

The Town has identified several other street ends on the east end of Town for similar improvements each year. The Town hopes to complete improvements at a minimum of 2 locations per year in the future.

**Carteret Literacy Council Offers FREE Tutoring**

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The Carteret Literacy Council currently has tutors available to work in the western area of Carteret County, including Emerald Isle. The Council provides free one-on-one tutoring in reading, writing, math, and English as a second language.

Interested persons are invited to call 252-808-2020 or email carteretliteracy@carteretliteracy.org.

EI Police Department Offers Cyber Safety Course

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The Emerald Isle Police Department will present "Cyber Safety - Protecting Our Children & Teens on the Internet" at Emerald Isle Town Hall in March.

Two sessions will be conducted to help parents better protect children and teens safe when using the internet. Topics to be covered include online predators, cyber-stalking, unwanted exposure to sexual material, child exploitation, and others.

A "parents-only" session will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at 6 pm. A second session for parents and children / teens is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20 at 6 pm.

**Don't Miss the 16th Annual Emerald Isle St. Patrick's Festival!**

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The Emerald Isle Business Association and the Town of Emerald Isle are proud to present the 16th Annual Emerald Isle St. Patrick's Festival on Saturday, March 17th from

9 am-5 pm at the Emerald Plantation shopping center. Admission and parking are free for the festival. Make plans to be in Emerald Isle for the festival!

An 8K Road Race sponsored by Emerald Isle Parks & Recreation Department will begin at 8 am at the Eastern Ocean Regional Access at 2701 Emerald Drive. The 8K course follows a simple out-and-back route from the access, briefly down Hwy. 58, and then along scenic Ocean Drive. Pre-registration forms and information for the race are available online at www.emeraldisle-nc.org or by contacting Dena Julius at 252-354-6350 or djulius@emeraldisle-nc.org. Registration and packet pick-up for the race will begin at 6:45 am at the access and will end sharply at 7:30 am, with no further entries being accepted after that time. Fees for the race are \$15 before March 13th and \$20 thereafter. The first 100 entrants will receive a free t-shirt and awards will be presented to participants in seven different age categories.

Gary Dean, FOX 8/FOX 14, Master of Ceremonies, will open the festival on Saturday at the Emerald Plantation shopping center at 9 am. This year's festival will feature over 75 arts and crafts vendors, food vendors, clowns and static displays, along with amusement rides, a climbing wall, face painters, and many other fun, family-oriented activities. As always, the festival will feature delicious foods such as corned beef and cabbage, shrimp burgers, hamburgers and hot dogs, Mediterranean cuisine, BBQ, funnel cakes, fried peanuts, cotton candy and much, much more. Festival goers can also enjoy a beer garden. New this year is "The Scrap Exchange"! The Scrap Exchange is a non-profit creative reuse program. This traveling, hands on arts program supplies materials and trained staff to provide kids of all ages the opportunity to use clean industrial discards to make games, toys, hats, costumes and more.

The Port City Pipes and Drums will parade throughout the day, adding a special Irish musical backdrop to the festivities, as other entertainers perform on three stages. The main "Gold Stage" will feature such artists as "The Karg Boys", "REEL TIME with Jennifer Shelton Licko," and "Sammy O'Banion with Mardi Gras".

The Little Ms. & Mr. Leprechaun Contest will take place on the main stage at 11 am. The contest is for boys and girls ages 2-3 and 4-5 with each participant being judged on the originality and creativity of their costume and overall stage presentation. Contest winners from each age category will receive a \$50 savings bond courtesy of Bank of America and RBC Centura. Contest organizers require pre-registration by 12 pm on Friday, March 16th and ask that participants be under the main stage's tent by 10:30 am on the day of the event. Please contact Laura Lee Davis at 252-354-6350 or ldavis@emeraldisle-nc.org to register. A separate "Emerald Stage" will feature entertainment from area acoustic artists. Kids will have a blast on the "Shamrock Stage" with clowns and karaoke.

Your Country 95.1 WRNS, BOB 93.3, and Carolina's Pure Rock ROCK 105 will be broadcasting live and interacting with the crowd with prizes and games. Be sure to put on your green and join your friends and family in kicking off the spring season with this fabulous event!

The festival actually kicks off on Friday, March 16th with the "Got to Be NC WRNS Homegrown Concert Series" presented by Goodness Grows in North Carolina. This special concert event will feature homegrown national recording artist Kellie Pickler. Kellie Pickler is from Albemarle, NC and will perform at the Emerald Isle Community Center. Doors open at 7:30 pm. Be sure to listen to Your Country 95.1 WRNS in the

coming days for ticket information. The only way to secure tickets for the event is through 95.1 WRNS.

For additional festival information contact the Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Department at 252-354-6350 or visit our website at www.emeraldisle-nc.org.