

Town of Emerald Isle

Mayor
Arthur B. Schools, Jr.

Mayor Pro-Tem
Floyd Messer, Jr.

Board of Commissioners
Pete Allen
Nita Hedreen
John Wootten
Maripat Wright



Visit our web site at www.emeraldisle-nc.org !

Town Manager
Frank A. Rush, Jr.
frush@emeraldisle-nc.org

Mailing Address
Town of Emerald Isle
7500 Emerald Drive
Emerald Isle, NC 28594

Voice 252-354-3424
Fax 252-354-5068

Emerald Tidings / Island Review – March 22, 2006 Print Edition

Do You Have Special Medical Needs During a Hurricane or Other Disaster?

Hurricanes are difficult times for all of us, especially those with special medical needs. Carteret County Emergency Services and the Emerald Isle Fire Department are teaming up to identify individuals with special medical needs so that we can make sure these needs can be met prior to, during, and immediately after a hurricane or other disaster. If you suffer from a disability, have ambulatory difficulties, need consistent medications, require electricity for medical equipment, or have other special needs, please contact us to be included on the Carteret County Special Needs Registry.

Carteret County Emergency Services can be reached at 728-8470, and the Emerald Isle Fire Department can be reached at 354-2445. Forms are available at their offices, and also at Emerald Isle Town Hall. The Town has also placed a Special Needs Registry Form on the Town's website at www.emeraldisle-nc.org. The form can be printed, filled out, and mailed to the Carteret County Emergency Services Department.

Don't Wait to Get Your Hurricane Re-Entry Permit!

Unfortunately, hurricane season will be here before we know it! Hopefully Emerald Isle will be spared this year, but if we are impacted by a hurricane you'll want to make sure you've got your Town-issued hurricane re-entry permit ready if needed.

The Town of Emerald Isle utilizes a hurricane re-entry permit system to assign priority for returning to the island if the Town is closed as a result of hurricane damage. The Town previously issued permanent hurricane re-entry permits to all property owners in Emerald Isle, and these permits allow residents and property owners to return to the island earlier than the general public if the island is temporarily closed after a hurricane.

The Town's re-entry permits are permanent permits, and are intended to be transferred with the property. If you sell your property, the re-entry permit should be transferred to the new owner. If you are purchasing property, please make sure the permit is transferred to you at the closing. If you are a long-term renter, please contact your landlord for the re-entry permit for your rental unit. If you do not have a permit, a replacement permit can be obtained from Town Hall at a cost of \$25.00. Conclusive proof of property ownership or residency (for renters) is required in order to secure a replacement permit.

The Town urges all residents and property owners to make sure that you have the necessary re-entry permit *well in advance* of an approaching hurricane. Town staff are always extremely busy preparing for an approaching hurricane, and at some point it becomes necessary to stop the issuance of hurricane re-entry permits. Prior to previous hurricanes, there were numerous residents and property owners who waited until the last minute to secure re-entry permits, and these individuals were unable to secure a re-

entry permit. Although recent storms did not result in a prolonged closure of the island, future storms may require the Town to temporarily close the island.

Please don't wait to get your re-entry permit! If you don't have a re-entry permit, please obtain one now at Town Hall! We're open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday.

Western Ocean Regional Access Parking Area to Be Paved

At its February 14 meeting, the Board of Commissioners awarded a contract to Onslow Grading and Paving, Inc. to pave the parking lot at the Western Ocean Regional Access (WORA) off of Islander Drive. The WORA is the Town's most popular public beach access facility, with ample parking, a bathhouse, picnic shelter, showers, and a volleyball court.

This project involves the paving of the existing gravel parking lot at the WORA and the construction of several landscaped "rain gardens" to control storm water runoff from the paved parking lot. The existing parking lot often becomes rutted and holds storm water in large puddles, and is not as aesthetically pleasing as desired for the Town's facilities. The layout of the gravel parking lot also sometimes results in haphazard parking patterns, and the new parking lot will have more clearly defined spaces and a better traffic pattern. A total of 203 parking spaces are included in the design of the new parking lot. The "rain gardens" will also improve the appearance of the facility, with approximately 40+ palm trees and other plants included in the "rain gardens" that will also serve as landscaped islands between rows of parking spaces.

Construction is expected to occur in March and April, and the new parking lot will be ready for use this summer season.

Emerald Isle Woods Park Construction on Schedule

The Town's contractor continues to make good progress on the construction of the new Emerald Isle Woods Park, and the new park is on schedule for a June 2006 opening. The park is located on 40 acres on the north side of Coast Guard Road, and is also a storm water retention facility for the Coast Guard Road area.

Blue Rock Structures, Inc., of Maysville, NC, is nearing completion of the new access road and main parking area, has cleared most of the new walking paths, and is nearing completion of the bathhouse / picnic shelter facility. Additional work to be completed includes the construction of a new Bogue Sound pier, elevated walkways to allow for an easier pedestrian route to Bogue Sound, and landscaping and aesthetic improvements at the park's entrance.

The Town is excited to offer this new nature park for our residents, property owners, and visitors. The project is funded by a \$250,000 grant from the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and a \$315,000 appropriation by the Town of Emerald Isle.

2006 Street Resurfacing Completed

The Town's total public street network consists of more than 46 miles of paved streets. The Town's goal is to resurface approximately 2.3 miles of public streets each year in order to maintain a 20-year life cycle for all public streets. The Town has been able to nearly meet or exceed this goal for each of the past 5 years. In order to achieve an economy of scale, the Town enters into a street resurfacing contract once a year in the spring.

The 2006 street resurfacing program is nearly complete. The Town's contractor has or will soon complete the resurfacing of slightly more than 2.0 miles of public streets this year, including 6th Street, 7th Street, 9th Street, 15th Street, N. 25th Street, Gregg Street, Georgia Street, Leslie Lane, Periwinkle Drive, Coquina

Drive, Azure Drive, Bluewater Drive, Indigo Drive, Live Oak Street, and small problem areas on Crew Drive, Block Drive, Coast Guard Road, and at Cedar Street Park.

The Town attempts to maintain all public streets in a safe, functional, and aesthetically pleasing manner. Please contact the Public Works Department at 354-4450 to suggest street segments in need of resurfacing and also to report any potholes in need of repair.

Update – The Point / New Bogue Inlet Channel

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the pictures below should be helpful in understanding the changes that have been occurring at The Point in Emerald Isle!

It has been approximately 10 months since the Town completed its project to relocate the main channel in Bogue Inlet, and the project appears to be performing well thus far. As reported previously, the Environmental Impact Statement for the project predicted that it would take 4 - 6 years for the old channel to fill in completely, and the Town is pleased with the progress thus far. Over 400 feet of new beach has accreted at The Point near the Town's former 4 wheel-drive beach access ramp, and the area continues to improve.

The new, centrally-located main channel also continues to function as intended, and has maintained depths of 10-25 feet since its completion. Based on survey data and aerial photography, the new channel is clearly the dominant channel in Bogue Inlet. A copy of the most recent survey of the new Bogue Inlet channel can be accessed at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/nav/inlets/bogueinlet.pdf>.

June 2004



June 2004



March 2006



March 2006



Pedestrian Access to The Point to Be Reopened in April

As a result of the significant accretion that has occurred at The Point, the Town will reopen the pedestrian access located at the former 4 wheel-drive vehicle ramp in April. The barricades will be removed, and a sand path will be placed over the sandbags at this location. Public parking is available at the Town's Station Street parking area located approximately 3 blocks from The Point. The Station Street parking area has space for approximately 16 cars.

The Town is pleased to reopen this area for pedestrian access, and hopes to reopen the 4 wheel-drive ramp soon.