

## Emerald Tidings / Island Review – June 18 Print Edition

### **Town Awarded \$250,000 Grant for Emerald Isle Woods**

The Town is pleased to announce that we have been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for park development at the new Emerald Isle Woods Park on Coast Guard Road. The Town was one of 38 local governments (out of 57 who applied) to receive grant funding in May 2003.

The Town is required to match this grant with \$250,000, and the local match will be included in the total financing plan for the Coast Guard Road Storm Water Project. The total project budget of \$500,000 will fund the construction of a new access road and parking, a bathhouse, additional trails and boardwalks over natural wetlands, a gazebo, a picnic area, landscaping, and other park amenities. The new park will eventually include a public dock on Bogue Sound and a canoe / kayak launch area as additional grant funds become available in the future.

The Town expects to begin design work on the new park within the next few months. All park improvements are required to be complete by June 2005, and the Town will be working diligently toward that goal.

Alesia Sanderson, our Parks and Recreation Director, was instrumental in securing these grant funds for the Town. Thanks to Alesia for her hard work to make Emerald Isle an even better place to play!

### **Town Awarded \$24,000 Grant for Dredging in Bogue Sound Drive Canal**

The Town has also been awarded a \$24,000 grant from the NC Division of Water Resources to perform maintenance dredging on the canal in the Bogue Sound Drive neighborhood.

Earlier this year, residents of the Bogue Sound Drive area requested that the Town apply for this grant to remove the excess sediment that impedes navigation at the western entrance channel of this canal. The project involves the dredging of approximately 400 linear feet of the western entrance channel to a depth of 4' at mean low water. The current depth of the channel at mean low water is 1' – 2', and makes navigation difficult and hazardous. A total of up to 2,000 cubic yards of material will be dredged from the channel and trucked away to a disposal site. No dredging of the eastern entrance channel or the remainder of the canal is planned at this time, however, the Town may consider additional dredging in these areas of the canal in the future if grant funds become available. The goal of this grant request is to maintain a safe and convenient navigation route for at least one of the two entrance channels connecting the canal to the open waters of Bogue Sound.

The Town will provide a \$6,000 local match with contributions from property owners in the neighborhood and/or the Town's General Fund. The Town Board of Commissioners will make this determination in the coming months. The Town expects to complete this project in the fall of 2003.

### **FY 03-04 Budget**

The Town Manager presented the Recommended Budget for FY 03-04 at the regular Town meeting on May 13. The Recommended Budget included a General Fund tax rate of 18.5 cents for FY 03-04, which is unchanged from FY 02-03. The Recommended Budget also included a \$5 increase in the annual solid waste fee, from \$130 to \$135.

The Town Board of Commissioners conducted several budget workshops in May and June, and has identified desired changes to the Recommended Budget. The most significant desired change is a reduction in the Town's General Fund tax rate to 17.5 cents per \$100. In order to achieve this tax rate reduction, the Board would at least temporarily, and perhaps indefinitely, eliminate the annual 1-cent contribution to the Town's Beach Nourishment Debt Service / Reserve Fund that is used to retire the beach nourishment bonds. The Town Manager projects a surplus in that fund after the bonds are retired, and the Board of Commissioners is considering using this projected surplus to reduce the General Fund tax rate.

The Board of Commissioners will make a final decision on the FY 03-04 budget by June 30 at the latest. FY 03-04 budget adoption could come as early as the Board's regularly scheduled meeting on June 10.

The Town is pleased that no tax rate increase will be necessary in FY 03-04 and the potential for a 1-cent tax rate decrease.

### **Town Clerk Carolyn Custy to Retire**

Long-time Town Clerk Carolyn Custy will officially retire on June 30, 2003. Carolyn has served the Town of Emerald Isle in multiple roles for the past 18 years, and she will be greatly missed at Town Hall.

Carolyn most recently served in the role of Town Clerk, having held that title since November, 1995. Carolyn has done a terrific job as the official custodian of Town records, serving as personnel administrator, and providing valuable assistance to the Town Manager, Town staff, and the elected officials. She is a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and the North Carolina Municipal Clerks Association. In November 2001, Carolyn achieved the distinguished title of Certified Municipal Clerk from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

The Town of Emerald Isle invites you to attend a special retirement reception for Carolyn in recognition and appreciation for her 18 years of loyal service and dedication to the Town of Emerald Isle. The reception will be held at Emerald Isle Town Hall on Thursday, June 19, 2003 from 5:30 PM until 7:00 PM. Light refreshments will be available. Please plan to attend and join with us in extending our thanks and well wishes to Carolyn!

### **Recent Staff Promotions**

Several Town employees were recently promoted to more responsible positions in Town government. Those promoted include:

John "Artie" Dunn – Public Works Supervisor to Public Works Director  
Ron Mizesko – Public Works Assistant Supervisor to Public Works Supervisor  
Steve Schneider – Public Works Laborer to Assistant Supervisor  
Rhonda Ferebee – Planning and Inspections Permit Assistant to Town Clerk  
Frank Johnson – Parks and Recreation Athletic Coordinator to Program Supervisor  
Danny Taylor – Parks and Recreation Labor Foreman to Parks Superintendent  
Alice McCormick – Parks and Recreation Landscape Specialist to Assistant Parks Superintendent  
Jessica Back – Police Dispatcher to Town Hall Receptionist

Congratulations to all of these Town employees for their past, present, and future hard work. The Town Manager, Mayor, and Board of Commissioners appreciate our employees' efforts to serve the citizens of Emerald Isle. The Town is extremely fortunate to have well-qualified individuals to promote to increasing levels of responsibility.

### **Inspections Tips –Heating and Air Conditioning Units**

*Permits Required.* The Town has recently received complaints that heating and air conditioning units are being installed over the weekend to avoid proper permitting. The North Carolina Mechanical Code requires a permit be obtained by a licensed mechanical contractor for installation of all new and replacement units, and that an inspection be done by a qualified building inspector after the unit has been installed. To avoid having someone other than a licensed contractor install a new unit at your property, insist that you see the permit prior to installation and be made aware of the inspection results. This procedure will protect you from any future safety or warranty issue that may result with improper installation of the system.

*Elevation Certificates Required in Flood Zones.* The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the North Carolina Mechanical Code requires a site elevation statement for the replacement of mechanical equipment such as heat pumps, air conditioning units, and air handlers for properties located in the flood zone areas.

All new construction and substantially improved structures are required to elevate the mechanical equipment two (2') feet above the base flood elevation (BFE) for that zone. Existing houses replacing mechanical equipment will be required to elevate the replaced unit to the BFE. A licensed surveyor must prepare the site elevation statement.

This process may take more than (3) days to complete, depending upon the availability of a surveyor. Property owners are advised to plan accordingly if a new or replacement unit is needed. It is also advisable to inspect your mechanical units on an annual basis to prevent failure and the need for an emergency repair.

Please contact the Planning and Inspections Department at 354-3338 for more information about heating and air conditioning units or other planning and inspections issues.

