

Island Review / Emerald Tidings – June 22, 2005 Print Edition

Phase I - Coast Guard Road Storm Water Project Nearly Complete!

Construction of Phase I of the Coast Guard Road Storm Water Project has been ongoing for the past 4 months and is nearly complete, with only minor items remaining. The Town is extremely pleased to complete Phase I of the project after several years of project planning and permitting work.

The Phase I project consists of the construction of drainage improvements on Fawn Drive, a new retention pond on Deer Horn Drive, the installation of storm water pumps in the Deer Horn pond and on Conch Court, and improvements to the 43-acre receiving site now known as Emerald Isle Woods Park. The \$500,000 construction project was funded with pay-as-you-go funding in the FY 04-05 budget, and was constructed by Thomas Simpson Construction Company of Morehead City. The receiving site, Emerald Isle Woods Park, was purchased by the Town in 2002 with the assistance of a \$2.4 million Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant and \$900,000 of Town funds provided over the past 3 fiscal years.

The drainage improvements on Fawn Drive and the Deer Horn pond are already providing benefits, and have adequately removed storm water from these areas during recent heavy rainfall events. The 2 new pumps (in the Deer Horn pond and on Conch Court) should be fully operational in mid / late June after final electrical connections are completed. The Town is anxious to put the full new system to work, which will be used as necessary during and after moderate and heavy rainfall events to mitigate chronic nuisance flooding in these areas.

The Town extends its sincere thanks to everyone involved in completing this important project, including the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Moffat & Nichol Engineers, and the various Federal and State regulatory agencies involved in the project. The Town also extends its thanks to the residents and property owners in these areas for their patience as the Town fully explored options for addressing these storm water issues.

The Town has applied for a \$1,250,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to construct Phase II of the Coast Guard Road Storm Water Project, which includes additional improvements to the Emerald Isle Woods site, and the construction of pumps and associated piping at Island Circle and 2 locations in Lands End subdivision. Depending on the outcome of the grant process, Phase II is tentatively scheduled for construction in FY 07-08.



This picture shows the discharge area and rock dike that will dissipate the energy from storm water pumped from the Deer Horn Drive and Conch Court areas. The pumped storm water will flow along the rock dike into a vegetated swale before being released into natural wetlands on the Emerald Isle Woods site.



The new retention pond on Deer Horn Drive receives storm water runoff from Fawn Drive that is conveyed via new catch basins and storm water piping, and receives storm water runoff directly from Deer Horn Drive. An intake in the bottom of the pond will allow storm water stored in the pond to be pumped to the Emerald Isle Woods receiving site on the north side of Coast Guard Road.

Town Moving Forward on Development of Emerald Isle Woods Park

With the Phase I storm water project nearly complete, the Town is quickly moving forward on the development of Emerald Isle Woods Park on Coast Guard Road. Over the course of several meetings and workshops over the past few months, the Board of Commissioners has unanimously directed staff to proceed with the selection of a park design consultant, and to proceed with plans to construct the new park during the next fiscal year.

The new park will include the construction of a new access road and parking, a bathhouse, trails and boardwalks over natural wetlands, sound access, a gazebo, a picnic area, landscaping, and other park amenities. The estimated \$500,000 project is being funded 50% by a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant and 50% by Town funds, which will be included in the annual Town budget and funded on a pay-as-you-go basis.

The Town expects to have a park design consultant selected in June, and design work should be complete later this fall. Construction is expected to begin later this fall, and the new park should be complete and fully open to the public by June 2006.

Police Department Gets Some New Wheels!

The Emerald Isle Police Department began using its new "GEM" car for patrol activities over the Memorial Day weekend, and continues to use the vehicle throughout the summer. The "GEM" car is a small, electric-powered car that reaches top speeds of 25-30 mph, and is able to travel efficiently through tight and congested areas.

The new vehicle is especially useful in the main business area, the Bogue Inlet Pier area, the Islander Drive area, on the new bicycle path and sidewalks, and in campgrounds and RV parks. Acting Police Chief Bill Hargett purchased the new vehicle in order to improve the Police presence in these areas and promote more citizen interaction with the officers. Look for the new "GEM" car and the EIPD officer around the Town assisting our residents and visitors, and on patrol to maintain a safe and inviting environment in Emerald Isle!



Mayor Will Now Serve a 4-Year Term

The Board of Commissioners recently completed a lengthy process to amend the Town Charter to change the Mayor's term from 2-years to 4-years. This change will be effective for the winner of the November 2005 Mayor's election. The elected Mayor will then serve a term until November 2009.

With this change, 5 of the 6 elected positions in Emerald Isle will now serve 4-year terms. The Board of Commissioners serve staggered 2-year and 4-year terms, with 4 of the 5 members serving for 4 years and the 5th member serving a 2-year term. This arrangement allows for the election of 3 Commissioners every 2 years.

New Sign at Eastern Town Limits

The Emerald Isle Business Association and the Town of Emerald Isle have partnered together to erect a new sign welcoming visitors to Emerald Isle at the eastern Town limits. The new sign will be located near mile marker 12 on NC 58 and will greet visitors coming from Indian Beach, Pine Knoll Shores, Atlantic Beach, and other points east. The new sign is in the same style as the welcome sign at the base of the Emerald Isle bridge, but is smaller due to space constraints. The new sign expresses Emerald Isle's hospitality, and also reminds visitors of the main business district 6 miles ahead.

The Town is fortunate to have an excellent working relationship with the Emerald Isle Business Association. We encourage all residents and visitors to frequent the businesses in Emerald Isle for all your needs!

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

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.

Most Fireworks Are Illegal – Make Sure You Follow the Law!

Under NC state law, any fireworks that explode or fly are illegal. The Emerald Isle Police Department receives many fireworks complaints each summer, and will aggressively enforce fireworks violations this summer. These illegal fireworks are a severe safety hazard to persons and property in Emerald Isle, particularly during southwest winds that blow from the ocean and have the potential to blow fireworks onto structures. The Police Department will confiscate illegal fireworks, and will charge offenders with a fine up to \$500.00.

Town Fireworks Display – July 4 at Bogue Inlet Pier

The Town's annual Independence Day fireworks display, co-sponsored by Bogue Inlet Pier, will be held on Monday, July 4 beginning at 9:15 pm. Fireworks will be set off from the end of Bogue Inlet Pier, in the 8500 block of Emerald Isle. In case of inclement weather, the fireworks display will be held on Tuesday, July 5. Come on out and enjoy the fun!