

Emerald Tidings / Island Review – September 17 Print Edition

Town Implements New Yard Waste Service Beginning October 6

The Town will implement a new and improved yard waste collection service beginning on Monday, October 6, 2003. The new service will be offered more frequently, with less effort required by our property owners, and for less cost than the current service.

The Town's current service has been contracted out for several years, and involves manual loading of yard waste onto a truck. Yard waste is currently collected on the first and third Wednesday of each month, and the yard waste must be prepared in segments not exceeding 4 feet in length or 5 inches in diameter. In recent years, the Town has received complaints and concerns from property owners about the limited frequency of the Town's yard waste collection service, and it has also become increasingly difficult for the Town's contractor to meet the increasing demands for service with only 2 collection days per month. Yard waste piles are also often improperly prepared, which results in the pile remaining on the public right of way for a longer period of time than desired.

The new service will utilize a new automated brush truck that can be operated by one Town employee. Delivery of the new truck is anticipated in early / mid-September, and will be deployed to provide the new and improved service beginning Monday, October 6. The new and improved service will be provided as follows:

- The Town will continue to require property owners to call in yard waste collection points and get on the Town's collection list. It is important to call in yard waste collection points because it is not cost-effective for the Town to drive over 60 miles of public and private streets each week. Please note that anyone (the property owner or a neighbor) can call in the yard waste collection point by dialing 354-3424 during normal business hours. Requests can also be made via email by visiting www.emeraldisle-nc.org.
- The Town will now collect yard waste every Monday. This new schedule will provide more frequent collection (4 times per month) and will also help to remove yard waste piles immediately after weekend cleanup work by our property owners.
- The Town's current guidelines require yard waste to be assembled in 4ft. segments that are no larger than 5 inches in diameter in order to be picked up. The new guidelines will be maximum 8 ft. long segments with no limit on the diameter. This should make it easier for our property owners to prepare their yard waste for pickup. The new automated truck will be able to pick up the larger yard waste items with no difficulty.
- Please note that the Town will continue to require loose yard waste to be bagged or containerized. It is not cost-effective to pick up piles of loose yard waste, and this also does not leave the area neat and clean after pickup.
- The Town's service is available for developed lots only. The yard waste collection service is funded 100% by the Town's annual solid waste fee, and this fee is paid by the owners of developed lots only.
- The Town does not collect construction debris. This debris can be disposed of at the Newport Transfer Station on Hibbs Road (between US 70 and NC 24) in Newport.

We believe the new service is a tremendous improvement over our current yard waste collection service, and we hope our property owners will agree. This new service will actually cost the Town less than the current service provided by the Town's contractor. The Town has estimated annual savings of approximately \$5,000 - \$10,000 with the new service.

Please contact Town Hall at 354-3424 to schedule a pickup or if you have questions about the new service.

Emerald Isle's "Dog Days of Summer" Celebration – Saturday, September 27, 2003

The Emerald Isle Business Association, in conjunction with the Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Department, is sponsoring the first "Dog Days of Summer" celebration on Saturday, September 27, 2003. The event will be held at the Western Ocean Regional Access (on the oceanfront next to the Islander Motor Inn and Queen's Court Condominiums) from 10 am to 5 pm.

This family event will feature classic rock and roll music from The Funatics, a volleyball tournament, sand castle building contest, horseshoe tournament, and hot dogs, drinks, and ice cream! A fishing derby will also be held at Bogue Inlet Pier! Please contact the Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Department at 354-6350 or visit www.emeraldisle-nc.org/dogdays for more information!

Make plans to spend a great fun-filled family weekend in Emerald Isle!

New Elevated Water Tank Planned

Bogue Banks Water Corporation (BBWC), a separate non-profit entity serving Emerald Isle, Indian Beach, and Salter Path, unveiled its plan to construct a new elevated water storage tank in western Emerald Isle during the August 2003 Town meeting.

BBWC presented its plan to construct a 500,000 gallon tank at the corner of Ocean Oaks Drive, Pinewood Place, and Coast Guard Road next spring in order to improve water pressure at the western end of Emerald Isle and boost storage capacity. The new tank will be identical to the two existing elevated water tanks in central and eastern Emerald Isle, and will be approximately 140 feet high. The purpose of BBWC's presentation was informational only, as the Town's zoning ordinance permits the erection of an elevated water storage tank anywhere in Emerald Isle. BBWC has owned the Ocean Oaks site, which also serves as a well site, for several years, and this site is well-situated to address water pressure concerns in western Emerald Isle.

In response to concerns from nearby property owners in the Ocean Oaks subdivision, BBWC agreed to consider, and the Town agreed to investigate the use of its new Emerald Isle Woods site (a 41 acre tract across from Sea Dunes subdivision that will be used for storm water management and a new passive park) for the new elevated water tank.

Because the Emerald Isle Woods site was purchased primarily with grant funds from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the Town must secure approval from the Trust Fund's Board of Directors in order to use the Emerald Isle Woods site.

Town staff and BBWC officials have identified a 1-acre area at the Emerald Isle Woods site that is a suitable alternative location for the new water tank. The proposed alternative location maintains a substantial vegetative buffer around the base of the new water tank, and does not negatively impact planned storm water and park improvements. The Town will submit a request to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund Board of Directors for consideration at their September 22 meeting. If the use of this site is approved, the Town will consider a long-term, low cost lease agreement with BBWC to allow them to use the Emerald Isle Woods site for the new elevated water storage tank.

Town Election – November 4

Elections for Mayor and all 5 seats on the Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, November 4 at the Emerald Isle Community Center. The deadline to register to vote is October 10, 2003. Voter registration forms are available at Town Hall, and must be submitted to the Carteret County Board of Elections in Beaufort by October 10.

This year's election is the first under the new staggered terms system approved by the voters of Emerald Isle in a referendum held in November 2002. The Mayor will continue to serve a 2-year term, however, the terms of the 5-member Board of Commissioners will be staggered. The 2 candidates with the highest vote totals in the November 4 election will serve 4-year terms on the Board of Commissioners, while the other successful candidates will serve 2-year terms.