

## **Emerald Tidings / Island Review – September 22, 2004 Print Edition**

### **Project Update - Coast Guard Road Flood Water Project, Phase I**

The Town opened bids for Phase I of the Coast Guard Road Flood Water Project in July, but was disappointed to learn that the low bid was more than \$300,000, or 100%, over the engineers' cost estimate and the Town's project budget. The Board of Commissioners rejected all bids, and directed the Town's engineers (Moffatt & Nichol) to explore options to reduce the project cost and re-bid the project later this fall. The Town Manager and the engineers are hard at work on revised plans and specifications, and the Town will solicit new bids in early October.

The revised plans and specifications will again include solutions to chronic flooding on Fawn Drive, Deer Horn Drive, and Conch Court, however, we are hopeful that several design changes will result in a much more affordable cost for the project. The Town's goal is to award a construction contract in November, with work beginning soon thereafter. The goal is to have the project completed and operational by Easter 2005.

Additional updates on this important project will be included in future editions of Emerald Tidings.

### **Town Adopts New Beach Driving Regulations**

Citing their desire to make the beach more accessible to surf fishermen, older individuals, and handicapped individuals, the Board of Commissioners adopted new regulations governing beach driving at its August regular meeting. Driving on the beach will now be allowed from September 15 until April 30 each year, with the exception of the 10-day period from Good Friday until the Monday one week after Easter Sunday.

The Board also extended the daily hours that beach driving is authorized. Beach driving will now be allowed from 5 am until 9 pm daily during the beach driving season. The Board retained the requirement for beach drivers to obtain a special permit from Town Hall, and made minor modifications to the fees for these permits. Fees for beach driving permits for those under age 65 are \$40 for residents & property owners, and \$80 for non-residents & non-property owners. Those over age 65 (regardless of residency or ownership) and handicapped individuals are eligible to receive a free beach driving permit.

Please contact Town Hall at 252-354-3424 or visit Town Hall during normal business hours to request a beach driving permit application. You can also download the permit application from the Town's website, [www.emeraldisle-nc.org](http://www.emeraldisle-nc.org), and then fax it to Town Hall at 252-354-5068. Please note that you must also call Town Hall if you choose to fax the permit application. Permit applications must be submitted (either in person, via fax, or via US mail) during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 am – 5 pm), but the Town will make arrangements for pick-up of approved permits after normal business hours with proper payment.

For more information, please contact Town Hall during normal business hours.

### **Town Partners with Island Cat Allies to Control Feral Cat Population**

The Town recently agreed to partner with Island Cat Allies, a local volunteer group, to attempt to control the feral cat population in Emerald Isle in a more sensitive, humane manner. Island Cat Allies is now the Town's exclusive service provider for the collection of feral cats that are captured by our residents & property owners and dropped off at Town Hall.

The following write-up was submitted by Island Cat Allies to better educate the community about its mission and programs:

### Island Cat Allies

Cats outdoors. It's a fact of life. It doesn't have to be a sad fact. Feral cats are "wild" or untamed, either due to birth or reversion from domestication to a wild state. Feral cats are not interactive with humans (such as a stray would be), have no known owner, and should always be handled with caution.

Feral colonies are primarily the result of uncontrolled breeding that occurs when pet owners abandon or fail to spay or neuter their animals. Once the breeding begins, the colony grows in members very quickly. The kittens that are born become more afraid of humans with each litter. It is the beginning of a terrible, lonely life for these kittens, unless a caregiver steps in to start a colony management program.

Island Cat Allies is making its mark in our community. They are managing colonies with a daily feeding and watering program, and making major accomplishments with a Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, & Return program by trapping the cats and having them spayed or neutered to stop the breeding cycle. Cats are earmarked (or ear-tipped) for identification as members of a registered feral cat colony. This is a very important feature of the program. If you see a feral cat with a tipped ear, you can be assured that it has been altered, vaccinated, and is being monitored-----WITH THE GOAL OF ZERO-POPULATION GROWTH AS THE CATS DIE OUT THROUGH NATURAL ATTRITION. In cities throughout the US, the trap-neuter-return (TNR) policy has been proven effective and considerably less expensive than euthanasia. It's simple. It's humane. And it works! A difference can be made and HAS been made. In only a little over a year's existence, Island Cat Allies has altered over 350 cats, thus preventing hundreds more kittens. They have successfully placed over 70 kittens in adoptive permanent homes.

Why support the feral cat program? Unmanaged feral cats can be a nuisance. Community members who volunteer don't have sufficient personal resources to impact the entire problem; and a partnership between the Town and the feral colony caretakers is the best means of protecting public safety, health, and welfare. You can be a part through financial contributions to the ISLAND CAT ALLIES organization (\$35-\$50 will sponsor one kitty) or by becoming a member of its feral cat network. Other ways YOU can help are: provide foster homes for feral kittens awaiting adoption - become a neighborhood colony caretaker - provide safe outdoor homes for feral adult cats (inexpensive storage totes with an opening cut out for a door and filled with straw work extremely well) - provide discounted veterinary services - assist with TNR efforts - donate cat food for feral colonies - link your Food Lion MVP card with Island Cat Allies; email us your information or just log on to [www.foodlion.com](http://www.foodlion.com) under fundraising.

Feral cats are not feral by their choice. Feral cats are feral because of poor human choices. Please promote TNR and support feral cats through you action and voice.  
YOU MAY BE THE ONLY FRIEND THEY EVER HAVE....

ISLAND CAT ALLIES

PO BOX 4068

EMERALD ISLE, NC 28594

<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/NC241.html>

Islandcatallies@yahoo.com

Island Cat Allies also has kittens available for adoption, and you can pick out your new pet by visiting the Island Cat Allies website. "Little Judy" (right) and "Maxine" below are two of the Island Cat Allies' cats currently looking for a good home!



### **Land Acquired for Future Park Development; “McLean-Holz Park”**

The Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Association, Inc., a non-profit organization created by the Town, recently took ownership of an 8-acre tract of land adjacent to Chapel-By-The-Sea near mile marker 18. The property was donated by the William B. McLean family, under the leadership of Paxon Holz, for church parking and future soundside park development.

The name of the new park will be “McLean-Holz Park”, and initial steps to open the property up for public visitation and the clearing of wax myrtles to enhance the sound view will occur in the coming months. Future park development activities will occur under the guidance of the Parks and Recreation Association's Board of Directors, and will be dependent on the availability of grant and Town funding. Pete Allen, Clay Olsen, and Bernie Whalley were recently appointed as the inaugural Board of Directors, and they're already hard at work to add yet another waterfront access location in Emerald Isle!

The Parks and Recreation Association, Inc. and the Town extend a sincere thanks to the McLean family, and especially Paxon Holz, for this land donation.

### **Dog Days Celebration and First Annual Emerald Isle Triathlon Set for September 25**

The Emerald Isle Business Association is the proud sponsor of the 2nd Annual Emerald Isle Dog Days Celebration on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 9am-5pm at the Western Ocean Regional Access in Emerald Isle. Parking and admission are free.

This year's celebration begins with the first annual Emerald Isle Triathlon at 8am, sponsored by the Emerald Isle Parks & Recreation Department, at the Eastern Ocean Regional Access at 2701 Emerald Drive. This run-swim-bike Sprint Triathlon includes a 750 meter swim in the Atlantic Ocean, 12 mile bike ride and a 5K (3.1 mile) run. Race timing / results will be handled by Young and Associates of Raleigh. Proceeds from this event benefit the Emerald Isle Parks & Recreation Department and Emerald Isle Business Association's chosen charities. Registration forms and information for the Triathlon are available online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). For additional information, please call the Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Department (Frank Johnson) at 252-354-6350.

The Dog Days Celebration itself will take place at the Western Ocean Regional Access (located between the Queen's Court Condominiums and Islander Motor Inn) in Emerald Isle. A 4-on-4 Volleyball Tournament begins at 8 am and runs throughout the day on the two sand volleyball courts at the access. A Bocce Ball Tournament will start at 10 am. There'll be lots of fun for kids with a Kid's Fishing Derby (starting at 9 am at the Bogue Inlet Fishing Pier), Sandcastle Building Contest (at the Western Ocean Regional Access at 1 pm) and Surfing Lessons (provided by Mike Crews of Hot Wax Surf Shop)!

Live entertainment begins at 11 am with DJ Linwood Hood who'll be spinning up a wide variety of music from beach music to country to pop for your enjoyment. At 1 pm be sure to be at the event when Sammy O'Banion with Mardi Gras take the stage to turn it out -- don't miss their high energy performance! Put on your dancing shoes! Also, Kitty West will take the stage after Sammy to entertain adults and children alike with her talented and unique acoustic originals and

covers.

Be sure to join us with your friends and family for this fabulous event! For additional Dog Days Celebration information contact the Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Department at (252) 354-6350 or email [fjohnson@emeraldisle-nc.org](mailto:fjohnson@emeraldisle-nc.org).

### **Town Employee Spotlight – Police Lt. Jeff Waters**

One of Emerald Isle's finest, our own Lieutenant Jeff Waters enjoys meeting and talking to the many different people who live and visit our area on a daily basis, taking pride in providing safety, security, and service to our community.

Jeff has lived in Cape Carteret all of his life, graduating from West Carteret High School and then attending Basic Law Enforcement Training. Jeff began his career with the Emerald Isle Police Department in 1984 as a Patrolman and now serves the Town as Police Lieutenant. Jeff also serves our community as DARE Officer, beginning his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of teaching the 17-week program at White Oak Elementary School. During this 17-week program Jeff spends one day a week at White Oak Elementary School where he works with 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and their teachers, culminating in a graduation ceremony for the students. Jeff is extremely popular with the kids at White Oak as well as the teachers, and provides a wonderful role model for the students.

Jeff spends as much time as possible with his family, his wife Niki, and two sons Chandler and Chase, and attends church regularly. In addition, Jeff is a gospel singer with his own group called *His Redeemed*. His group has released two albums, with his wife Niki writing many of their songs.

Emerald Isle is fortunate to have employees with this level of dedication and commitment to our citizens, residents, and visitors.

