

Emerald Tidings / Island Review – October 20, 2004 Print Edition

Permits Received for Bogue Inlet / Western Nourishment Project; Construction Bids Solicited

After 28 months of hard work by many people, the Town has now received all required Federal and State permits for the Bogue Inlet / Western Nourishment Project. The Town is currently soliciting construction bids for the project, and these bids are due on October 25. If the bid process proceeds as planned, the Town will award a construction contract by November 1, and the dredge should arrive later in November or December to begin work. The entire project is expected to take up to 3 months to complete, and must be completed no later than March 31 in order to comply with permit conditions.

The project involves the dredging of a new main channel in Bogue Inlet approximately 3,500 linear feet west of the existing homes on Bogue Court, approximately halfway between Emerald Isle and Hammocks Beach State Park (Bear Island). The new channel will vary in width from 150 to 500 feet, will be approximately 7,000 feet long, and will be constructed at initial depths of -11.5 to -13.5 feet. Approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards of sand will be removed from the new channel, and 800,000 cubic yards of this material will nourish the ocean beach between Lands End and Pinta Drive. The remaining 200,000 cubic yards of material removed from the new channel will be used to construct a dike to block the flow of the existing channel. The total construction budget is approximately \$4.1 million, and is being financed with General Obligation bonds approved by the Town's voters in 2002.

The project is expected to nearly immediately relieve erosion pressures at "The Point" and provide a high quality sand source for the Western Phase beach nourishment project, all for the same cost as each project would cost as a "stand-alone" project. The Town's consulting engineers predict that the existing channel will completely fill in naturally over the next 4-6 years, and that a significant new spit will re-form on the west end of Emerald Isle.

The Town is pleased to have completed the permitting process, and is eager to begin construction of this important project. The Town believes the project is a win-win for everyone, as it will 1) relieve erosion pressures at The Point, 2) provide high quality sand to nourish the western beach, 3) improve navigation through the inlet, 4) provide additional bird, turtle, and plant habitat on the re-formed spit, and 5) enhance public access to perhaps the most beautiful location in Emerald Isle.

Town Proceeding with Mass-Rezoning to Low-Density Residential

In accordance with one of the key recommendations in the Town's 2004 CAMA Land Use Plan, the Town has embarked on a mass-rezoning of properties currently zoned Residential Motel-Hotel (RMH) to Residential-2 (R-2). Although both zoning districts are primarily residential in nature, RMH allows multi-family residential (up to 8 units per acre), motels, hotels, and limited business uses in addition to single-family and duplex units. R-2 allows single-family and duplex residential units only.

Many areas of Emerald Isle, including the vast majority of the Coast Guard Road corridor, residential areas near Emerald Plantation, the Seagull / Black Skimmer area, the Purdie / James / Ethel area, Bluewater Bay, and the Scotch Bonnet / Ebb Tide / Sea Crest / Summer Place area are currently zoned RMH, however, they are primarily developed with single-family and duplex residential units. The Town is seeking to rezone these areas to R-2 to insure that remaining vacant parcels in these areas, and any redevelopment, will be developed as single-family and duplex units only.

The Board of Commissioners approved the rezoning of the first RMH area at their September regular meeting. All properties in the area between 21st Street and 23rd Street are now zoned R-2. The rezoning of the other RMH areas will occur in various phases over the next year, with a goal to complete the rezoning of one small RMH area each month.

For more information, or to view maps of the areas targeted for rezoning, please call (252-354-3338) or visit the Planning and Inspections Department.

New Pedestrian / Bicycle Bridge Completed

Parks and Recreation staff recently completed the construction of a new 6 ft. wide pedestrian / bicycle bridge over the creek on Loblolly Street. The new bridge provides an easy route for residents on the sound side of the creek to get to the beach and to access the "downtown" commercial area.

The new bridge is part of the Town's overall goal to improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities in Emerald Isle, and ties into the new sidewalk constructed along Emerald Drive. The Town hopes to construct additional pedestrian / bicycle bridges over the creek in the future as funds become available.

Property Owner Donates New Computer System to Fire Department

Mrs. Delanie Webb, 313 Ocean Drive, recently donated a new computer system to the Emerald Isle Fire Department. This gift is valued at nearly \$1,500, and will improve the Fire Department's administrative capabilities.

Mrs. Webb donated the new computer system to express her gratitude to the Emerald Isle Fire Department following a March 2002 emergency call at her home. Mrs. Webb credits the professional and timely assistance of the Fire Department, and Police dispatchers and EMS personnel, with saving her life.

Mrs. Webb donated the new computer system in the memory of her close friends Rita and Bill Dunn of Wilson, NC. The Fire Department and the Town are grateful for Mrs. Webb's generosity, and look forward to productive use of the new computer system by the Fire Department.

EMS Volunteer Celebrates 25 Years of Service to Emerald Isle

Emerald Isle EMS' George Foster recently celebrated 25 years of service to the residents, property owners, and visitors to Emerald Isle. George has been an invaluable member of the Emerald Isle EMS squad, and has selflessly given a great deal of his time, expertise, and concern to help others in times of need.

The Town of Emerald Isle and Emerald Isle EMS are fortunate to have George's commitment and service for the past 25 years, and express our gratitude to George for his efforts. George was recently awarded a "25-Year Pin" by the North Carolina Association of Rescue Squads and EMS at their annual meeting in Winston-Salem on September 26.



Keep Your Septic System Functioning Properly

Emerald Isle does not have a central wastewater collection and treatment system, and the vast majority of homes and businesses on Emerald Isle utilize on-site septic systems to treat and dispose of wastewater. You can keep your system functioning properly, and extend its life, by following the advice below:

- Learn the location of your septic tank and drainfield, and keep a sketch of it handy with your maintenance record.
- Have your septic system inspected annually by a qualified professional.
- Call a professional whenever you experience problems with your system, or if there are any signs of system failure.
- Conserve water to avoid overloading the system. Be sure to repair any leaky faucets or toilets.
- Divert other sources of water, like roof drains, away from the septic system. Excessive water keeps the soil in the drainfield from naturally cleansing the wastewater.
- Don't allow anyone to park or drive over any part of the septic system.
- Don't plant anything over or near the drainfield except grass. Roots from nearby trees and shrubs can clog and damage the drain lines.
- Don't dig in your drainfield or build anything over it, and don't cover the drainfield with a hard surface such as asphalt or concrete.
- Don't use your toilet as a trash can or poison your septic system and the groundwater by pouring harmful chemicals and cleansers down the drain. Harsh chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria that treat your wastewater.
- Don't flush coffee grounds, dental floss, disposable diapers, kitty litter, sanitary napkins, tampons, cigarette butts, condoms, fat, grease, oil, or paper towels into the septic system. These items can overtax the septic system and lead to malfunction.

For more information about proper operation and maintenance of your septic system, contact the Carteret County Health Department at 252-728-8499, or contact the Planning and Inspections Department at 252-354-3338.