

# Town of Emerald Isle

*Mayor*  
Arthur B. Schools, Jr.

*Mayor Pro-Tem*  
Floyd Messer, Jr.

*Board of Commissioners*  
Pete Allen  
Nita Hedreen  
Robert Isehour  
John Wootten



*Town Manager*  
Frank A. Rush, Jr.  
[frush@emeraldisle-nc.org](mailto:frush@emeraldisle-nc.org)

*Mailing Address*  
Town of Emerald Isle  
7500 Emerald Drive  
Emerald Isle, NC 28594

*Voice* 252-354-3424  
*Fax* 252-354-5068

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## Emerald Tidings / Island Review – November 16, 2005 Print Edition

### Don't Miss the 2006 Emerald Isle Holiday Parade!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Emerald Isle Holiday Parade, presented by the Emerald Isle Business Association, will be held on Saturday, November 26 beginning at 4:00 pm. The parade route begins at the intersection of NC 58 and Mangrove Drive (near CVS and K&V Plaza) and runs along NC 58 through the main business district to the Town Hall complex. Bring your lawn chair and line the parade route, and then join in for the official Emerald Isle Christmas tree lighting ceremony, caroling, and refreshments after the parade at Merchants Park.

The 2004 parade was a huge success, and attracted a wide variety of parade floats from Emerald Isle and beyond. The crowds were great, with the parade route lined with many residents and visitors. Don't miss this year's parade, as it promises to be even bigger with more floats and a bigger crowd! Please help us continue and improve this new holiday tradition in Emerald Isle!



The Emerald Isle Police Department leads the 2004 Emerald Isle Holiday Parade on November 27, 2004.



Santa Claus makes an early visit to Emerald Isle on November 27, 2004!

### **Construction Contract Approved for Emerald Isle Woods Park**

The Board of Commissioners authorized a contract for the construction of the new Emerald Isle Woods Park at its October regular meeting. The Board's authorization clears the way for park construction to begin in the coming weeks, and the new park is expected to be complete by June 2006.

The Board approved the construction contract with Blue Rock Structures, Inc., Maysville, NC, after a competitive bid process resulted in Blue Rock Structures as the low bidder. Further negotiations resulted in a total contract cost of \$476,000 for the planned park improvements. This contract is partially funded by a \$250,000 grant from the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.

The new park includes construction of an access road, parking areas, a new sound side pier, nature trails, a bathhouse, picnic shelter, and other amenities. The Town looks forward to the completion of the park, which represents another step toward improving public access to the sound side of Emerald Isle.

### **Town's Storm Water Pumping to the Beach Explained**

After receiving approximately 8-10 inches of rain from Hurricane Ophelia, and another 10-12 inches of rain from the remnants of Tropical Storm Tammy a few weeks later, the Town was faced with numerous storm water problems, particularly in the Coast Guard Road area of Town. As a result, the Town initiated temporary pumping activities in many locations in an effort to lower the water levels from both public and private streets in this area. While much of the storm water was pumped to other inland locations in Emerald Isle, extreme conditions required the Town to pump some of the storm water to the beach strand for a limited time. For those of you who may wonder why the Town pumps storm water to the beach in certain areas at certain times, and not in other areas at other times, this explanation should help.

Under current Federal and State regulations, the Town is essentially prohibited from discharging storm water through new fixed pipe and/or ditch systems to the ocean and the sound. There are a few older fixed pipe and ditch systems that do discharge to the beach and sound, however, new discharges can no longer be permitted due to water quality concerns. Current regulations do allow temporary pumping and discharge to the beach strand, but only in cases where the water is deep enough over the street to impede emergency vehicles from responding to calls. After Ophelia and Tammy, the Town began pumping to the beach strand in 3 areas of Town that suffered from

significant storm water ponding that would likely impede emergency vehicles. These 3 areas were in the vicinity of Ocean Drive near Deer Horn Drive and Doe Drive, from areas near the Lands End clubhouse, and near The Point in the areas of Island Circle and Wyndtree Drive. In each of these cases, and on multiple occasions during September and October, the water was at a depth that would likely impede emergency vehicles, and because there was no outlet for the storm water in these areas, the Town had no other alternative than pumping to the beach strand. The Town regularly communicates with the appropriate State agencies when pumping occurs, and did so again during these events. The Town ceased pumping to the beach strand once the storm water flooding in these areas was under control and the roads were passable.

Other areas of Town that experienced storm water flooding did not justify pumping to the beach under current regulations (i.e., the water was not deep enough to impede emergency vehicles), and the Town sought the use of other inland locations as a receiving site for pumped water. Problem areas on Coast Guard Road at the entrance to Spinnakers Reach, interior areas of Spinnakers Reach, interior areas of Dolphin Ridge, and the Osprey Ridge area were pumped to other inland locations, however, full clearance was delayed in some cases by the limited number of pumps available and in other cases by the limited receiving capacity of the receiving sites. The Town's new storm water system for the Fawn Drive, Deer Horn Drive, and Conch Court areas worked very well and eliminated storm water problems at these locations in a matter of hours. Water from these locations was pumped to the Emerald Isle Woods Park site.

Although the storm water problems persisted longer than any of us would like, the Town's Public Works Department was able to get the worst problem areas under control as quickly as possible given the circumstances. The Town's Public Works Department put in many long hours, and was extremely dedicated to resolving the problems as quickly as possible, and their efforts are appreciated. The Town recognizes that some property owners were inconvenienced for a longer period of time than desired, however, please recognize that the Town has not experienced this much rainfall in such a short period of time in any of the previous hurricane events. Any community in any part of the country is likely to experience some storm water problems after 20 inches of rainfall in less than 3 weeks. We're all fortunate that there was no structural damage as a result of the storm water flooding that was experienced, and we're also fortunate that the problems were resolved as quickly as they were.

As noted above, Phase I of the Town's Coast Guard Road Storm Water Project worked very well, and the Town is currently awaiting notification on the status of a \$1.25 million grant request to construct additional pumps and related improvements at 2 locations in Lands End and at Island Circle that comprise Phase II. Phase III involves the construction of pumps at 2 locations in Spinnakers Reach, and is targeted as a longer-term project. Construction of these projects should enable the Town to resolve flooding issues much quicker in the future, and also reduce the need for occasional pumping to the beach strand.

### **Emerald Isle EMS Offers Reflective Address Signs**

Every second counts in an emergency, and the Town wants its emergency responders to be able to find our residents and visitors as quickly as possible in their time of need. A quick emergency response depends on many factors, however, one way to help promote a quick response is to make sure that the address of your residence is clearly visible from the street – either on your structure and/or near your driveway.

To help make it easier to find the correct address, Emerald Isle EMS is currently sponsoring a Reflective Address Sign Program for Emerald Isle residents and property owners. For a \$15 donation, Emerald Isle EMS will have a reflective address sign manufactured with your house number in 3" reflective white numbers on a 6" x 18" green background. The signs will be mounted by Emerald Isle EMS volunteers at the street in front of your house, preferably on your mailbox or newspaper box stand, and installation is included in the \$15 donation.

For more information, visit Emerald Isle EMS at their station at 218 Cedar Street or call 252-354-2249. Please take a moment and drive down the street to your residence and put yourself in the shoes of an emergency responder who is trying to find your residence at night, in a rainstorm, etc. and who doesn't have a prior understanding of which residence is yours. Ask yourself if you've made it as easy as possible for an emergency responder to find you or your guests without wasting precious time. If identifying your residence may take up that precious time, then contact Emerald Isle EMS and order your reflective address sign today!