

Emerald Tidings / Island Review – November 19 Print Edition

Bicycle Path Project Set to Begin

The Town will soon begin work on the construction of a 1.4 mile bicycle path along NC 58 through the central part of Town. The new bicycle path will be a 10 ft. wide asphalt strip, and will wind along the expansive right-of-way on the south side of NC 58 from Coast Guard Road east to Merchants Park. Efforts will be made to preserve natural vegetation and wind the new path through existing large trees.

Detailed design work for the new NC 58 Bicycle Path will be completed in November and December, and construction bids will be solicited in December. The Town hopes to begin construction of this project in January or February, with a planned completion date prior to the 2004 Easter holiday. The total project budget is \$130,200, and a grant from the NC Department of Transportation will cover \$104,160, or 80% of the total project cost. The Town's \$26,040 local match has been included in the FY 03-04 budget approved by the Board of Commissioners in June.

Town Donates Surplus Fire Engine to Sea Level Fire Department

The Town recently declared a 1983 mini Fire pumper truck as surplus, and had intended to auction this truck along with other Town surplus items at the Town auction scheduled for November 22 at Town Hall. After Hurricane Isabel, the Town learned that the Sea Level Fire Department in Down East Carteret County was operating with no fire apparatus due to damage from Isabel. Recognizing an opportunity to assist one of our neighboring communities in need, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to donate the surplus 1983 truck to Sea Level Fire Department. The surplus truck was delivered to Sea Level in mid-October, and has been put to good use to protect the people of the Sea Level community.

Official Draft EIS for Bogue Inlet Project Released- Public Hearing on December 8

The Bogue Inlet Channel Relocation Project took another important step forward in November with the release of the official Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The release of this document is the culmination of many months of hard work by the Town's consultant, Coastal Planning & Engineering, and the various members of the Project Development Team assembled to identify potential issues associated with the project. The release of the official Draft EIS initiates the formal federal review process that we hope will culminate with the issuance of necessary permits for the project by August 2004. The project will relocate the main Bogue Inlet Channel approximately 3,000 ft to the west and away from threatened homes and public infrastructure at The Point. Construction is expected to begin in November 2004.

A formal public hearing on the Draft EIS has been scheduled by the US Army Corps of Engineers for Monday, December 8, 2003. The public hearing is an opportunity for members of the public to express their opinions on the project and the Draft EIS. The public hearing will begin at 6:00 pm at the Emerald Isle Community Center next to Town Hall. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

Water Tank Land Swap Approved by Clean Water Management Trust Fund

The Clean Water Management Trust Fund Board of Trustees has approved the Town's request to use approximately 1.1 acres of the 43.2 acre Emerald Isle Woods tract for Bogue Banks Water Corporation's new elevated water tank. CWMTF Board approved this request at their October 20 meeting in Jacksonville, and applauded the Town's efforts to replace the 1.1 acre water tank site with a total of 4.3 acres.

The Town must still secure approval from the North Carolina Council of State to remove a conservation easement from the 1.1 acre tract before the water tank land swap can be completed. This item will appear on the NC Council of State's December 2, 2003 agenda. Assuming a favorable decision, the Town will complete all land transactions in mid-

December.

Construction of the new elevated water tank is expected to begin this winter and be complete by the 2004 prime tourism season.

Proper Preparation of Yard Debris

The Town’s new yard debris collection service, utilizing the new yard debris truck, is working well thus far. Public Works employees are now collecting yard debris every Monday of each month.

The new truck utilizes a mechanical arm to collect yard debris piles from the roadside, and this mechanical arm is controlled by joysticks mounted behind the cab of the truck. The mechanical arm extends several feet into the air, and can pick up entire large piles in one motion. While the new truck is much more cost-effective, there are a few guidelines that our property owners must follow in order to help us maximize the cost-effectiveness of this service. These guidelines are:

- Yard debris piles should be placed at the roadside, and the property owner must contact Town Hall at 354-3424 or yardwaste@emeraldisle-nc.org to schedule a pick-up.

- Limbs should be cut to maximum 8 ft. lengths. There is no limit on the diameter of limbs.

- Yard debris piles should be located away from overhead power lines if at all possible. It is much easier and safer for our employees to maneuver the mechanical arm where there are no power lines present.

- Yard debris piles should also be located away from mailboxes, fences, live trees, and other potential obstructions if at all possible. This will reduce the potential for damage to these items and the truck, and will also enable our employees to be more efficient.

- Loose yard waste must 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.

Thank you for your cooperation. The Town is pleased to be able to provide this service to our property owners.

General Fund Tax Rate Comparison - North Carolina Beach Communities - FY 2003-2004

Emerald Isle is fortunate to have high quality municipal services at a low, affordable tax rate. Emerald Isle has the 5th lowest General Fund tax rate of all beach communities in North Carolina.

Rank	Municipality	Tax Rate Per \$100 Value
1	Sunset Beach	\$ 0.120
2	Wrightsville Beach	\$ 0.143
3	Indian Beach	\$ 0.160
4	Ocean Isle Beach	\$ 0.160

5	Emerald Isle	\$ 0.175
6	Holden Beach	\$ 0.180
7	Pine Knoll Shores	\$ 0.180
8	Southern Shores	\$ 0.180
9	Duck	\$ 0.200
10	Caswell Beach	\$ 0.210
11	Atlantic Beach	\$ 0.230
12	Topsail Beach	\$ 0.270
13	Kure Beach	\$ 0.295
14	Surf City	\$ 0.350
15	Oak Island	\$ 0.365
16	Nags Head	\$ 0.378
17	Carolina Beach	\$ 0.380
18	Kitty Hawk	\$ 0.380
19	Kill Devil Hills	\$ 0.425
20	North Topsail Beach	\$ 0.450
21	Bald Head Island	\$ 0.465