



Town of
EMERALD ISLE
N O R T H C A R O L I N A

RESIDENTS & VISITORS GUIDE
EFFECTIVE MAY 2010

Welcome to Emerald Isle



Thanks for choosing Emerald Isle as your permanent or part-time home, or for selecting Emerald Isle as your annual vacation destination.

We are all so fortunate to enjoy the peaceful natural environment and plentiful outdoor recreational opportunities in and around Emerald Isle. Our picture-perfect beaches, the majestic ocean and maritime forests, the pristine waters of Bogue Sound, outstanding fishing, and fun-filled boating opportunities make Emerald Isle a great place to raise a family, enjoy your retirement years, or escape to your second home. Others choose Emerald Isle for their precious annual week-long vacation or for a wonderful weekend getaway.

We at the Town of Emerald Isle recognize how special this place is for so many people, and we all work diligently to provide the highest quality services in the most cost-effective manner, so that we can maintain and enhance the quality of life for everyone living in or visiting Emerald Isle. The Town

of Emerald Isle continually strives to “make Emerald Isle an even better place than it already is!”

In addition to our precious natural environment and bounty of recreational opportunities, Emerald Isle is made great by the many wonderful people who make up a thoughtful and caring community. Our residents, and those who work here, take great pride in Emerald Isle, and are committed to its continued success.

The community places high value on its “family beach” image, and is committed to maintaining a “small-town atmosphere.” In fact, approximately 80% of the land area in Emerald Isle is developed as single-family residential neighborhoods, and we have carefully designed land use policies to strike a balance between environmental protection, quality neighborhoods, and personal property rights. This balance has served our community well over the years, and continues to do so today.

We are also committed to ensuring

adequate public water accesses. The Town boasts more than 100 public water access locations to the beach and sound, with more than 500 total parking spaces. The Town is also partnering with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission on the largest public boat launch facility on the North Carolina coast, and with the North Carolina Aquariums for the development of a new concrete ocean fishing pier.

The people who make up the community of Emerald Isle come from all over North Carolina and the United States, and collectively bring many valuable life experiences and talents to the Town. We have a caring respect for our military service men and women, value hard work and personal responsibility, respect the natural environment, and exhibit care and concern for others. The Emerald Isle community is active in many area volunteer efforts and routinely rallies around such great causes as disaster relief, ALS research, public school programs, and many more. We are also a very physically active community, and you'll often find our residents and guests outdoors enjoying the water, our numerous parks, and our growing number of bicycle and pedestrian paths and facilities.

The Town is also fortunate to have a growing number of quality small businesses ready to serve our residents, property owners and visitors. We offer first-

class vacation rental agencies, great local restaurants (featuring outstanding seafood), and a variety of shopping opportunities. Beyond Emerald Isle, the entire Crystal Coast area of Carteret and Onslow counties includes many additional amenities for our residents, property owners and visitors to take advantage of.

The Town of Emerald Isle appreciates your interest in our island community, and stands ready to assist you with any inquiries or concerns. We hope this Residents and Visitors Guide will serve as a helpful aid and enhance your experience in Emerald Isle. We also urge you to visit the Town's website, www.emeraldisle-nc.org, for comprehensive and current information about Town services, programs and projects.

The Town of Emerald Isle's leaders and staff are committed to exceptional customer service, and welcome the opportunity to serve you. Please feel free to call on us if we can be of assistance. We hope you enjoy your stay in picture-perfect Emerald Isle, whether it's for just a weekend, or for as long as a lifetime.



Emerald Isle Government



The Town of Emerald Isle operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The five members of the Board of Commissioners are elected for staggered four-year and two-year terms. The Mayor is elected separately for a four-year term. The Board of Commissioners determines the Town's official policies, adopts the annual budget, and establishes the Town's tax rates.

The Board of Commissioners appoints the Town Manager and the Town Attorney. The Town Manager is ultimately responsible for the day-to-day management of all Town services, programs and projects, and all Town department heads report directly to the Town Manager.

The Board of Commissioners meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 6pm in the Town Board Meeting Room located at 7500 Emerald Drive. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings, and the Board always welcomes public comment.

The Town organization includes the following departments:

Mayor and Board of Commissioners 252-354-3424

Located in the Town Administration Building, 7509 Emerald Drive

Note that the Mayor and Commissioners keep limited office hours, but can also be reached at home or via email. Visit www.emeraldisle-nc.org for contact information.

Administration 252-354-3424

Located in the Town Administration Building, 7509 Emerald Drive

Includes the Town Manager, Town Clerk, finance, tax collection, trash and recycling collection, and general customer service functions.

Planning and Inspections 252-354-3338

Located on the west side of the Police Station, 7500 Emerald Drive

Responsible for administration and enforcement of all Town development regulations, the NC building code, and Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) regulations.

Police Department**252-354-2021 • dial 911 for emergencies***Located in the Police Station,
7500 Emerald Drive*

Proactive Police patrol, emergency response, criminal investigations, community relations and public education, and beach strand patrol.

Fire Department**252-354-2445 • dial 911 for emergencies***Fire Station One located at 7516 Emerald Drive, Fire Station Two located at 2810 Emerald Drive*

Fire response and suppression, assistance with emergency medical calls, fire inspections, emergency management, water rescue, and beach strand patrol.

Public Works 252-354-4450*Located behind Fire Station One*

Street maintenance, sidewalk maintenance, storm water management, beach strand trash collection and recycling, public buildings and facilities maintenance, yard debris collection, white goods collection and mosquito control.

Parks and Recreation 252-354-6350*Located at the Community Center, 7500 Emerald Drive (off Leisure Ln)*

Community Center operations, bicycle paths, athletic programs, arts and cultural classes, beach access and sound access maintenance, parks maintenance and special events.

Emergency Medical Services

A separate non-profit corporation, Emerald Isle EMS, Inc., provides emergency medical services at the paramedic level of care. EMS is funded by the Town and operates out of the Town-owned EMS Station located at

7604 Emerald Drive. EMS can be reached at 252-354-2249 for non-emergencies. Call 911 for emergencies.

Public Water

A separate non-profit corporation, Bogue Banks Water Corporation, provides drinking water for Emerald Isle and nearby Indian Beach. Bogue Banks Water is located adjacent to the Police Station and can be reached at 252-354-3307. There is no centralized wastewater treatment system in Emerald Isle, with individual septic systems used for most residential units. Some multi-family and commercial developments rely on small package treatment plants that discharge into the soils.

**STAY INFORMED ABOUT
TOWN GOVERNMENT**

The Town strives to keep our residents and visitors informed about the Town's issues, activities and projects. Here are several ways to stay informed:

- Visit the Town's website at www.emeraldisle-nc.org for all the latest news and information about the Town, as well as other comprehensive information about the Town.
- Join the Town's email list (available on the main page at www.emeraldisle-nc.org) for monthly newsletters, special alerts, and timely hurricane information.
- Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/townemeraldisle.
- For tourism related content, find us on Facebook at Friends of Emerald Isle.
- Attend a Town Board meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm. Public comment is welcome and encouraged.
- Call the main Town number at 252-354-3424. If you don't know an answer to a question, or are unsure about something you have heard, please call us and ask. We are always glad to help.

Emerald Isle Facts & Figures



The Town of Emerald Isle was incorporated in 1957.

The land now known as Emerald Isle was purchased in 1951 by a group of seven developers from the Red Springs, North Carolina area. They paid \$350,000 for the entire area.

The Emerald Isle high rise bridge was opened in 1971, replacing the ferry in Cape Carteret that transported people to and from the island.

The 1960 census indicated a total of 14 people living in Emerald Isle. The State of North Carolina's 2008 population estimate was 3,887 full-time residents. The Town's peak seasonal population reaches 40,000 in the summer.



By several measures (including land area, population, housing units and total taxable value), Emerald Isle is among the largest of North Carolina's 21 oceanfront municipalities.

Emerald Isle has south-facing beaches, and is oriented east-west.

The Town is approximately 12 miles long from the Indian Beach Town line to the tip of "The Point" at Bogue Inlet.



The width of Emerald Isle ranges from less than a quarter-mile wide in the east, to nearly one mile wide in the west.

The total land area in Emerald Isle is approximately 3,400 acres.

The Town includes more than 6,500 housing units. Approximately 30% of the Town's housing units are occupied by permanent residents, with approximately 70% serving as seasonal homes and/or vacation rental units.

More than 80% of the land area in Emerald Isle is zoned for single family and duplex residential development only.

Emerald Isle occupies roughly the western half of the island known as Bogue Banks. Other municipalities on Bogue Banks include Indian Beach, Pine Knoll Shores, and Atlantic Beach. Unincorporated Salter Path is located in the middle of the Town of Indian Beach.



For most residential lots platted after 1977, the minimum lot size is 12,500 square feet, which is relatively large for barrier island communities in North Carolina.

The Town has long required that all new residential developments maintain approximately 35% of the lot in a natural condition, with only removal of underbrush permitted.

Water quality is excellent all around Emerald Isle, and all of the adjacent waters in Bogue Sound are classified as Outstanding Resource Waters by the State of North Carolina.



The Town's 2009 General Fund tax rate of 7.0 cents per \$100 of taxable value was the second lowest of all 21 oceanfront municipalities in North Carolina.

The Town's FY 2009-10 General Fund budget was approximately \$6.7 million. The budget for other Town funds, including beach nourishment purposes, was an additional \$2.4 million.



The community's number one priority is to maintain a "small-town atmosphere" and remain "a family beach!"

Important Town Regulations

The following regulations apply throughout the Town in locations off the beach strand. Questions about these regulations can be directed to the Town Manager's office at 252-354-3424, Planning and Inspections Department at 252-354-3338, or the Police Department at 252-354-2021.

- **Building height limits** in Emerald Isle are 40 feet for residential structures, and 50 feet for commercial structures. Limits are based on mean roof height, calculated as the average of the peak and eave. The Town is committed to low building heights.

- **Building permits** are required for almost any construction activity associated with your home. Please contact the Planning and Inspections Department at 252-354-3338 to make sure you've secured the proper permits.

- **Construction activities** are not permitted between 7pm and 7am daily, nor are they permitted on Sundays.

- **Discharge of firearms** is strictly prohibited in the Town limits. Hunting is not permitted.

- **Dogs** must be kept on a leash at all times. Dog excrement must be collected and removed by the dog's owner.

- **Dunes and vegetation** must be preserved on 35% of the lot area for all new residential construction. No alteration of topography is permitted in the 35% area, and only vegetation with a diameter less than three inches may be removed from the 35% area.

- **Fireworks** that leave the ground and/or explode are illegal. The Police Department will confiscate any illegal fireworks and file appropriate charges.

- **House numbers** should be prominently displayed on the front of the home or at the front property line so that they are easily visible to emergency responders. Numbers should be a minimum of four inches in size and should contrast with the background.



- **Motorized vehicles**, with the exception of those providing mobility assistance for handicapped individuals, are not permitted on the Town's bicycle paths and sidewalks.

- **No parking zones** are in effect in many locations around Emerald Isle. Violators will receive a citation and may be towed at the owner's expense.

- **Noise restrictions** are in effect at all times, with particular emphasis on the period from 11pm to 7am daily.

- **Political signs** are permitted on private property only (not on public right-of-ways), cannot exceed 16 square feet, and can only be in place 90 days prior to an election and up to 10 days following the election.

- **Real estate FOR SALE signs** are limited to one per structure and are limited to four square feet.

- **Real estate OPEN HOUSE signs** are permitted off-site with restrictions.

Contact the Planning and Inspections Department at 252-354-3338 for details.

- **Skateboarders** are only allowed on private property with the permission of the property owner. Skateboarders are permitted to use the Town's bicycle paths and sidewalks.

- **Storm water management** measures are required for all new construction, including single family homes, to manage runoff from at least the first two inches of rainfall.

- **Vacation rental signs** are limited to one per structure, are limited to four square feet, and must be affixed to the structure.

- **Yard sale signs** are permitted at the location of the sale and to direct people to the sale, but cannot exceed six square feet nor obstruct the view of vehicles and pedestrians. Yard sale signs must be removed within two hours after the conclusion of the sale.

Town Services



Provided below, in alphabetical order, is information regarding many of the Town’s key services, along with a contact number for the appropriate Town department. In addition to contacting specific departments, residents and visitors are welcome and encouraged to contact the **Town Manager’s office at 252-354-3424** for assistance if necessary.

**Beach Patrol 252-354-2445 or 252-354-2021
Call 911 for emergencies**

The Fire Department’s Beach Patrol provides general assistance and information, and enforces Town ordinances on the beach strand during the summer. The Police Department also assigns officers to the beach strand for State law and Town ordinance enforcement.

Beach Wheelchairs 252-354-2445

Specially equipped beach wheelchairs are available for free daily use on a first-come, first-served basis at Fire Station One, located at 7516 Emerald Drive. Wheelchairs must be returned by 7pm daily.

Bicycle Paths 252-354-6350

The Town has developed an extensive bicycle path system and has grand plans for additional bicycle paths in the future. A dedicated ten-foot wide bicycle path is in place along Coast Guard Road from Deer Horn Drive east and along Emerald Drive (NC 58) up to Hurst Drive, a total of 4.3 miles. The Town’s long-term goals involve

the extension of the bicycle path along the entire length of Coast Guard Road to The Point and along the entire length of Emerald Drive to the Indian Beach Town line. Ages 16 and below are required to wear a helmet.

Building Code and Zoning Administration and Enforcement. 252-354-3338

The Town’s Planning and Inspections Department administers and enforces several State and local development regulations at the time of construction, and is also responsible for routine zoning enforcement activities. Regulations handled by Planning and Inspections include the following:

- Town Zoning and Subdivision Regulations
- State Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Permits
- Flood Zone Regulations
- NC Building Code
- State and Town Storm Water Regulations

Emerald Isle Community Center . . . 252-354-6350

The Community Center is located at 7500 Emerald Drive off Leisure Lane. The Community Center includes an indoor gymnasium, weight room, classroom space, a meeting lounge and an aerobics / yoga room. Annual memberships are available for residents and non-residents for a fee. Short-term visitors can purchase a daily, weekly or monthly pass.

The Parks and Recreation Department offers preschool, afterschool and summer day camp

programs, aerobics and yoga classes, arts and crafts classes, athletic tournaments, clinics and more at the Community Center.

Emerald Isle St. Patrick's Festival . 252-354-6350

The Town, in conjunction with the Emerald Isle Business Association, produces the annual St. Patrick's Festival in mid-March at Emerald Plantation Shopping Center. The festival includes live music, food and craft vendors, children's rides and activities and more, and serves as a great family event to kick off beach season.

Emerald Isle Sprint Triathlon 252-354-6350

The Town, in conjunction with the Emerald Isle Business Association, sponsors a Sprint Triathlon each October.

Emergency Response Call 911

The Police Department, Fire Department and Emerald Isle EMS provide rapid response to all emergency situations in Emerald Isle. The Town is served by a full-time professional Police force, two Fire Stations with full-time professional personnel and a quality EMS team consisting of paid and volunteer personnel.

Fire Inspections 252-354-2445

The Fire Department conducts regular inspections of all new and existing businesses in Town to ensure compliance with fire code regulations.

License Plates 252-354-3424

The Town offers special "Emerald Isle, NC --- A Family Beach" license plates for the front of vehicles for a small fee, available at the Town Administration Building, 7509 Emerald Drive.

Police Reports and Investigations . 252-354-2021

Accident reports, crime reports and other Police-related reports can be obtained from the Police Department at 7500 Emerald Drive. The Police Department investigates reported crimes of all types and seeks timely resolution to all cases.

Privilege Licenses 252-354-3424

All businesses conducting business in Emerald Isle, whether or not they have a physical presence in Emerald Isle, are required to secure a privilege license to operate. Forms are available at the Town Administration Building, 7509 Emerald Drive.

Public Parks 252-354-6350

The Parks and Recreation Department manages traditional park facilities in Emerald Isle, including:

- **Blue Heron Park** located at 7500 Emerald Drive adjacent to the Community Center. Includes public tennis courts, a basketball court, and playground.
- **Ocean Oaks Park** located at the corner of Coast Guard Road, Ocean Oaks Drive and Pinewood Place. Includes playground equipment.
- **Merchants Park** located at 8401 Emerald Drive. Includes a bathhouse and overflow parking for the commercial area, and is adjacent to the Town's bike path.

Storm Water Management 252-354-4450

The Public Works Department handles storm water management issues, including ditch maintenance, piped system maintenance, catch basin maintenance and storm water pumping operations.

Street and Sidewalk Maintenance. . 252-354-4450

The Public Works Department is responsible for maintenance of all streets in Town, with the exception of Emerald Drive (NC 58) and private subdivision streets. Contact Public Works for assistance with potholes, street signs, sidewalks and right-of-way mowing. For issues involving NC 58, contact the NC Department of Transportation at 252-830-3490.

Street Lights 252-354-3424

The Town contracts with Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative for the provision of street lights in Emerald Isle. Please contact Town staff at 252-354-3424 to report any outages or to request a new light. Requests for new street lights require a petition signed by two-thirds of property owners in the requested area, and also must meet additional criteria for spacing of street lights.

**Water Rescue 252-354-2445
Call 911 for emergencies**

The Fire Department is trained and equipped to respond to water rescue calls as needed on the beach strand. The Town does not provide lifeguards, but does have trained personnel on the Fire Department's Beach Patrol that also assist with water rescue activities.

Trash Collection • Recycling

and Other Solid Waste Services

TRASH COLLECTION **252-354-3424**

Collection Schedule

The Town offers twice per week residential garbage collection year-round. Areas located on the south side (ocean side) of Emerald Drive (NC 58), Coast Guard Road, and Inlet Drive, including The Point area, are collected on Mondays and Thursdays. Areas north of Emerald Drive and Coast Guard Road (sound side) are collected on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Containers

The Town requires the use of roll-out containers for all residential units. Permanent residential units are required to have at least one 65-gallon or 95-gallon container, and vacation rental units must have at least one 95-gallon container for every three bedrooms in the unit. In all cases, the residential unit must provide sufficient container capacity to meet the residence's need. Overflowing trash outside the containers is not permitted. Containers can be purchased locally from area retailers.

Containers should be rolled out to the street the day before collection, and the Town will roll all containers back to a location at least 30 feet from the street right-of-way. Many rental companies will roll containers out for guests. The Town does not allow the perpetual location of containers along the street. Condominium complexes utilize dumpsters emptied by the Town. These are emptied at least once per week and up to twice per week as needed.

Beach Trash and Litter

The Town provides trash containers on the beach strand and on the street side at all public access locations. These containers are emptied as needed (several times per week during the peak season). Please use these containers, and don't leave litter on the beach. If possible, be kind to our environment and our island inhabitants and pick up any litter you see and dispose of it.

Carteret Co. Convenience Drop-off Site

Carteret County offers a free solid waste drop-off site located at the corner of West Fire Tower Road and NC 58, approximately four miles north of the Emerald Isle high rise bridge. Trash and recyclables can be disposed at this site, and also small amounts of construction and demolition debris. Proof of Carteret County residency is required. For additional information, call 252-723-8258.

RECYCLING **252-354-3424**

Collection Schedule

Recycling of specified materials is required. The Town offers once per week collection of residential recyclables year-round on Wednesdays. The Town also offers a recycling drop-off station located at Merchants Park at 8401 Emerald Drive in the main business district.

Containers

The Town requires the use of either 18-gallon recycling bins or 45-gallon roll-

out recycling containers for all permanent residents. Vacation rental units are required to use 45-gallon roll-out recycling containers. In all cases, the residential unit must provide sufficient container capacity to meet the need of the residence. Overflowing recyclables outside the containers is not permitted. The Town offers 18-gallon recycling bins for sale at the Town Administration Building. Area retailers offer the 45-gallon roll-out recycling containers.

Containers should be placed at the street the day before collection, and the Town will return the containers to a location at least 30 feet from the street right-of-way. Condominium complexes utilize central collection stations emptied as needed.

Types of Materials Recycled

- Glass – green, brown, and clear
- Paper – newspapers, magazines, phone books, white mixed
- Cans – aluminum, steel, tin
- Cardboard – corrugated
- Plastic containers #1 and #2

Recyclables can be co-mingled in the recycling container, and will be separated by the Town following collection.

Beach Strand Recycling

The Town also provides recycling containers on the beach strand at all public access locations. Keep Emerald Isle beautiful. Please recycle.

ADDITIONAL SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Yard Debris 252-354-3424

The Town collects yard debris continuously each month. You must call the Town to be placed on the collection list. Limbs should

be cut in lengths no longer than eight feet, and loose debris, leaves, etc. should be in separate piles.

White Goods / Appliances . 252-354-3424

The Town collects these items once per month on the second Friday. You must call the Town to be placed on the collection list.

Construction Debris 252-723-8075

The Town will collect only small, incidental amounts of construction and demolition debris with residential trash. Large amounts must be disposed at the Carteret County Transfer Station located on Hibbs Road near Newport. Tipping fees apply.

Hazardous Waste 252-633-1564

The Coastal Environmental Partnership, a multi-county organization that manages solid waste and operates the regional landfill, offers household hazardous waste collection events annually. Visit www.coastalenvironmentalpartnership.com for more information.



Beach and Sound Access

BEACH AND SOUND ACCESS WITH PARKING 252-354-6350

* Park hours are sunrise to sunset. *

Western Ocean Regional Access

The Western Ocean Regional Access is the most used public beach access facility, located off Islander Drive. Parking is available for 168 vehicles. Facilities include a handicapped accessible ramp to the beach, a bathhouse, outdoor showers, gazebo, picnic facilities and volleyball courts.

Eastern Ocean Regional Access

The Eastern Ocean Regional Access is the Town's largest public beach access facility, located at 2701 Emerald Drive, near mile marker 15 on NC 58. Parking is available for more than 250 vehicles. Facilities include a handicapped accessible ramp to the beach, a bathhouse, outdoor showers, gazebo and picnic facilities. A soundside access point is available across the street, and is ideal for kayak launching.

3rd Street Park

3rd Street Park is located on Ocean Drive between 2nd and 4th Streets (there is no 3rd Street). The park provides direct public beach access. Parking is available for 12 vehicles.

Cedar Street Park

Cedar Street Park is located directly on Bogue Sound at the terminus of Cedar Street. A public pier provides kayak and windsurfing access. Parking is available for 7 vehicles.

Emerald Isle Woods Park

Emerald Isle Woods Park is a 43-acre natural area located on Bogue Sound off of Coast Guard Road. The park, which is also a storm water impoundment and infiltration area, includes more than a mile of wooded hiking trails, a floating dock in Bogue Sound, a bathhouse and picnic facilities. Parking is available for more than 30 vehicles.

Station Street Park

Station Street Park is located at the corner of Coast Guard Road and Station Street near The Point. Parking is available for 16 cars. A public beach access is located approximately a quarter-mile away.

BEACH AND SOUND ACCESSES IN NEIGHBORHOODS 252-354-6350

The Parks and Recreation Department manages more than 100 public beach and sound access points in Emerald Isle, with most featuring a wooden walkway to the beach or sound. Most access points are located at street ends, and a complete listing is available at www.emeraldisle-nc.org. Some locations include one handicapped parking space. Town staff maintains wooden walkways, signage, trash receptacles and vegetation encroaching on these access points.

RIP CURRENT SAFETY

If caught in an ocean rip current:

- Remain calm to conserve energy and think clearly.
- Never fight against the current.
- Think of the rip current like a treadmill that cannot be turned off, but that you can step to the side of.
- Swim out of the current in a direction following the shoreline. When out of the current, swim at an angle, away from the current, towards shore.
- If you are unable to swim out of the rip current, float or calmly tread water. When out of the current, swim towards shore.
- If you are still unable to reach shore, draw attention to yourself by waving your arms and yelling for help.

Beach Nourishment & Navigation

The Town of Emerald Isle is committed to protecting its most important asset, the beach, through a regular and comprehensive beach nourishment program. The Town is fortunate to enjoy relatively low erosion rates on the oceanfront, and this enables the Town to maximize the duration between beach nourishment events.

The Town has completed two major beach nourishment projects and two hurricane “touch-up” projects since 2003. These projects placed sand on approximately 10.5 miles of the Town’s total 12 miles of ocean beach. Approximately 1.8 million cubic yards was placed on the eastern six miles in 2003, and approximately 160,000 cubic yards of this material that was lost during Hurricane Isabel was replaced in 2004.

Approximately 700,000 cubic yards was placed on 4.5 miles of beach in central and western Emerald Isle in 2005. Approximately 570,000 cubic yards that was lost from the entire 10.5 mile area during Hurricane Ophelia was replaced in 2007. In addition, the US Army Corps of Engineers places small amounts of sand (approximately 50,000 – 75,000 cubic yards per event) dredged from the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway within a half-mile vicinity of The Point approximately every three years.

The Town, through its participation in the Carteret County Beach Commission and Shore Protection Office, monitors the erosion of the beach strand annually and after all major hurricane events. These monitoring efforts help to guide future planning efforts and beach nourishment decisions, and also help to maintain the Town’s eligibility for Federal assistance to restore the beach after hurricane events. Because of the Town’s past beach nourishment activities, the Town’s beach strand remains in generally good condition.

The Town relies on a combination of

Town, County, State and Federal funds to complete beach nourishment activities.

The Town’s contribution is derived primarily from special district taxes specifically earmarked for beach nourishment activities. County room occupancy tax funds are a significant funding source for beach nourishment activities. The Town is also working hard to maximize future State and Federal funding to limit the burden on our local taxpayers.

The Town has prepared and continues to refine its long-term beach nourishment plans to ensure that the beach remains wide to protect structures, protect



public infrastructure and preserve the public’s ability to enjoy the beach in perpetuity. The Town strives to complete beach nourishment activities with the proper sensitivity to the natural environment and works closely with the appropriate environmental agencies to accomplish its beach nourishment goals.

The Town also works closely with the US Army Corps of Engineers to insure that the Bogue Inlet connector channel and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway are maintained at safe navigable depths for commercial and recreational boating interests.

Hurricane & Storm Information

Emerald Isle is such a great place to live and vacation for so many reasons. Perhaps the ONLY drawback is the threat of an occasional tropical storm or hurricane. Fortunately, the Town is well-prepared for hurricanes and other severe weather threats. These guidelines will help you and your family stay safe and help the Town better manage these events before, during and following their occurrence. For more general information about hurricanes and tropical storms, visit the National Hurricane Center's website at www.nhc.noaa.gov.

Warnings and Watches

252-354-3424 or 252-354-2021

Tropical storms contain winds ranging from 39 to 73 mph. Hurricanes contain winds greater than 74 mph. The National Hurricane Center will issue Tropical Storm Warnings when tropical storm force winds are forecasted for our area within 36 to 48 hours. Tropical Storm Watches will be issued when tropical storm winds are forecasted within 36 hours. Hurricane Warnings will be issued when hurricane force winds are forecasted for our area within 36 to 48 hours. Hurricane Watches will be issued when hurricane force winds are forecasted within 36 hours.

Please do not wait until a Tropical Storm Warning or Hurricane Warning is issued to begin your preparations. Allow ample time to prepare your home, to pack items, and for the actual evacuation process, which can take up to 12 hours to evacuate the entire community.

Hurricane Evacuation

252-354-3424 or 252-354-2021

Hurricane evacuation decisions are made by the Town after consultation and in cooperation with Carteret County and the other municipalities located on Bogue Banks. Please heed the warnings of the Town and County, and take all hurricane threats very seriously.

Evacuation information will be announced on local television and radio stations, sent to subscribers of the Town of Emerald Isle's email newsletter, and posted at www.emeraldisle-nc.org. Carteret County also utilizes an automated phone system to dial all landline phone numbers in Emerald Isle, and also mobile phone users who have signed up for the service at <http://www.carteretcounty.gov.org>.

Hurricane Re-entry Passes 252-354-3424

In the event of a mandatory evacuation of the Town, Emerald Isle will be closed to the public at a certain time. Depending on the severity of damage caused by the storm, the Town may re-open to everyone at the same time, may remain completely closed to everyone for some period of time following the hurricane, or may re-open only to residents and property owners



for some period of time. In the event that the Town is closed to everyone except for residents and property owners, it is necessary to present a hurricane re-entry pass to obtain entry into Emerald Isle.

The Town utilizes a permanent re-entry pass system for residents and property owners to return to Emerald Isle after a hurricane has passed. These re-entry passes were initially issued free of charge to all property owners, and are permanent passes. It is the responsibility of the property owner to convey the permanent re-entry pass to subsequent owners or to tenants. If you did not receive a re-entry pass from the previous owner, or if you are a tenant who has not received a re-entry pass from the property owner, you may purchase a new re-entry pass from the Town for a small fee. Proof of ownership or residency is required. Visit the Town Administration Building at 7509 Emerald Drive to secure your re-entry pass. Please do not wait until a storm is

approaching to secure your re-entry pass, as the Town is busy preparing for the approaching storm at that time and Town offices may be closed.

Bridge Closings **252-354-3424 or 252-354-2021**

When a tropical storm or hurricane is approaching or upon us, the North Carolina Highway Patrol has the authority to close the bridge to oncoming traffic when they deem conditions to be unsafe. There is no set wind speed at which the North Carolina Highway Patrol will close the bridge.

After a tropical storm or hurricane has passed, whether or not the bridge is open or closed will depend upon the severity of damage in Emerald Isle. The Town may decide to re-open to everyone at the same time, may remain completely closed to everyone for some period of time after the hurricane passes, or may re-open only to residents and property owners for some period of time.

Additional Service Providers

Cable Television: Time Warner Cable holds the franchise for cable television in Emerald Isle. Phone 252-223-5011. Their office is located on US 70 in Newport. Visit www.timewarnercable.com.

Dental Care: Dr. Floyd Campen, DDS, is located at 8914 Reed Drive in Emerald Isle. Phone 252-354-4688.

Electricity: Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, a private non-profit corporation, provides electric utilities in Emerald Isle. Phone 252-247-3107. Their office is located on NC 24 between Cape Carteret and Morehead City. Visit www.carteret-cravenelectric.coop.

Library: Western Carteret Library and Learning Center is located on Taylor Notion Road, just over the high-rise bridge in Cape Carteret. Phone 252-393-6500.

Voting: Voter registration forms are available at the Town Administration Building, 7509 Emerald

Drive, and at the Carteret County Board of Elections in Beaufort. The polling place in Emerald Isle is the Community Center on Election Day. Early "one-stop" voting is also offered at Western Park in Cedar Point, just across the high-rise bridge. Visit www.carteretcountyboe.org.

Water: Bogue Banks Water Corporation, a private non-profit corporation, provides drinking water for Emerald Isle and nearby Indian Beach. Bogue Banks Water is located adjacent to the Police Station. Phone 252-354-3307.

Medical: Emerald Isle Medical Center is located in Veranda Square Shopping Center at 7901 Emerald Drive. Phone 252-354-6500.

Tourism Information: The Carteret County Tourism Development Authority operates a Visitors Center on NC 58 on the mainland side of the high-rise bridge. Phone 252-393-3100 or visit www.crystalcoastnc.org.

Important Beach Regulations

The main reason people come to Emerald Isle is obvious... to enjoy the beautiful beaches. Please adhere to the following beach regulations to ensure that everyone's visit to the beach is as enjoyable as possible. Questions about the Town's beach regulations can be directed to the Town Manager's office at 252-354-3424, the Fire Department Beach Patrol at 252-354-2445, or the Police Department at 252-354-2021.

- **Beach tents, canopies** and other beach equipment must be removed from the beach strand each night. Town staff will confiscate any unattended beach tents, canopies and other equipment left out during the overnight hours. Oceanfront property owners may qualify for a special exemption.
- **Camping** overnight is not permitted on the beach strand.
- **Cigarette butts** should not be left on the beach, but should be properly discarded.
- **Dogs** are permitted on the beach strand, but must be kept on a leash at all times. Dog excrement must be collected and removed from the beach strand. Trash containers are located at each public beach access on both the beach and street sides.
- **Driving on the beach** is allowed for four wheel drive vehicles with a Town-issued permit between the dates of September 15 and April 30 only (closed to driving during Easter week). Visit the Town Administration Building at 7509 Emerald Drive to purchase an annual permit or call 252-354-3424. Beach vehicle access ramps are located at the 3000 block of Ocean Drive (the "dog-leg"), the end of Black Skimmer Drive, the end of Doe Drive and at The Point.
- **Dunes** are the Town's first line of defense in storms and hurricanes. Climbing on the dunes is not permitted.
- **Fires** are not permitted on the beach strand.
- **Fireworks** that leave the ground and/or explode are illegal. The Police Department will confiscate any illegal fireworks and file appropriate charges.
- **Holes** in the sand deeper than 12 inches must be filled in completely when you leave the beach. Large holes are a safety hazard for others using the beach, as well as for nesting sea turtles and their offspring.
- **Horseback riding** is allowed on the beach between September 15 and April 30 only (closed to horseback riding during Easter week). Horseback riders should use the beach vehicle access ramps to access the beach. No permit is required. Horse excrement must be collected and removed from the beach strand.
- **Jet skis** and other personal watercraft may not be operated at a speed greater than five miles per hour within 200 feet of the shoreline or within 500 feet of an ocean fishing pier.
- **Leaping** from an ocean fishing pier is illegal.
- **Littering** on the beach is illegal and will not be tolerated. Please use the numerous trash cans and recycling containers located at every public beach access.
- **Red flags** in place on the beach strand mean surf conditions are extremely dangerous and swimming is not advised.
- **Sea turtle nests** are marked with wooden posts, tape and signage, and should be avoided. The Town is a sea turtle sanctuary, and works diligently to protect sea turtles.
- **Surfing** is not permitted within 200 feet of the ocean fishing pier.

