

Island Review / Emerald Tidings – March 16, 2005 Print Edition

Phase I – NC 58 Bicycle Path Substantially Complete – Open for Public Use in March!

The Town's new 1.4 mile asphalt bicycle path along the south side of NC 58 is substantially complete, and will be open for public use in March! The Town is pleased to offer this new amenity to our residents, property owners, and visitors, and we hope that it will provide an alternative means of transportation to key destinations in Town, as well as provide yet another great recreational opportunity in Emerald Isle.

The new path represents Phase I of a multi-phase effort to add bicycle paths to key locations in Emerald Isle, and runs from Coast Guard Road to Merchants Park. The new path winds through grassy areas from Coast Guard Road to Loon Drive, and then snakes through wooded areas from Loon Drive to Merchants Park. The new path is 10 ft. wide, and can accommodate bicyclists, walkers, and runners. Several new benches sponsored by local businesses and residents will be installed along the new path, and additional landscaping will be provided by local landscaping companies to enhance the areas surrounding the new path.

The Phase I project was designed by Municipal Engineering of Morehead City, NC (Greg Meshaw, PE), constructed by David N. Johnson Construction Company of Maysville, NC, and was overseen by Town Parks and Recreation Director Alesia Sanderson. The Town's Public Works Department, led by Artie Dunn, also provided invaluable assistance with this project. The Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee was also instrumental in seeing the project become a reality.

Enjoy the new bicycle path, and keep an eye out for the Phase II project! Phase II will extend from Merchants Park to Black Skimmer Drive, also on the south side of NC 58, and will be constructed in the Fall of 2005.

Fire Department Takes Delivery of New Fire Engine

The Emerald Isle Fire Department took delivery of a new Fire Engine in February, and the new Engine is currently operating out of Fire Station One located at the Town Hall Complex. The new Engine is an Emergency-One (E-1) Typhoon Pumper, and will help the Town meet its firefighting needs for the next twenty years. The new Engine replaces a 1983 Pierce Mini-Pumper that was surplus and donated to the Sea Level Fire Department after Hurricane Isabel.

The new Engine has a 1250 gallon-per-minute pump with a storage tank capable of holding 1000 gallons of water on board. The new, state-of-the-art Engine has several new features to enhance our firefighting efforts, including scene lighting, both Class A and B foam, and the newest technology available for monitoring the pumping operations to keep our firefighters safe.

The new Engine was purchased through C.W. Williams Equipment Company in Rocky Mount, NC after completing a competitive bid process. The total cost of nearly \$350,000 was financed by an installment financing agreement with First Citizens Bank at an annual interest rate of 2.96% for 4 years. The Town's annual General Fund budget will include sufficient funding to meet this debt obligation without impacting the Town's General Fund tax rate.



Bogue Inlet Channel / Western Phase Beach Nourishment Project Progressing Well

As of February 25, Weeks Marine, the Towns' contractor, had dredged approximately 300,000 cubic yards of sand from the new channel in Bogue Inlet, and has completed the nourishment of the beach between Lands End and Mangrove Drive. Weeks Marine will continue nourishing the ocean beach between Mangrove Drive and Santa Maria Drive over the next few weeks, and should complete beach nourishment operations in mid-March. The quality of the nourishment material is excellent by all accounts, and this quality is expected to continue for the entire project.

After the beach nourishment operation is complete, Weeks will complete the remaining sections of the new navigation channel and construct a closure dike across the existing channel. The new navigation channel is being constructed to a maximum depth of -17 feet, and will greatly enhance navigation in this section of the inlet. All work is on schedule and is expected to be complete by the April 1 permit deadline.

For frequent updates on the progress of this project, please visit www.emeraldisle-nc.org and click on the Bogue Inlet Channel / Western Nourishment button on the right hand side of the page.



Board of Commissioners Proceeding With Change to 4-Year Term for Mayor

The Board of Commissioners discussed the length of the Mayor's term at their February regular meeting, and unanimously agreed to proceed with required actions to increase the length of the Mayor's term from 2 years to 4 years, effective for the winner of the 2005 election for Mayor. The Board will consider the necessary actions in March and April, and is expected to make a final decision on this matter in April.

Employee Spotlight – Laura Lee Ness, Program Supervisor, Parks and Recreation

The Town of Emerald Isle welcomes the newest full-time addition to our great team of employees. Laura Lee Ness joined the Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Department as the new Program Supervisor in early February, and is already hard at work to serve our residents, property owners, and visitors.

The Emerald Isle St. Patrick's Festival is one of Laura Lee's key responsibilities, and this year's festival (March 11 & 12) will be her first at the helm. Laura Lee's other responsibilities include the After School Program and Summer Day Camp, supervising Mother's Morning Out, recruiting for and maintaining aerobics and exercise programs, and other special events. While Laura Lee is new to her position as Program Supervisor, many of you already know her from her work part-time the past 2 years as a Center Attendant and Yoga Instructor.

Laura Lee was born and raised in a small town south of York, PA called Red Lion. After backpacking and traveling throughout Europe she moved here to Emerald Isle to fulfill her dream of living by the ocean. Please stop by the Community Center and welcome Laura Lee to her new position!