

Town of Emerald Isle

Mayor
Arthur B. Schools, Jr.

Mayor Pro-Tem
Floyd Messer, Jr.

Board of Commissioners
Pete Allen
Nita Hedreen
John Wootten
Maripat Wright



Visit our web site at www.emeraldisle-nc.org !

Town Manager
Frank A. Rush, Jr.
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

Emerald Tidings / Island Review – September 20, 2006 Print Edition

Town Submits Revised NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant for Ocean Storm Water Outfall Removal at Bogue Inlet Pier

The Town has submitted a revised grant application to the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) for its proposed project to acquire Bogue Inlet Pier and remove ocean storm water outfalls that drain to the beach in that area. The Town had originally submitted an \$8 million grant request in June 2006, but has now revised the grant request to reflect a more affordable and workable plan.

The Town's revised application now requests a total of \$3 million from the CWMTF to acquire oceanfront land and the pier, remove 3 ocean storm water outfalls, and provide for a new public parking area that utilizes an environmentally-friendly storm water management system. The Town's revised grant application continues to envision the ultimate conveyance of the Bogue Inlet Pier to the NC Aquariums as a satellite facility of the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. The Town's grant application will be formally considered by the CWMTF Board of Trustees at their meeting in November, and the Town expects a decision on the grant request by mid-November.

There is much more work to be done, however, the Town remains optimistic about its chances for receiving the CWMTF grant, removing the ocean storm water outfalls, and securing the Bogue Inlet Pier for perpetual public use. The level of public support for this effort has been outstanding thus far, and interested citizens are encouraged to continue this support!

Support Grows for Town's Efforts to Save Bogue Inlet Pier

The Town continues to learn of vast public support for the Bogue Inlet Pier effort, including local support and State-wide support. The www.saveourpier.com website now has nearly 11,000 electronic signatures, and the list continues to grow. The most interesting point about the online petition is that only approximately 5% of the signers are from Emerald Isle. Approximately 75% of the signers are from other parts of North Carolina, with the other 20% from other states.

At the August Board of Commissioners meeting, local resident Joyce Pearson presented the results of a paper petition that she has spearheaded since news of the impending pier sale was announced this spring. The paper petition drive has yielded more than 6,400 signatures, again with the vast majority of these being from places other than Emerald Isle. The results of both the online petition and paper petition clearly indicate the statewide significance of the effort to save Bogue Inlet Pier.

Several other organizations and political leaders have also expressed their support for the Town's efforts, including Representative Jean Preston, Senator Pete Bland, Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue, Senate President Pro-Tem Marc Basnight, Senator A.B. Swindell, Representative Marian McLawhorn, County

Commissioner Pat McElraft, the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce, the Carteret County Wildlife Club, the Crystal Coast Tourism Development Authority, the NC Coastal Federation, and the NC Aquariums.

Design Concepts Report for Village East and Village West is Now Complete – Available Online

The Town's consultants, Clarion Associates, recently completed a "Design Concepts Report" for the proposed Village East and Village West areas of Town. The Village East area (Bogue Inlet Drive and surrounding areas) and the Village West area (Islander Drive and surrounding areas) were both identified in the Town's 2004 Land Use Plan as areas likely to be redeveloped in the future, and the Land Use Plan identified a mix of residential and commercial uses in a "village-type" environment for these areas.

The Design Concepts Report was based on the 2004 CAMA Land Use Plan, input from public officials and staff, and, most importantly, the results of the recent all-day public input workshop held on June 3. The Design Concepts Report further refines and clarifies the vision for the Village East and Village West areas, and was formally presented to the Planning Board at their August meeting. The report has been well-received, and will eventually be the basis of proposed new zoning districts and development ordinances for these areas. The new zoning districts and development ordinances will be drafted later this fall, and will likely be considered by the Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners in the coming months.

To view a copy of the Design Concepts Report, visit www.emeraldisle-nc.org and click on the link on the right-hand side of the home page.

Fire Department "Fills The Boot" for Muscular Dystrophy Association

The Emerald Isle Fire Department has been an active partner with the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) for several years, and recently participated in MDA's "Fill The Boot" Campaign on August 26. The Fire Department raised more than \$3,100 for support and resources for local MDA efforts. The Fire Department is pleased to assist the MDA in this worthy cause, and looks forward to more good work in the future.

Thank you to all of our residents, property owners, and visitors who helped the Fire Department "fill the boot"! We also thank others in the community for their patience as the Fire Department collected funds on NC 58 near Bogue Inlet Drive. We apologize for any traffic delays!



Senior Fire Engineer Chuck Culbertson (left), Fire Captain Jeff Strawser (2nd from left), and Fire Volunteer Bob Hines (right) recently volunteered at MDA's Camp Carefree on August 9, 10, and 11.

Police Department Promotions

Officers Amin Lopez and David Camp were recently promoted from the rank of Police Officer to Police Sergeant. Both Sergeant Lopez and Sergeant Camp have served the Town for more than 6 years, and have served our residents, property owners, and visitors in a dedicated and committed manner.

Police Chief Bill Hargett was pleased to promote these two fine individuals to the Sergeant rank. Sergeants Lopez and Camp join Sergeants Bill Bailey and Brad Porter as field supervisors for the Police Department.

Beach Driving Season Begins September 15

The annual beach driving season begins again on Friday, September 15. Beach driving permits are required and can be purchased at Town Hall during normal business hours. Information about beach driving, including an application for a permit, can be accessed at <http://www.emeraldisle-nc.org/beachdrivingpage.htm>.

Beach driving is a privilege, and is offered to promote surf fishing and to enhance the public's access to enjoy the beach strand. Please respect others using the beach, and please respect the beautiful natural environment we are all fortunate to enjoy! Following are key regulations regarding driving on the beach:

- No driving is allowed on the beach without an official Town of Emerald Isle beach driving permit.
- Driving is allowed from September 15 to April 30, with the exception of the 10-day period from and including the Friday prior to Easter until and including the Sunday that occurs 7 days after Easter.
- Driving is allowed from 5 am until 9 pm daily during September, October, and April. Driving is allowed from 5 am until 7 pm daily during November, December, January, February, and March.
- Authorized beach access ramps are located at the Ocean Drive "dog-leg" (near mile marker 15 on NC 58), at the end of Black Skimmer Drive (across from Town Hall), and on Ocean Drive near the end of Doe Drive and Sea Dunes Drive (off Coast Guard Road). (The Town's Board of Commissioners may reopen the beach access ramp at The Point this fall and close the Doe Drive ramp. A decision on this issue is expected at the Board's meeting on September 12. Please contact Town Hall at 354-3424 for more information.)
- Driving on primary dunes is strictly prohibited.
- Certain sections of the beach may be closed from time to time in order to protect endangered and/or threatened sea turtle and bird nests, and/or to provide for general protection of public health, safety, and welfare. Closed sections will be posted and roped, and beach drivers must avoid these areas entirely. Please respect sea turtle nests!
- The speed limit is 20 mph. Please travel at lower speeds near other beachgoers.
- Do not dispose of litter on the beach strand. All litter must be taken off the beach or placed in Town trash receptacles.