



January 2017

The NEWS BREAKER

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Annual Town Newsletter

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**2017
DECALS!**

**Check your mail
carefully...**

**Ocean Isle
Beach
Property Owner
Decals will be
mailed soon!**



LIFE IS BETTER AT THE BEACH!

Town of Ocean Isle Beach ~ 3 West Third Street
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
(910) 579-2166 ~ www.oibgov.com



"The Buzz at the Beach"

Notes and News from your Town Administrator, *Daisy L. Ivey*



Hurricane Matthew was a very powerful, long-lived and deadly tropical cyclone which became the first Category 5 Atlantic hurricane since Hurricane Felix in 2007. The thirteenth named storm, fifth hurricane and second major hurricane of the active 2016 Atlantic hurricane season.

Matthew brought widespread flash flooding and record river flooding to eastern North Carolina where hourly rainfall estimates from radar were as high as 7 inches per hour. Buildings were flooded, roads washed out and sections of Interstates 95 and 40 were flooded.

The Town declared a **State of Emergency/Voluntary Evacuation** on October 6th and Hurricane Matthew skirted our coastline on Saturday Oct 8th and into Sunday Oct 9th. We experienced powerful winds, major flooding from storm surge, loss of power and communications, broken county sewer force main leading into Ocean Isle Beach, and damage to roads on our west and east ends of the island.

Many homeowners are still dealing with the aftermath of the flooding that occurred on their property. Numerous Town staff and officials worked around the clock during and after the hurricane to help protect and restore our island back to its original state. We are very grateful to have such dedicated employees who leave their families during these emergencies in order to be able to respond.

After every hurricane we meet as staff to discuss ways we can improve on our response initiative. Due to loss of power and limited cellular/data, communication with our residents was often delayed or not possible during Hurricane Matthew. Therefore, the Town will be implementing **CodeRED** for our area. You will read more about this program later in the newsletter, but essentially **CodeRED** is an emergency notification service that allows the Town to notify residents and businesses by telephone or cellular phone.

Also this year, **decals will be mailed after the first of the year in a separate mailing. Please pay close attention to this mailing** and place them on or in your vehicle as soon as you receive them. We will be implementing new procedures regarding decals in order to help expedite the process for re-entry by our residents. A **Special Thank You** to all of the property owners who brought by food or desserts during and after the storm for our staff. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated. May God bless you and your families and may 2017 bring hope and joy.

HOORAY!
NEW T-SHIRT DESIGNS ARE HERE!

ADULTS \$15 OR 2/\$25				YOUTH \$12 OR 2/\$20

Each design comes in a variety of colors and a wide range of sizes from Youth Small through XXL Adult.

OH MY!
TOTES...AND
MUGS...AND MORE!

We're **SO EXCITED** about our new OIB Canvas Totes, Travel Mugs, SPF 15 Lip Balm, and super-cute Mini Beach Balls!
("Stocking-stuffers" anyone?!)

CANVAS TOTE BAGS—\$18
TRAVEL MUGS—\$15
LIP BALM (SPF 15)—\$2
MINI BEACH BALLS—\$2.50



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CODE RED

Keeping citizens informed.

Sign Up TODAY - It's EASY!

CoderED is a high-speed Web-based emergency and mass notification system that has been in use since 1998 and is used by more than 3,000 state and local government entities across the United States and Canada. The system gives towns and counties the ability to deliver critical communications including evacuations, local or state-wide declarations of emergency, shelter locations, missing persons and recoveries, and much more.

The Town of Ocean Isle strongly encourages residents to enroll to receive these alerts. The CoderED system will allow you to manage your own information and update your contact information on your own. This information is private and is not sold or shared with outside parties.

Please take a moment to sign up for alerts or update your contact information so you can stay safe and informed. ***IMPORTANT NOTE - please use your Ocean Isle Property Address** when you register to ensure you receive critical updates for our specific area. Please call Town Hall with any questions regarding CoderED registration. Use the following link to get started!

<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BF38335FC5C0>



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS

From Fire Chief Robert Yoho and National Fire Protection Association



In a disaster, local officials and relief workers cannot reach everyone immediately. You and your family -- and don't forget to include the needs of those with disabilities -- need to be prepared ahead of time

Most disasters are natural disasters, the result of some force of nature, such as tornadoes, hurricanes, or floods. Regardless of the type of disaster, there are things you can do to prepare.

Families should prepare an **emergency supplies kit**. Below is a sample of items to include in your kit. A full listing of items is available at www.ready.gov

- Water – one gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation — store 3-day supply
- Ready-to-eat food, canned juices, comfort/stress foods — at least a 3-day supply
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio and a NOAA weather radio, and extra batteries for both - plus portable back up battery chargers for cell phones
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Non-prescription drugs such as pain reliever & antacids
- Prescription medications, contact lenses and supplies, denture needs





TOWN PROJECTS UPDATES

SDI-5 MAINTENANCE DREDGING – On May 15, 2016, the Town received the necessary permit for this project. This permit allows the Town to continue maintenance dredging of our shallow draft inlet (Shallotte Inlet) in support of navigation, should the US Army Corps of Engineers not be able to continue this navigation maintenance due to lack of funding.

ROUNDABOUT UPDATE – NCDOT has informed the Town they are proceeding with the bid process for this project and have indicated that Right-of-Way acquisitions should begin shortly. It is anticipated that the project may begin Fall 2017.



TERMINAL GROIN – The terminal groin project continues to be a top priority for the Town in our battle against erosion on the east end of the island. We are now one step closer to this project becoming a reality with the issuance of our CAMA permit. The Town has also received the necessary Biological Opinion from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Letter of Concurrence from National Marine Fisheries Service. We are now awaiting the final Record of Decision from the Corps of Engineers for this project, which is in essence the USACE permit. We are hopeful that this decision will be issued early in the new year. Once received we can begin the process of developing plans and specifications for the project and developing a bid package for prospective dredge contractors. Construction should begin in November 2017 assuming no legal battles are instigated.



Curbside Recycling for all ISLAND RESIDENTS

Beginning, January 1, 2017, the Town will provide for Curbside Island - Wide Recycling! Each property owner will receive a cart designated specifically for recyclables. Curbside recycling will be collected bi-weekly on Mondays, with the exception of Memorial Day through Labor Day, recyclables will be picked up weekly each Monday.

30-YEAR ISLAND-WIDE SHORELINE PROTECTION PLAN

The Town continues to work on an alternative plan for nourishment of the beach known as the 30-Year Island-Wide Shoreline Protection Plan. This plan would allow the Town to continue re-nourishment of the beach should any complications arise with our Federal Beach Renourishment permit. The Corps of Engineers presently holds the permits for this Federal project. The CAMA permit application for this plan should be issued within the next two months.

The Corps of Engineers is still coordinating their consultation for this project with the NMFS and USFWS.





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COMMUNITY INFORMATION

JULY FIREWORKS AT OIB PIER

The Town and the Ocean Isle Property Owners Association are once again joining efforts to bring our Property Owners and Guests a professional fireworks display at Ocean Isle Beach. The date of this year's show has been scheduled for July 3, 2017, with a rain date on July 6, 2017.

Final approval of contract is pending approval by the Williamson Family for use of pier. The Town wishes to express their appreciation to the Williamson Family for allowing the Town to use the Pier for this event since its inception three years ago!

Thank You!



*The Town of Ocean Isle Beach would like to thank **Intracoastal Realty** and **Williamson Realty** for their generous donation of a new Beach Wheelchair in Memory of Derrick Williamson.*

This act of generosity will provide accessibility solutions and recreation opportunities for people of all abilities.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please return **polycarts** back to your home and/or rental property as soon as they are emptied.

We encourage neighbors to return any polycarts they notice in the event a home is unoccupied at the time.

By working together, we can make great things happen!

We take great pride in our beautiful island and appreciate our caring residents and visitors alike!



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

ALL EMERGENCIES	911
Town Hall	(910) 579-2166
Police Department	(910) 579-4221
Fire Department	(910) 579-2804
Planning & Inspections	(910) 579-3469
Tax & Utilities Department	(910) 579-2166
Brunswick Novant Medical Center	(910) 721-1000
US Coast Guard	(910) 278-1133



North Carolina Coastal Federation
Working Together for a Healthy Coast

October 2016 - Ocean Isle Beach received the North Carolina Coastal Federation **Pelican Award** as one of 31 local governments who passed resolutions against offshore oil and gas drilling.



Planning and Inspections

Justin Whiteside, Assistant Town Administrator

2016 picked up right where 2015 left off as development continues to boom on the mainland. As of November 21st, 26 new homes have been permitted on the island with another 62 in the ETJ. A **new beach access** has just been constructed at the Resort (adjacent to The Isles restaurant) and another is slated to begin construction in December at Private Drive. We appreciate everyone's patience while these temporary construction closures take place.

We encourage all property owners who have not already inspected their property after Hurricane Matthew to please do so. Lots of homes had water 2 – 3 feet deep underneath. Any home which experienced standing water will be more susceptible to mold growth, especially areas with carpet or drywall. **Please ensure that any wet materials are removed from underneath the structure and all areas are thoroughly dried.** If you see or suspect mold growth you should contact an individual or company that specializes in mold removal.

A reminder that **beach wheelchairs** are available for use through the Planning & Inspections Department Monday – Friday. Weekend rentals will still take place at the Ocean Isle Beach Police Department. Chairs are available at no cost and can be kept up to 3 days. Please remember that these are very large chairs and normally require a large SUV/Van with fold-down seats or a truck for transport.

As of this publication we still do not have an update for **FEMA's Preliminary Flood Maps**. These maps will continue to be "Preliminary" until an official "Effective" date is set by FEMA and the maps are adopted by the Town. You can view these preliminary maps at www.ncfloodmaps.com. Make sure in the viewer window that you have selected the "Preliminary" maps. The default viewer will automatically show the current "Effective" maps.



As always, please be sure to **contact our department at 910-579-3469 prior to beginning any home improvement project** to ensure that no permit will be required.

Public Utilities Department

Bobby Hardy, Public Utilities Director

Everyone can assist in reducing costs and help to improve efficiency of our Town's sewer system in preventing blockages and pump issues by following these simple guidelines:



Keep Wipes Out of Pipes !

Sometimes we forget the toilet is not a trash can. All wipes and disposable cleaning products belong in the trash, not the toilet. Did you know flushing wipes down the toilet can cause problems in the Town's sewer system?

Those "disposable" wipes may be **labeled flushable**, but they can clog the sewer system, contributing to costly cleanups. Many cleaning products are labeled "flushable" or "disposable," but they often **do not dissolve or break down** after being flushed!

A general guideline is, if it doesn't dissolve as fast as toilet paper, **it's not flushable.**

Recommendations Regarding Water & Sewer

***ONLY** biodegradable products should be flushed down the Sewer.

*Please do **NOT** flush hand wipes, paper towels, dental floss or feminine products.

*Do **NOT** place grease in your sink or garbage disposal.

Please do **NOT** plant vegetation immediately adjacent to water meters or fire hydrants nor cover water meters with pine straw or landscape mulch in order to allow Town Utility or Fire Department personnel proper visibility to access water meters and fire hydrants.



OIB BEAT

Ken Bellamy, Chief of Police

During this time of year when the bustle of tourist activity has slowed and the island becomes a quieter place, the OIB Police Department kicks up their **Annual House Check Program** into full-swing! It is our priority to keep you safe and your property secure 365 days a year... and the Winter season gives us the opportunity to pay extra attention to monitoring the homes of Property Owners, whether they are in town or away from the island.

Therefore, it is crucial that we have the most up-to-date contact information for you on file. The Police Department uses this information to contact you if there is a problem, question, or additional reason of concern regarding your property.

In addition to keeping an accurate contact file for each property owner, we also suggest you have a back-up plan in place. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to identify a **trusted neighbor** and inform them of your whereabouts and method of contacting you when you're away from the Ocean Isle area.



In order to preform our task of servicing the community, we are conducting a **SURVEY** for the purpose of gaining information about issues of public interest and concern. Your feedback is very important to us!

Please complete the **Property Owner Survey** to let us know how we can better serve the residents and property owners of Ocean Isle Beach. Paper copies are available at the Police Department and Town Hall or you can download a copy from the Document Center at oibgov.com.



Once you have completed your survey, please return it in person, or via mail to the OIB Police Department at: **3 West Third Street, Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469**.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, you may contact the Police Department at **(910) 579-4221** or by email ken@oibgov.com.



Freezing temps are on their way! Please be sure that all pipes have been winterized to alleviate the chance of them freezing.

Many homes are unprepared for the cold, resulting in **hundreds of broken water pipes each year!** Remember, if you turn off your water to your home also **TURN OFF THE POWER TO THE HOT WATER HEATER!** Not doing so could result in the heater element overheating and failing. As a final note, please make sure your emergency contact information is updated. This will assist staff in contacting you in an efficient and timely manner in the event of a water leak or concern that requires your attention.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE TAX DEPARTMENT

2016 Property Taxes are due
January 5, 2017

Interest begins on January 6, 2017 at the rate of 2% for the month of January and 0.75% each month thereafter taxes are delinquent. The additional interest is added on the first day of each month.

Please call our office to verify you are paying the correct amount due.



Wendy Barbee, Tax Collector
Town of Ocean Isle Beach



OIB Footprints

Members Making a Difference



**MAYOR PRO TEM
DEAN WALTERS**

Mayor Pro Tem Dean Walters was born in Silver Spring, Maryland where his "Claim to Fame" was being in the same high school class as Connie Chung and Goldie Hawn.

Mr. Walters is a graduate of Wake Forest University and attended graduate studies courses at John Hopkins University. After several years in the banking industry in and around Baltimore Maryland, he moved to Ocean Isle Beach where he served as president and CEO of Sea Trail Corporation.

Mr. Walters specialized in building golf courses, residential communities, and shopping centers. He left Sea Trail in 2001 to join his son, Scott, in a local swimming pool service company.

Mr. Walters served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Brunswick Community College, President of the local Chamber of Commerce, past member of the South Brunswick Rotary Club, Grand Strand Executive Golf Association, and as a member of board of the National Golf Course Owners Association.

Mayor Pro Tem Walters and his wife, Skipper, have four children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He has served on the Ocean Isle Beach Board of Commissioners for 13 years and as Mayor Pro Tem for the last six of those years. His hobbies include golf, working, and enjoying spending time with his grandchildren.

2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

BETTY S. WILLIAMSON MEETING HALL - 3 WEST THIRD STREET

Board of Commissioners 2nd Tuesdays at 9:00 am

January 10th
February 14th
March 14th
April 11th
May 9th
June 13th
July 11th
August 8th
September 12th
October 10th
November 14th
December 12th

Planning Board 3rd Tuesdays at 9:00 am

January 17th
February 21st
March 21st
April 18th
May 16th
June 20th
July 18th
August 15th
September 19th
October 17th
November 21st
December 19th

Board of Adjustments* 4th Tuesdays at 9:00 am

January 24th
February 28th
March 28th
April 25th
May 23rd
June 27th
July 25th
August 22nd
September 26th
October 24th
November 28th
December 20th**

Open Forum Mondays at 6:00 pm

February 13th
April 10th
September 11th
November 20th**

*Board of Adjustment Meetings will be held **as needed** when hearings are scheduled.

**Date adjusted due to Town Holiday