
Newsletter

HOLDEN BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

August 2009

Our Mission: To represent the property owners of Holden Beach as a unified voice regarding issues that affect their common interests and concerns

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2009

September 5th – Labor Day Weekend Meeting
September 5th – Labor Day BBQ
October 23rd – Meet the Candidates Night
October 24th & 25th – Festival by the Sea
November 3rd – Election Day
November 28th – Thanksgiving Weekend Meeting

HBPOA meetings start at **10 AM** and are held in the **new Holden Beach Town Hall Building** – please join us!

MESSAGE FROM THE HBPOA PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and was able to spend time at the beach. Once again, it seemed to go by too fast. Fall, peak hurricane season, elections, and a number of other activities are fast approaching us.

Our Labor Day meeting is our official Annual Meeting where we elect new Directors and begin discussing our budget items for next year. However, since we have changed our budget cycle to a calendar-year basis, our official budget won't be presented for approval until our Thanksgiving meeting.

We will once again be hosting our annual Labor Day BBQ. I hope everyone can attend. Please RSVP to Sandy Miller using the form included in this newsletter.

This is an election year, so we will be conducting our Meet the Candidates Night event in October to provide everyone with an opportunity to hear from the candidates for Mayor and Town Commissioner regarding their views on important issues. This is your chance to learn each candidate's views on many issues.



Finally, peak hurricane season is now here, so please make sure you are ready and have your plans in place.

I hope to see you at our next meeting on Saturday, September 5th and at the BBQ later that day. As always, we plan to discuss the latest Town news and events and hear from the Town Manager, Police Chief, and Mayor.

Best regards,

Tom Myers
HBPOA President

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

“Trying to Reason With Hurricane Season”

The benefits of the town's spring haul project are really starting to be seen now that the one hundred days of summer are rapidly coming to an end. The sand has bleached out very well; only in a very few locations can the presence of that orange/ red ochre be seen. We have been fortunate so far this season that consistent southerly wind flows have also contributed to depositing additional sand on our shores.

This additional sand coupled with sand fencing placement this winter, fertilization this spring and vegetation plantings in early summer has served to collectively build our dunes and strand so that we are better protected should a storm hit. In fact, the Public Works Director Chris Clemmons and I were on the strand recently and were remarking to one another at how robust the sea oats appear this year. In some places as you look up and down the strand the sea oat “heads” resemble a field of wheat because their growth is so prolific.

As a matter of fact, look for coverage of Holden Beach in the Fall issue of “Our State” magazine. Steve Mercer, the town's vegetation contractor, is supposed to be the subject of how North Carolina

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farmers are repositioning themselves in today's non traditional marketplaces. The magazine spent three days on scene taking stock of how our dune and coastal ecosystem works.

The Town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is fully operational now. All systems are go; down to the installation of final landscaping and flying of the Stars and Stripes. The Mayor, as Emergency Management Director, has held a couple of organizational meetings with the volunteer evacuation team members. We have finalized updates to our emergency action procedures and will test them on an as needed basis as the summer draws to a close and hurricane season begins in earnest.

Public Works has repositioned much of the less-than-sightly work equipment formerly housed out back of the water tower to the new EOC in an attempt to improve the looks of the area immediately adjacent to the new town hall.

In case you have not noticed the right of ways in and around town turning brown; the initial phase of the "Sandspur War" has begun. The rights of ways immediately adjacent to Ocean Boulevard, along with the majority of the town's side streets, have been treated with a herbicide to get rid of the sandspurs. Although this herbicide kills the sandspurs and retards other grasses like Centipede and Coastal Bermuda; it is not harmful to humans. Public Works has taken care to not apply the herbicide to those lots that appear to be sodded. We will continue to apply herbicide throughout the rest of the summer and will follow up with the next phases of our program which will include the enlistment of landscape contractors and homeowner's.

You may have noticed an increased presence of police officers on the strand. The Board of Commissioners provided funds for purchase of an All Terrain Vehicle for the officers to ride on the strand. This vehicle purchase in conjunction with the shifting of payroll expenses equivalent to one full time officer salary to the Beach, Parks, Access, Recreation and Tourism fund from the General Fund has allowed the town's presence on the strand to be retooled. The Courtesy Patrol formerly comprised of non uniformed temporary seasonal employees has been disbanded with full time uniformed police officers now patrolling the beach strand on a daily basis. Feedback from residents and tourists alike has been positive to date.

One of the factors playing into the decision to shift the burden for a police officer's salary over to the BPART Fund was an overwhelming desire by the Board to keep the tax rate steady in this year's budget given the increased debt and operating expenses created by construction of the new town hall and emergency operations center. That goal was not easily achieved; in fact, implementation of this year's steady state (6.9 cents) tax rate budget will require diligence and strict adherence to a projected budget that is replete with the unknown operations of these new facilities and an uncertain economic picture.

In fact initial (July) BPART receipts are down approximately \$100 thousand dollars from two years ago and \$50 thousand dollars from last year. We'll just have to stay on top of it to make sure we take effective actions early enough to avoid trouble. Like the Board said (and I was paying rapt attention) when they adopted the spending plan for this fiscal year "Just because it's budgeted doesn't mean it will be spent".....

Sincerely,

David W. Hewett
Manager
Town of Holden Beach

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Holden Beach has enjoyed a summer of seasonally good weather and without any major problems. The town seems to be operating smoothly as the staff settles into the new Town Hall and Emergency Center. The dunes along the oceanfront look great with all the new growth of old plants and the healthy new plants taking off due to the extra care involving water and fertilizer. The sand fences are helping too. Overall the island looks GREAT!

Rentals are suffering and sales are struggling too. However, sales activity has picked up in the past six weeks. Sales activity across coastal Brunswick County has improved as well.

Construction of new homes has been very limited but maintenance and renovation continue though not at the pace of recent years. Expect more activity this winter than last winter.

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Hurricane season is here! Have a plan. Work your plan. Projections are still for a very mild hurricane season this year but one never knows.

The three canal subdivisions in Holden Beach are in good condition following the dredging efforts. Owners and visitors are making positive comments about these improvements.

The island and town is in great shape!

Mayor Alan Holden

NEWS FROM OUR LAST MEETING

The 2009 Memorial Day meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by President Tom Myers. 51 people were present, 38 were members, thus constituting a quorum.

The April 11, 2009 minutes were approved. The Executive Secretary's report showed a financial balance of \$33,593.40 with a membership of 1,025 with 127 new members in 2009.

Tom Myers reported that an insurance broker will be present at the Labor Day meeting to answer questions. There will be a BBQ at the Chapel at 5 o'clock on the Saturday before Labor Day.

Any one wishing to become a Director should contact Dennis Harrington, Ed Brannock or John Lytvinenko.

Meet the Candidates Night will be held in October. Linda Patton Lytvinenko, Mark Fleischauer and Bill Gettys volunteered to draft the questions for the event.

The following Community Service donations will be made: Brunswick Family Assistance (\$500); Second Helping (\$250); Coastal Rescue (\$250); Holden Beach Chapel (\$500); HBRA (\$1700); Holden Beach Concerts (\$1500).

Town Manager David Hewitt explained that sand fencing and vegetation will be the next part of the beach project. The Terminal Groin legislation is still waiting to be heard in the House. There are two appeals pending on the insurance rate hike. Channel 8 is up and running.

Police Chief Wally Layne reported he was expecting a big Memorial Day weekend. There will be 2 pet friendly sites open for hurricane evacuation.

Mayor Alan Holden said rentals are off about 20% up and down the coast but sales are picking up. He needs more volunteers for the emergency plan. The first annual bike rally was a huge success. He is still working with the town to reduce sand spurs. All canal subdivisions have deep water.

Bill Spier reported that Second Helping collected over 1100 pounds last year. He thanked HBPOA for the \$250 donation.

The meeting adjourned at 11:19.

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

HBPOA will be sponsoring "Meet the Candidates Night" where you will have an opportunity to hear from the candidates for Mayor and Town Commissioner regarding their views on important issues. This is your chance to learn each candidate's views on many issues. The session will be held on Friday, October 23rd at the Holden Beach Town Hall.

Bill Gettys, Linda Patton Lytvinenko, and Mark Fleischauer are leading the committee to manage this event. They are compiling a list of questions for the candidates to answer and discuss. Please contact them to submit your questions.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

Oct. 5 th	Absentee voting by mail begins
Oct. 9 th	Voter Registration deadline at 5 PM
Oct. 15 th	One -Stop Absentee Voting begins
Oct. 27 th	Last day to request Absentee ballot
Oct 31 st	One -Stop absentee voting ends
Nov. 2 nd	Absentee Ballots due by 5 PM
Nov 3 rd	Election Day

HURRICANE FORECAST

Dr. William Gray, a noted expert in long-range hurricane forecasting, issued his revised forecast for the remainder of the 2009 hurricane season, and it is good news: A below-average season, about 85% of the long-term average in terms of activity, is expected. This is primarily due to a developing El

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Nino, which increases vertical wind shears which are hostile to hurricane growth.

The hurricane names for this year are: Ana, Bill, Claudette, Danny, Erika, Fred, Grace, Henri, Ida, Joaquin, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor and Wanda.

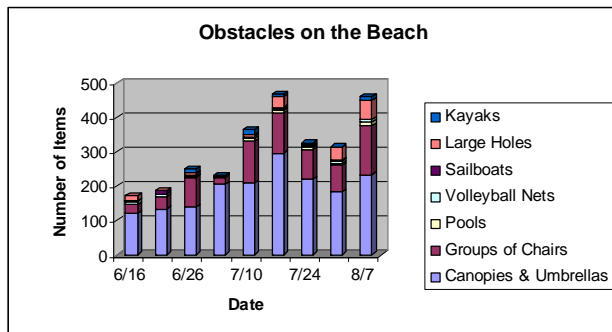
TERMINAL GROINS

A Senate Bill is pending that will grant the Coastal Resources Commission the jurisdiction and authority to respond to any request to build a terminal groin. The Town of Holden Beach supports this bill. The HBPOA, in an effort to help our members inform a position on the bill, has distributed an email with detailed information about the issues involved.

We encourage you to research this matter in more detail to form your own opinions and take action you judge appropriate.

BEACH OBSTACLES

The Turtle Patrol has been tracking the number of items they find on the beach each morning. Here are their results:



BBQ RSVP

Please detach and return the following form to Sandy Miller, 988 OBW, Holden Beach, NC 28462

Please pay by check for **dinner only**. If you wish to pay membership dues, please send a separate check.

HBPOA BBQ
September 5, 2009 5:00 PM
Holden Beach Chapel

Names of those attending: _____

Number of BBQ dinners @\$7.00: _____

Number of Hot Dog dinners @\$3.00: _____