
Newsletter

HOLDEN BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

August 2010

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 2010-2011

Sep. 4	Labor Day Weekend Meeting
Sep. 4	HBPOA BBQ Luncheon
Oct. 30-31	NC Festival by the Sea
Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Weekend Meeting
Apr. 23	Easter Weekend Meeting
May 28	Memorial Day Meeting

HBPOA meetings start at 10 AM and are held in the Assembly Room of Holden Beach Town Hall. Please join us



Leatherback turtles are the largest of all living sea turtles. The U.S. Federal government has listed the leatherback as "endangered" worldwide. The leatherback is known to nest mainly in South America and western Africa. Smaller nesting areas can be found in the U.S. Caribbean, primarily Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands, and also southeastern Florida.



So it was a rare historic event for a mama leatherback to choose Holden Beach as the nursery for her offspring. She laid her clutch of eggs on the evening of July 1, 2010. And a great choice it was, because the entire Holden Beach Turtle

Patrol family adopted this special nest and sat nightly in 4-hour shifts, from 7:00 pm to 7:00am, and then went to 24-hour vigils when the time was near for hatching. Here's hoping as these babies reach maturity in about 10-15 years, they will also recall the pleasant surroundings of Holden Beach and choose this island for another nest of leatherback turtles. Other items of interest to our membership:

- The HBPOA annual BBQ luncheon will begin at 11:30 am on Saturday September 4 at the Holden Beach Chapel. BBQ plates will be \$8.00 per person and Hot Dog plates will be \$3.00 I look forward to seeing all of our members there.
- We now accept credit cards online for payment of annual dues and reserving your place at the BBQ luncheon. Please visit our web page at www.hbtownhall.com/associat
- According to the N.C. Department of Transportation, parts of Stone Chimney Road, one of the main routes to Holden Beach, is closed until November 29, 2010 as three bridges are being replaced. Drivers are encouraged to use Mt. Pisgah Road as an alternate route.
- At our last membership meeting, a motion was passed that directed the HBPOA to ask the Town Council to address the problem of personal items left on the beach overnight. An official letter was sent requesting this item be placed on the agenda of an up-

BBQ!

Saturday, September 4 starting at 11:30 at the Holden Beach Chapel.

Sign up.

Choose what you'd like to eat.

Make your reservation at www.hbtownhall.com/associat.htm

Members, family, neighbors and friends are all welcome.

MESSAGE FROM THE HBPOA PRESIDENT

Dear HBPOA Members

History was made at Holden Beach on Thursday evening August 5, 2010 when 54 tiny Leatherback turtle (*dermochelys coriacea*) hatchlings emerged from their sandy nest. Five additional leatherback turtles were born 3 days later, extending the total to 59.



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coming Board of Commissioners meeting for consideration of an ordinance. Personal items include cabanas, chairs, volleyball nets, umbrellas, fishing gear, trash, etc. A copy of the letter is available at our web page, www.hbtownhall.com/associat.

- Thanksgiving weekend seems more and more to be a time when many homeowners are spending time with their families out of town. The HBPOA Directors will discuss adding flexibility to the date of the Thanksgiving Membership meeting. Your input is appreciated. Email me at HBPOA@hotmail.com

I look forward to seeing you at our next HBPOA Membership meeting, Saturday morning of Labor Day weekend, September 4, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. at Holden Beach Town Hall, General Assembly room. Don't forget the BBQ luncheon which follows the Membership meeting. Also please extend an invitation to your neighbors who are not members of HBPOA.

Sincerely,



John Lytvinenko
President, HBPOA

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ALAN HOLDEN

WOW! What a summer! It seems to have been August the whole season with the hot and humid days we have had almost every day. Homeowners experiencing high electric bills have been common place. The heat also brought the people. Weekends seemed to be a mad rush of the "day trippers". Parking lots and road sides may have been busier than ever before.



The beach strand is still in great condition. The nourishment program is proving extremely successful. The town is moving ahead with hopes of offshore sand being used for future programs and permitting of the inland sand source owned by the town. Our elected officials in Washington have worked closely with the Corps of Engineers and other authorities to help with our program.

Don't forget to have your emergency plan ready to be put into action. We are in the middle of hurricane season. The town staff and volunteers have been meeting and preparing. Have you?

The Holden Beach Chapel will celebrate its 50th anniversary on May 15, 2011. Mark your calendar. Meanwhile the economic downturn has impacted the chapel too! One of the insurance policies is almost due in the amount of \$19,000. This is an example of the hurdles ahead. Donations are lagging behind and help is needed. Contact the chapel or any trustee including Alan Holden if you want to help.

Sales are still sluggish but rentals made a surge after a very disappointing spring. It will be interesting but rentals by the end of the summer should hopefully equal 2009 or possibly be better.

There have been several steps and decks that have failed this summer. One particular deck made North Carolina News. Holden Beach suffers as well as the people when these mishaps take place. Owners, please check for rusted bolts and nails as well as rotten boards. Many of the "pickets" along the handrails are also coming loose creating serious hazards for the small children. Check these too!

The town painted the crosswalk areas on Ocean Boulevard. The results have proven that Holden Beach drivers are abiding by the law more and being more aware of the pedestrians. Stopping for pedestrians, is the right thing to do.

The Concerts on the Coast have been exciting this summer. These free programs have been enjoyed by hundreds each Sunday afternoon under the bridge. The attendees are of all ages creating great family fun.

Don't forget to work with your yard maintenance program. Please include a campaign to fight sandspurs.

J. Alan Holden,
Mayor, Town of Holden Beach

THE ART OF CROSSING ONE'S FINGERS

This summer of 2010 has presented some unique challenges for the Town of Holden Beach. First; adopting a viable budget by 30 June that satisfies the debt service requirements for the new town hall and emergency operations center with no tax increase proved doable but only by significantly changing the way we have done business in the past. Several services costs representing an amount equal to just over two cents on the tax rate and historically provided for by the General Fund were shifted to the BPART fund.

Second; our tourism revenue dollars; which for the past two years experienced successive ten per cent decreases, have become at least from my perspective as the

budget officer, even more "iffy" with the potential for the BP oil spill to adversely impact the east coast. As of this writing that potential catastrophe appears to be vaporizing and in fact may have an unexpected positive outcome on our tourism revenue in that it appears many Gulf Coast vacationers have in fact come to North Carolina this summer. We have undertaken some new initiatives to spotlight Holden Beach on the World Wide Web. Weekly videos that highlight our beach lifestyle are posted regularly along with the provision of family beach activities on a regular basis. (www.hbtownhall.com/publicrelations)

Third, the Holden Beach Pavilion, pier and access ramp have each provided several "opportunities to excel". Earlier this spring it was discovered that the Pavilion had developed a significant structural compromise - it was leaning out of true by six inches! Based on the advice of our consulting structural engineers the Pavilion was shut down until it could be shored up temporarily for the summer season. Those repairs were made; the Pavilion opened for the summer and the concerts on the coast series have continued without interruption. More permanent repairs will be made beginning after Labor Day and should be finished before Halloween. We were not so lucky with the pier and ramp attached to the Pavilion. The issues with those amenities took some time to identify and remedy; resulting in them being closed for better than half the summer; both are now repaired, safe and ready for use by the public.

It seems to me that it has been unusually hot this season; maybe not, but one thing's for sure - the water temperature is very warm and has been for an extended period of time. That of course usually means an active tropical cyclone (yes - the "H" word) season. In order to better deal with a storm, the Town has been reviewing its emergency plans, evacuation teams have organized and the Emergency Operations Center has been pre-flighted just in case we need it. Here's hoping we don't!! Remember check your own personal plans and update as necessary.

David W. Hewett
Holden Beach Town Manager

SECOND HELPING HELPS VACATIONERS GIVE

Rain or shine, from the third Saturday in June through Labor Day you will find Bill Spier just off Ocean Blvd on the corner of the Holden Beach Chapel parking lot with his pickup truck and scales welcoming folks from all over the country departing on Saturday morning after vacationing to drop off their excess food and supplies. Collections are welcome from 7 to noon on Saturdays. Bill was accompanied by Don Downs, his usual partner on this hot August morning with one pickup already nearly full and

another waiting to accommodate more as well as the several coolers sitting on the ground for perishables.



The non-perishable, unopened items all go to a local food bank coordinated by Sharon United Methodist and Brunswick Island Baptist churches. The perishables and opened packages are sorted and distributed directly to several local very needy families. Bill exclaims, "Nothing is turned down, and everything is put to good use!" For example, half full containers of milk are common donations. Household goods such as soaps or cleansers are also welcome. When asked of the most unusual donation, Bill recalled the 50 tomato plants donated last year that hopefully went on to yield bountiful crops in the area.

Despite current economic times, the Second Helping is on track to match last year's record contribution of 14,200 pounds with 9,286 pounds collected through the end of July. Bill did indicate that cash donations which are also welcome are down slightly this year. Each dollar collected is used to purchase 5 pounds of food, so cash is especially valuable to help support the bank year round.

Bill asked to extend thanks to his other helpers this summer – Jim Whitehead, Ashley Myer and Melissa Gill. For those that wish to donate to Second Helping now or at any time in the future, please forward to: Second Helping, c/o Bill Spier, 2212 Queens Road East, Charlotte, NC 28207

-- Mark Fleischhauer

HOLDEN BEACH BEAUTIFICATION CLUB ANNOUNCES NEW MEETING SERIES

The Holden Beach Beautification Club will begin their 2010-2011 series of meetings on September 8th at 9:45 am in the Chapel Fellowship Hall. The club welcomes all full and part-time residents of Holden Beach. All meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month and usually start with refreshments and a short business meeting before the scheduled program.

This year's programs include,

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Sept. 8	Organize Your Life by Kathy Woods
Oct. 13	Wine Tasting and Art Project at the shop of Kelly Morris on the Causeway
Nov.10	Annual Tasting Luncheon
Jan. 12	Floral Demonstration by Expression Floral and Gift Shop
Feb. 9	A presentation by Sarah Over from the Nature Conservancy
March 9	Trip to the Transplanted Garden in Wilmington
April 13	Tour, lunch and Butterfly House at Brookgreen Gardens in Murrell's Inlet, SC
May 11	Installation of Officers at the Spring Luncheon

Marlene Hahn
President, HBBC

TURTLE WATCH NEWS



It has been a very unusual and exciting season for the Holden Beach Turtle Watch Program this year. Normally loggerhead turtles begin to come to shore in late May to leave their clutch of eggs but this is a years

of firsts. On June 1, four college students from Chicago were taking a late night walk and spotted a turtle on shore. Turtle watch members arrived after they were called and were amazed to see a leatherback turtle. The leatherback is on the critically endangered species list and is approximately 4 times the size of a loggerhead. It is estimated that this particular turtle was 6 feet in length and weighed close to 800 pounds. She laid 70 eggs and took almost a half hour to camouflage her nest. In the 21 year history of the HB Turtle Watch Program a leatherback has never come to the shore of Holden Beach to lay her nest. Because of the unusual circumstance this nest was monitored closely. Beginning July 21, 2 turtle watch volunteers took 4 hour shifts (7pm to 7am) and sat by the nest to watch for signs that the hatchlings were beginning to break out of their shells. On August 3 there was a large crack in the sand meaning those babies were beginning to move around under the sand. From that day the nest was monitored around the clock. On August 5, 54 hatchlings made their way to the ocean with over a hundred people and volunteers cheering them on. Three days later on August 8, turtle patrol members dug deep into that nest and set 5 more hatchling on their way to the Gulf Stream. It was a very high tide but that didn't keep the crowd away.

There were 30 turtle nests laid this year on Holden Beach. The other exciting news is there is a green turtle nest here

on Holden Beach. According to Mary Kay Marwitz, Assistant Coordinator for the Turtle Watch Program, she has not seen a green turtle nest on Holden Beach in at least 10 years. For more information please visit the Holden Beach Turtle Watch website, hbturtlewatch.org.

-- Karen Fleischhauer

CONCERTS ON THE COAST

The Sunday night Concerts on the Coast again has been a big success this summer. Each Sunday night under the bridge at 6:30 pm your music tastes could be tickled by beach, Motown, bluegrass, swing & blues, 50's and even Hawaiian swing depending on the Sunday. HBPOA supports the Concerts on the Coast with a donation each year.



The Imitations four started the season with their Beach and Motown sounds to a large enthusiastic crowd with a Memorial Day salute to all current and former members of the military. The Imitations will return to close out the concert season on September 6th. Take your lawn chairs and refreshment for this last chance of 2010.



In addition to the summer Sunday evening concert series, other music and festivals have been offered. One interesting music group was the Huckleberry Brothers Band which dressed in Civil War era clothes and presented authentic music and instruments of that time.

-- Jan Fleagle

CANAL DREDGING MASTER PLAN ADOPTED

When the three Holden Beach canal neighborhoods were created in the 1960s, no provision was made by the developers for dredging the canals to maintain their depth and usefulness. For many years, the three neighborhood homeowners associations asked their members to contribute toward the cost of dredging. Most contributed but some did not. With considerable difficulty, the associations negotiated the various permits required and contracted with dredging companies to make the canals navigable.



Through special legislation passed by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2004 and 2005, the Town of Holden Beach gained the right to establish special canal dredging districts, to assess property owners for their share of the cost of dredging operations and to use its influence and contracting experience to manage the dredging process

Under the guidance of Town Manager David Hewett, Right Angle Engineering has now collected the combined experience of the various players in a Canal Maintenance Dredging Master Plan to be used to guide future maintenance dredging operations. The Board of Commissioners adopted the plan at their July 13 meeting. A copy of the plan is available at Town Hall

-- Bill Gettys

MEMORIAL DAY MEETING MINUTES

The HBPOA Memorial Day meeting was called to order by President John Lytvinenko at 10:05 AM on May 29, 2010. 34 members were present thus constituting a quorum. The April 3, 2010 minutes were approved as amended (change "part" of the 50 year plan to "pursuing"). The financial statement had a checking account balance of \$1472.34, savings account balance of \$12,929.04 and two CDs of \$10,000 each. Total membership is 995.



President Lytvinenko sent a letter to members of the General Assembly in support of terminal groins. The HBPOA booth at Days at the Dock was very successful. Vertical Response will replace iContact as the new e-mail provider. PayPal will be set up for one year for paying dues and the BBQ. The budget committee reported that

\$1500 will go to the Concerts by the Sea and \$250 to Second Helping. The deadline for items for the next newsletter is August 17.

Town Manager David Hewett announced that the Lockwood Folly dredging was complete. Vegetation and sand fencing is helping to build up the dunes. Rope barriers will be placed to keep people off the dunes. Holden Beach was on the cover of "Our State" magazine due to the harvesting and planting of sea oats.

Police Chief Wally Layne has never seen the beach so crowded. He reminded everyone to lock their cars and houses when they are on the beach. The beach patrol started today. He has been the point man for hot tub problems.

Mayor Alan Holden will meet with Brunswick County officials on June 2nd to discuss hurricane preparation. New Holden Beach businesses include a T shirt shop and Sunset Slush. The tax rate will not be increased. 2010 summer rentals are ahead of 2009. The county has raised the water rates and the town will have to make an adjustment eventually.

Comments from the membership included raising the fine for fireworks to \$50, and fixing the bumps on the bike path. A motion was made that the HBPOA request the Town Commissioners to address the problem of cabanas and personal items left on the beach overnight. The motion passed 16 to 11.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Sandy Miller
Executive Secretary

HBPOA Newsletter by E-mail

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Send an e-mail with your name, beach address and all the e-mail addresses where you'd like to receive the Holden Beach POA newsletter to:

friend@atmc.net

