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# Newsletter

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## HOLDEN BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

November 2010

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**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

Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Weekend Meeting
Dec. 2	Tree Lighting - 6:00
Apr. 23	Easter Weekend Meeting
May 28	Memorial Day Meeting
Sep 3	Labor Day Weekend Meeting

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

### MESSAGE FROM THE HBPOA PRESIDENT

The weather has been interesting this year: snow last February, record heat this summer, and the Fall has been about the The Storms That Weren't! The first couple of days of September brought a powerful category 4, 140+ miles-per-hour storm called Earl. Earl caused havoc up and down the eastern seaboard, but fortunately for us, just teased Holden Beach by staying 150-200 miles offshore. What Earl did for us, was create the most beautiful waves I've ever seen! The winds which came from the mainland that Thursday helped in keeping the waves at bay from our beaches, while whipping up the surging waves to 15-20 feet high. Surfers came from near and far to dance with the magical waves. It was a real treat to see some of the surfboard specialists cruise the waves inside a curl, just like on TV. Earl was a named storm that wasn't, and thankfully so!

On the other hand, the end of September brought record rainfall. As reported by the National Weather Service, the remnants of Tropical Storm Nicole met up with a stalled frontal boundary, which gave way to a non-tropical low pressure system developing along the South Carolina/North Carolina coast. We received about 25 inches of rain over a 4 day period. It was reported that Wilmington received about 4 months worth of rain in 4 days. The city averages about 6.9 inches of rain each September. The National Weather service stated that the previous record rainfall over 4 days was Hurricane Floyd with 19.06 inch-



es, occurring September 14 – 17, 1999. Fortunately, eastern North Carolina was under moderate drought conditions prior to this week's torrential rains, so flooding damage was minimized. The heavy rains did leave a toll for many homeowners in the canal neighborhoods. There were about 15-20 bulkheads that were compromised. Estimates for repairs ranged from \$6,000 to \$15,000 each. Several homeowners reported runaway floating docks. As an official storm it wasn't, but as a real storm we know it was!

Other items of interest to our membership

- Election of HBPOA Directors: Jan Fleagle, Ron Skubic, and I were reelected to another 3 year term. Sheila Young has stepped down after serving for 9 years on the board. We thank her for her commitment and dedication over the years. Sheila continues to serve Holden Beach Homeowners as one of the Holden Beach Commissioners.
- The Board re-elected me as your president and Ron Skubic as your vice president. We are both very honored to continue serving you for another year.
- We have one opening on the Board and have several candidates under consideration. We will present a nominee for your approval at our Thanksgiving membership meeting.
- Festival by the Sea was an outstanding success, benefiting from the great weather that weekend. This year we had over 170 vendors and our Police Chief Wally Layne estimated the crowd exceeded 40,000 visitors. Big congratulations to Ken Weston, event organizer, and the entire team of volunteers from the Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association!

I look forward to seeing you at our next HBPOA Membership meeting, Saturday morning of Thanksgiving weekend, November 27, 2010, at 10:00 -11:30 a.m. at Holden Beach Town Hall, General Assembly room. Also extend an invitation to your neighbors who are not members of HBPOA – we would love to welcome them aboard.

John Lytvinenko  
President, HBPOA

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### **A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ALAN HOLDEN**

Hello!

What a beautiful fall season! No hurricanes! Great fishing! Beautiful beach strand! Great festival!

Sales have picked up a little. Some construction activity is taking place. Rentals were about the same overall as 2009 in gross dollars. Approximately \$2 million worth of sand will be placed on the east end of the island as part of the waterway maintenance work. This is the result of a good working relationship with the Corps of Engineers and Congressman Mike McIntyre. Spoil from the waterway project is like gold to the beachfront. That sand will drift westward toward the pier and beyond as usual. All of the island front benefits.

It is a goal to clean up the island by getting rid of unkept homes and abandoned properties. Be on the look out this winter for the changes.

The town is doing some long range property planning. Hopefully some positive results will be seen soon

The boat and yacht parade down the waterway has been spectacular this year. Large and small as well as old and new are seen daily. It is always exciting!

Each year more and more people come to Holden Beach for the holidays! Think about it!

Happy Holidays to you!!

J. Alan Holden,  
Mayor, Town of Holden Beach



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### **THANKSGIVING 2010**

The nights are beginning to feel crisp and clean as the seasonal prevailing wind blows from the north drying the last of the summer humidity from the air; yet the days are warm and pleasant. Yes it's the height of Indian Summer here at the beach and what a glorious time to be here it is. The water temperature is still warm enough that the kids can take a dip without turning blue and the annual spot run is in full swing. It seems as though everyone is taking a step back to catch their breath before the Holiday Season begins but that's only the illusion created by fall's shorter days and whoever created Daylight Savings Time. There are several current issues of importance that the town staff is engaged in that I'd like to inform you of.

The **Insurance Rate Appeal** has been denied by the NC Court of Appeals. The fundamental reason is that the petitioners can not bring suit because (we) have no standing. At present Dare County et al is evaluating their (our) op-

tions to determine the rationality of a NC Supreme Court appeal.

The recent election has created Republican majorities in both Houses of the NC General Assembly. While perhaps creating a less than ideal situation for a sitting Democrat Governor I have been informed that the likelihood of passing some form of **Terminal Groins** legislation is extremely high. You may recall that the Speaker of the House Democrat Joe Hackney had successfully stymied attempts to have the House of Representatives vote on the issue after the NC Senate had overwhelmingly approved a Terminal Groins Bill. As a matter of policy and action the Town of Holden Beach supports this issue.

The Coastal Resources Commission has published a draft set of proposed rules establishing new setbacks around and near the inlets. These proposed revisions to the **"Inlet Hazard Areas"** have been thirty years in the making; and frankly, from the potential for the significant adverse economic impact resulting from their implementation as proposed we could have been okay for another thirty years without them. Tim Evans, Holden Beach Planning and Inspections Director, and I have met with the CRC Vice Chair during her recent visit to Holden Beach to ground truth the proposed rules and communicated our concerns over the proposed regulations impacts. We will continue to engage with the CRC on this issue to ensure only rational and positive land use decisions result from the Division of Coastal Management's staff review.

At the October meeting the Holden Beach Board of Commissioners approved a restructuring of two of the Town's standing committees. The Shoreline Protection Committee and the Public Area Improvement Committee have been effectively combined and rechartered by ordinance as the **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**. The six previous committee members desiring to still serve on the new seven member board were subsequently appointed at the regular November Board of Commissioners' meeting. There remains one seat available to be filled at the Commissioners' discretion. Anyone interested in serving on this new advisory board should contact Heather Finnell at Town Hall for the particulars.

David W. Hewett  
Town Manager

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### **BEACH RE-NOURISHMENT AT HOLDEN BEACH**

--Ed Brannock, Treasurer, HBRA and Director, HBPOA

Since the severe storms of the 80's and 90's, beach re-nourishment has become a way of life for the beaches in Brunswick County. Homes, properties and roads were lost during that time. To protect our way of life, the infra-

structures of the beaches, and the beach tourist industry, the beach strand must be monitored, managed and nourished.

Different beaches in Brunswick County responded in different ways to the loss of their shoreline. In the early 2000's, Oak Island secured the turtle project and piped sand onto their beach to widen the beach. Ocean Isle was approved for the "50-Year Project" and their beach is scheduled to be re-nourished every three years. Bald Head Island and Caswell Beach receive sand from the Corps of Engineers when they dredge the Cape Fear River to maintain the shipping channel.

In 2001 and 2002 Holden Beach received sand for two miles of their beach from the Wilmington Harbor 933 Project and from the 933 Extension Project. The sand from the 933 Project was dredged from the Cape Fear River and transported to Holden Beach by hopper dredge and piped to the center of the beach. In the 933 Extension Project, Sea Scape and Oyster Harbor Developments donated sand to Holden Beach. The sand was hauled by truck to fill the gap created by the 933 Project and to extend East and West of the 933 Project. Since 2002, Holden Beach has conducted six relatively small beach re-nourishment projects utilizing truck-hauled sand, and the Corps of Engineers provided the East end of the beach with sand piped from The Lockwood Folly Inlet on four occasions. Lockwood Folly Inlet is a federally authorized navigation channel maintained by the Corps. The approximate total volume of sand placed on Holden Beach since 2002 is 1,564,083 cubic yards.

Holden Beach is committed to beach nourishment and a wide, healthy, dry beach. Beach nourishment is a many tiered program involving not just sand placement but vegetation and other proven stabilizing methods which will actually allow the beach to grow to a healthy beach. A healthy beach is a beach with fifty to seventy-five feet of dry sand at high tide. A healthy beach requires maintenance each year. Maintenance includes sand placement, installing and repairing sand fencing, and planting and fertilizing vegetation.

The Town of Holden Beach has a Beach Management Planning and Borrow Area Investigation document prepared by Applied Technology & Management in August 2009. This study strives to develop the most cost effective beach maintenance plan for the Town of Holden Beach. Since government regulations and permitting take time, planning ahead is important to make sure sand is there when we need it, both now and in the future. A beach re-nourishment project requires permits, sand source and funds.

As a Holden Beach property owner, you have an obligation to insure we have a continued emphasis on maintaining a wide, beautiful beach strand. You can educate your-

self. The more you know about the benefits of sand nourishment, the better you will understand the importance of this issue. You should become informed on all aspects of beach maintenance. You should be prepared to participate and support beach projects. You can participate by joining Town Committees or the Holden Beach Re-nourishment Association. Funding for beach projects comes from part of the Town's five percent Occupancy Tax that is charged for property rentals on the island. If required, are you prepared to use funds from property taxes to support beach re-nourishment projects? If not, devise a plan to raise funds for beach re-nourishment.

Beach projects are expensive and go up each year. How much should be in the Capital Reserve Fund for a major beach project? Some North Carolina beaches now must raise up to 20 million dollars for essential beach re-nourishment projects.

Beach nourishment is too important to the life of the Island to leave completely in the hands of Town Officials. Their terms are limited but the need for beach re-nourishment programs will continue as long as we have a beach. Monitor Town meetings, to include budget meetings, to insure beach re-nourishment does not fall behind other so called high priorities. Let your informed thoughts be heard.

Every inch of beach we lose over time to storms and erosion is a threat to the entire island. Whether you own beachfront property or own property on the Intracoastal Waterway or any property between the two, erosion affects all property values and the quality of life on Holden Beach.



### **LET'S GO FISHIN'**

*- Jan Fleagle*

Fall is the time for fishing. Residents and visitors alike can take advantage of fishing from the town pier on the inland waterway near the bridge. Right now flounder seem to be what are being caught there.

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At the Holden Beach Fishing Pier, owner Gil Bass, a former HBPOA board member, says that this has been a slow season for fishing so far but they are catching whiting, flounder drum and trout.

Off shore, the charter boats out of Holden Beach are catching some nice sized king mackerel as some of the guys at the Tri-Beach Fire Department have discovered.

Fall surf fishing at Holden Beach can be rewarding now with catches of whiting and drum. Even the spectacular sunsets over the ocean that only occur at this time of year are great catches too. It's time to pick up your rod and get moving.

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### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

- Mark Fleischhauer

Especially for the many property owners who are not full time residents of Holden Beach, it is a comfort to know that the Holden Beach Police Department has at least one officer on duty 24 hours a day every day of the week. But as added security the Department relies on an involved community willing and able to quickly report suspicious activity or any matter of potential danger to persons or property to facilitate a quick response. Ken and Sue Kaiser have been organizing regular Neighborhood Watch meetings with Police Chief Wally Layne for some time, and I joined the October 19 to learn first hand what goes on.

The primary purpose of the meeting is to catch up on matters of particular concern to the police force and the community. As might be expected, incidents had dropped off significantly in proportion to the decline in tourism, so there was no single subject that stood out at this meeting. The Chief usually tries to include a special topic or speaker at the meetings, and Lt. Mike St. George and Tim Seager, members of the Holden Beach Volunteer Fire Department made a presentation at this meeting. They made several points regarding common problems and suggestions including the following:

The number one cause of fires is unattended pots cooking on the stove.

Another common cause is excessive lint build-up in dryer vents. They suggest disconnecting the vent cap or hose at least once a year, removing excess materials if necessary.

Keep a working fire extinguisher close at hand in the kitchen, preferably some place away from the stove. Check smoke alarms twice a year when we change time, and change batteries regularly.

Don't grill or fry in your garage or under a low overhang.

If you smell smoke from an unidentified source, do not hesitate to call the fire department since a fire could smolder for hours before combusting.

Do not hesitate to call 911 for either a fire or police emergency. In fact, even if only reporting an item of concern, do not hesitate to use 911 as the operator will put you in contact quickly with the appropriate fire or police staff.

The Neighborhood Watch meetings are typically on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at the Town Hall and are open to any interested party. With activity down and the holiday season approaching, there will be no meetings in November and December with the next meeting scheduled for January. You can also refer to the monthly calendar on the Town website. Should you be interested in becoming active in the program you can simply attend a meeting or contact Ken Kaiser at [kensue@atmc.net](mailto:kensue@atmc.net).

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### MEMORIAL DAY MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by President John Lytvinenko.



Town Manager David Hewitt announced that he had good news and bad news. The good news was that the emergency preparations for Hurricane Earl worked out well. The beach front actually gained some sand. The bad news was there were more areas on Holden Beach that were proposed to be included in the new Inlet Hazard Areas at Lockwood Folly inlet and the Shallotte inlet. There could be new set back rules that would impact many lots. This would impact the town tax base. As for more good news, the town is conducting a video contest for favorite pictures of Holden Beach. In the pavilion/pier area, the pier has been repaired and both structures are safe. The permanent repairs will be made in January. There are plans to dredge Lockwood Folly inlet again in November dependent on funding. A draft ordinance has been prepared that allows cabanas and personal items on the beach during the day but not at night. The ordinance will be on the agenda for the Sept. 14th BOC.

Police Chief Wally Layne said that he had never seen so many surfers coming to Holden Beach because of Earl. They were all well behaved. He urged everyone to continue their hurricane preparations. The next neighborhood watch meeting is September 20.

Mayor Alan Holden suggested that everyone make a video of their house and contents for insurance purposes. There have been problems with walkways and decks. To control the sand spur problem, spray four times a year. A

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plan to limit construction of docks on the ICW is a major concern.

Tony Marwitz narrated a video of the leatherback turtle boil. More than 1,500 people attended the Turtle Talk program. 29 nests were laid; 22 have hatched producing 2,200 to 3,000 babies.

The introduction of members showed 43 members present, thus constituting a quorum. The finance report had \$33,575.48 in checking, savings and CDs. Total membership is 997 with 19 new members in 2010. President Lytvinenko announced that HBPOA would accept credit card for dues. He sent a letter to the BOC asking that action be taken about personal items left on the beach.

Dennis Harrington, budget chairman, reported the budget was in good shape. Ron Skubic, liaison chairman, had met with David Hewitt and expressed concerns about an increase in sewer costs. No letters were sent by the membership committee. The deadline for articles in the newsletter is November 13, 2010.

The three directors recommended by the Board (Curtis, Fleagle and Lytvinenko) were accepted unanimously. Nominations for the vacant seat were Carol Byrnside, Buck Breece, and Nancy Sullivan. That vote will take place at the Thanksgiving meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Sandy Miller  
Executive Secretary

### **HBPOA Newsletter by E-mail**

Prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail?

- Arrives sooner
- Saves postage cost
- Easier navigation to web sites and other links

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](mailto:friend@atmc.net)

## HBPOA Membership Application (2010)

Complete and return to:

Sandy Miller  
HBPOA Executive Secretary  
988 Ocean Blvd West  
Holden Beach, NC 28462

*Check the year printed on your address label to see if your membership is current.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beach Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Beach Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail (list all) \_\_\_\_\_

DUES (circle): One Year: \$15 Two Years: \$30 Three Years: \$45