
Newsletter

HOLDEN BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION May 2008

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 2008

May 24th – Memorial Day Weekend Meeting
Aug 30th – Labor Day Meeting and BBQ
Oct 25/26 – Festival by the Sea
Nov 29th – Thanksgiving Weekend Meeting

All HBPOA meetings start at **10AM** and are now held in the **Holden Beach Chapel Fellowship Hall**, due to construction of the new Town Hall – please join us!

MESSAGE FROM THE HBPOA PRESIDENT

Dear Property Owners,

Memorial Day weekend and the beginning of summer will soon be here. I hope to see you at our meeting on Saturday, May 24th, where we plan to discuss the latest news and events and hear from the Town Manager, Police Chief, and Mayor.

Since this newsletter is being sent to all property owners, I would especially like to invite those of you who aren't currently a member of our organization to please attend our meeting, join our membership, and become active in helping us keep Holden Beach as one of the best places in the country to own property. A membership application is included with this newsletter. You can mail it or bring to our meeting.

I was in San Diego last week and visited the Del Mar beach at Torrey Pines. After seeing the erosion, lack of sand, rocks, asphalt and sign prohibiting swimming due to contaminated water – I was anxious to get back home. The trip made me appreciate how wonderful Holden Beach truly is, and how we shouldn't take it for granted.

Best regards,

Tom Myers
HBPOA President



MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

I have received a number of inquiries ranging from the simple to the unknowable since starting on 1 February. Your Property Owners Association provided me with a fairly succinct list of interest items you would like to have answered or requested information on. As space is limited I'd like to comment on some of the more readily answered questions for this edition of the newsletter. A couple of the questions posed to me thus far are:

Holden Beach has how many full time residents?

This is a very important number for the Town because many state revenues (Sales and Use, Powell Bill, Franchise and Beer /Wine taxes to name a few) are distributed on a per capita basis. The resident population is always baselined to the most recent census (2000) with annual updates made by the Office of State Planning. According to the State Demographer, Bill Tiglman, the town's permanent resident population is 915. "Is that all?" you ask. Yes. Even though the population may swell to 15,000 people in the peak season, there are no accommodations or allowances for tourist or temporary populations.

How many people are full time versus part time employees?

In total there are 24 full time positions authorized by the Town Budget and 6 part time/temporary/seasonal positions. The Public Works department has 6 full time positions with all positions filled along with 3 temporary/seasonal positions used primarily for trash cart rollback in the summertime.

The Police Department has 10 full time positions with 2 existing vacancies. Recruitment for one of the two vacant positions, a patrol officer, is actively underway with recruitment for the recently vacated detective position being held in abeyance based on the Police Chief's desire to restructure the department concurrent with the upcoming budget cycle. Additionally, there are 3 seasonal positions

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that provide "courtesy patrol" of the strand during the summer months. This courtesy patrol will be organizationally realigned to the Town Manager as part of a management initiated public relations initiative.

The Inspections department has 3 full time employees: a chief building official, CAMA officer and an administrative assistant. Lastly, the administrative department has 5 full time employees: Manager, Clerk, Receptionist, Utility Billing Clerk and a Senior Accounting Technician – all filled.

The dual hatted hiring of the Manager as the Finance Officer has created a need to restructure the existing administrative department human capital. At this time I do not anticipate any additional hires in the administrative department.

Lastly as a reminder: the Town Board has approved a change to our utility billing procedures that will streamline the way we do business. More importantly it will provide a means to make your utility payments by credit card online! See the Town website for details.

Have a safe, wonderful summer,

David W. Hewett, Manager
Town of Holden Beach

NEWS FROM OUR LAST MEETING

The last Holden Beach Property Owners meeting was held on March 22, 2008. 94 people were present, 70 of them members, thus constituting a quorum.

President Tom Myers thanked John Lytvinenko and Ron Skubic for their research and e-mails to the members providing information about the marshwalk project.

The Directors have approved the use of an email service called iContact to distribute electronic messages to members notifying them of upcoming issues. Our newsletters will also be sent by e-mail to those members who request to receive them in this manner. Hardcopy newsletters will continue to be sent to all members for the remainder of this year, while we test the system and verify email addresses. After this year, newsletters will continue to be mailed to any member who would like to receive them in a paper format.

The Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association requested a donation for the Concerts by the Sea. After much discussion, a motion was made to increase the donation from \$500 to \$1,500 for this year. The motion passed by voice vote with one "nay."

Town Manager David Hewitt reported that the loan for the new town hall construction would close the next Tuesday. The Emergency Management Center on Sabbath Home Road is almost finished. The sand project is almost complete.

The dredging of the canals in Holden Beach Harbor is still not finished. The bonding company is in charge, not the Town. Many questions were asked by members of the HBPOA demanding the termination of the dredging. David apologized for the inconvenience and difficulties being experienced.

Police Chief Wally Layne reported a series of copper thefts. Two arrests have been made. The traffic pattern on Memorial Day weekend will be changed: between 10AM and 5 PM to test an approach for eliminating traffic jams on the bridge. The left turn lane at the bottom of the bridge will be closed and all traffic will be required to turn right (west) at the foot of the bridge. Cars wanting to go east will then turn right on Rothschild Street and right on Brunswick Avenue to go to the east.

Mayor Alan Holden urged everyone to contact their state representatives to add money in the Federal budget for Intracoastal Waterway dredging. He cautioned against "dumping" trash in the canals. Channel 8 should be available again in a week.

Suzanne Prince reminded everyone that Bark at the Beach will be held on Saturday the 29th.

Returning to new business, Ed Brannock moved that the HBPOA ask the Town to present its beach nourishment plan to the Association at the Memorial Day meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda Patton announced that the Road Rally to benefit the Brunswick Literacy Council will be on April 5.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

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TURTLE WATCH

The Holden Beach Turtle Watch Program welcomes you to another year of sea turtle monitoring on Holden Beach. As we enter our 19th season, I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who continues to support our cause. As most of you know, we are an all volunteer program consisting of approximately 60 members who dedicate their summer mornings and evenings in the name of sea turtle preservation. Last year, our first nest was laid on May 29th and our last nest was found on October 11, giving us 18 nests for the season. There were 2,053 eggs laid and we successfully released over 1,920 hatchlings to the ocean, giving us a 94% hatch rate. Since sea turtles only nest every 3-4 seasons, we are all hoping that this season will be an average year with around 40 nests.

I am frequently asked by people what they can do to help our sea turtles. One important step each and every homeowner can do is to be sure that your rental homes all have a red refrigerator magnet with our 24 hour pager number posted. This is our life line for nesting mothers, nests that are hatching or a sea turtle that is injured or dying. If you are in need of a magnet, you may pick one up at Town Hall. Also posting the do's and don'ts on Holden Beach in your home would be very helpful to our turtle program:

- ♥ Please keep off the dunes at all times.
- ♥ Please remove all umbrellas, cabanas, beach chairs, etc. at the end of the day so our nesting mothers have a clear path to the dunes..and insuring our early morning ATV riders a safe ride!
- ♥ Fill in any large holes that are dug in the sand during the day – very dangerous to people and turtles!
- ♥ Use a red cover on flashlights when walking the beach at night (these covers are available at island real estate offices).
- ♥ Please dial 911 and report anyone harassing a turtle or its nest.

Together we can all make a difference in ensuring our beloved sea turtles continue to thrive and call Holden Beach their home!

Have a great summer!

Linda Purcell, Director
Holden Beach Turtle Watch Program

VEHICLE DECAL DEADLINE: MAY 31st

The deadline to obtain your vehicle identification decals at no cost is May 31st. Applications received after this date will be charged \$10.00 per sticker. The vehicle identification decals are required for access to the island by property owners after a hurricane if the bridge is closed. Each property owner can obtain decals for up to four vehicles. The application form is available at:

<http://www.hbtownhall.com/pdf/decals2008.pdf>

BARK @ THE BEACH

The second annual "Bark @ the Beach" was held on Saturday, March 29th, and raised more than \$11,000 to benefit Easter Seals and almost \$600 to benefit Brunswick Area Responsible K-9's (BARK) – a group that promotes responsible pet ownership, educational programs and meals on wheels for pets in conjunction with Brunswick County Social Services.

About 30 dogs and their owners turned out for the event, which involved a 2-3 mile walk down Brunswick Avenue followed by competitions for most attractive, most attractively challenged, and most talented canines.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR 2ND ROW

Second row property owners should see some relief in their property taxes following a tax adjustment by Brunswick County.

Two second row property owners appealed their 2007 property reevaluations through the local levels all the way to Raleigh – and won. The state agreed their assessed property values were too high.

Approximately 20-30 other second row property owners have also appealed their values to the state tax commission. These property owners will receive refund checks.

The remaining second row property owners will not receive refund checks, but will have their property values reduced effective January 1, 2008, and will see a reduction in their future property tax bills – starting with the bill that will be sent out this August.

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HBPOA Membership Application (2008)

Complete and return to: friend@atmc.net or Sandy Miller, HBPOA Executive Secretary – 988 Ocean Blvd West –
Holden Beach, NC 28462.
Check year on address label to see if your membership is current.

HBPOA Membership Application (2008)

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

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Beach Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Beach Phone: _____

Emails (list all): _____
