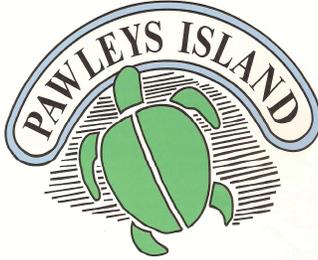


The Tides

December 2014
Fall/Winter Edition

Mayor William L. Otis, Jr.
billotisjr@aol.com



Contents

Underground Wire	1
Fairness in Lodging Act	1
Sand Fencing	1
Trash Pickups	2
Causeway Cameras	2
1 st St. Beach Access Camera	2
Audit	2
Planning Commission	2
Beautification Foundation	2
Christmas Carol Sing	3
Turtle Strut	3
South End Terminal Groin	3
Recycling	3
Flood Insurance Information	3
Turtle Season	3
House Check Program	4
PIPD off Hours Phone #	4
Cats	4
Dogs on Leash	4
Town Website	4
Town Email	4
Mayor's Note	4

Underground Wire

Santee Cooper has been contacting the 78 property owners in the first phase of the project (between the causeways) for the past 4 months to obtain the necessary easements. To date there are still 14 property owners who have not completed the easements and returned them to Santee Cooper. We will not be able to begin construction until we get most of these easements. All involved property owners have been billed for the

property owners first years cost. Response has been good with 25% of our property owners choosing to pay the full cost in the first year or over 2 to 4 years instead of 10. The Committee and the Council appreciate that vote of support. If you were billed and have not sent in your check please do so. The Town will shortly deposit \$1,278,000 with Santee Cooper for the first phase construction.

Fairness in Lodging Act

Earlier this year the South Carolina General Assembly enacted the Fairness in Lodging Act, providing municipalities and counties additional enforcement authority to ensure the payment of the Local Accommodations Tax. Property owners who provide lodging accommodations for tourists, and fail to remit the Local Accommodations Tax, could be subject to a one-time civil penalty of not less than five hundred, or more than two thousand dollars for each seven days a single property was rented.

If you aren't currently renting your home to transients, the accommodations tax will not apply to you. If your property is rented

through one of the local rental companies, they are responsible for collecting and remitting the sales and accommodation taxes for you. If you rent both through a rental company, and also on a direct basis, you are responsible for collecting and remitting the sales and accommodation taxes on the rents not collected by the rental company. Property owners who are providing accommodations to transients directly, or through the internet, and failing to collect and remit local and state taxes, are competing unfairly against those who meet their legal obligations.

Sand Fencing

Our cost sharing program is open again. Please call Diane Allen, our Town Clerk, at 843-237-1698 if you wish to make application to the Town to qualify for matching funds to install or repair sand fencing on your property. The Town will match 50% of your cost for the installation of sand fence on a first come first served basis, up to \$180 per 60 foot lot. Sand fence installation will be checked to be sure that the State requirements are met before the

cost share checks will be mailed. In particular, the sand fence MUST BE AT LEAST 1/3RD ON A DUNE FACE and there must be adequate space between sections. Drawings of correct placement are available at Town Hall. The South Carolina Office of Coastal Resource Management can require you to remove sand fencing that does not meet their criteria.

Trash Pickups

The next roadside trash pickup will be the Monday and Tuesday after New Year's Day, January 5 and 6. Roadside trash is not collected at any time other than the scheduled pickup dates, and there is a fine for leaving trash on the roadside between the 4 trash pickups. The pickups are for miscellaneous trimmings and

refuse you need to dispose of excluding ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, garbage, shingles, asbestos, liquid paint and hazardous wastes, which will not be accepted at the landfill. Please don't pile loose paper or leaves. They need to be in bags to be picked up.

Causeway Cameras

The Cameras take a picture of only the rear of vehicles crossing the causeways so as to pick up the license number of the vehicle. There are no pictures of individuals in the vehicles, and the cameras don't measure the speed of the vehicles. The software sends the license plate number to the State Law Enforcement Division which immediately responds to our on duty officer if there is a "want" out on the car. So far the cameras have exceeded our expectations leading to the arrest of a sexual offender as well

as the arrest of 3 people from Horry County who recently "broke into" 16 cars (they were unlocked) and stole one car. We think it is significant that both crimes were committed by out of area folks who apparently didn't know about the cameras!

First Street Beach Access Camera

The Council just decided to install one set of cameras on the first street beach access parking area to see if actual full time cameras can act as a deterrent to unwanted activity in these areas. This will be a "test case" to determine if this is a reasonable cost/benefit project. The Cameras will be internet accessible by

our officers and will record and retain activity for 30 days. THE CAMERAS WILL NOT BE DIRECTED AT ANY AREA OTHER THAN THE STREET AND THE BEACH ACCESS PARKING LOT.

Audit

The Town Council received the 2013 Audited Financial Statements and a report from our Auditor that the Statements included their unqualified opinion. The town continues to meet

its financial plan and has substantial reserves against contingencies.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission recently recommended to the Town Council, and the Council approved, an Ordinance to cover swimming pools, pool decks and pool equipment, as well as an ordinance updating our fence ordinance. Generally pools must be salt water pools and in-ground pools or hot tubs may not be prefabricated fiberglass type. On ground pools or hot tubs are not permitted. Elevated pools or hot tubs are allowed, and may be prefabricated fiberglass type. Pool decks, fences and equipment location are also addressed.

Other Ordinances approved since the last Tides include raising the "design flood elevation" on the Island from one foot above the FEMA "base flood elevation" to three feet above the BFE. This is a major part of our efforts to improve our flood rating and raise our owners flood insurance discounts. The fireworks ordinance was also revised to make it more enforceable. All these ordinances will shortly be available through our web site.

Beautification Foundation

Please don't forget that your gifts and memorials to the Foundation help to continue to maintain a pleasant Pawleys vista. The Beautification Foundation is responsible for maintaining four properties on our island, the Nature Park, Myrtle Avenue and the triangle at the South Causeway, Birds Nest Park, and the entrance to the public parking area at the south end. Tax deductible memorials or recognitions may be made to the

Pawleys Island Beautification Foundation, P.O. Box 2712, Pawleys Island, SC 29585. A bequest in your will, or through the direction of funds in your retirement plan, is also a wonderful way to remember Pawleys Island, and to help continue the work of the Beautification Foundation in perpetuity.

Christmas Carol Sing

The annual Carol Sing will be on Friday, December 12th at the Pawleys Park. Singing will begin at 5:45 and we are usually done by 6:15. All owners and their families and guests are invited, and

we particularly appreciate having young children for the caroling. We invite residents and property owners in attendance to come by our home after the Carol Sing to enjoy a holiday gathering.

Turtle Strut

The Turtle Strut started out as a 10K race 24 years ago and then it evolved to a 10K/5K race. This year we discussed making it just a 5K race, and to change the start/finish line to the Pawleys Park. This provides a better venue for the awards and for offering food and drinks to the participants. In the past the race was always held

on the second to the last Saturday in October. This year it was suggested that we change the date to November 15th as there is no other race on that date and, typically, November is the favored month for this kind of event. We had 100 applicants signed up for the Turtle Strut and 92 folks showed up in 32 degree weather!

South End Terminal Groin

The Town has asked to intervene in the suit brought by several environmental organizations (the Sierra Club, the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League and the League of Women Voters) to oppose the groin permit at the south end. Georgetown County refused to defend its permit and the Town is seeking to take its

place to defend the permit and protect the public access at the south end, which is important for our long range beach protection purposes. It has been a year since the arguments, and the Administrative Law Court Judge has yet to rule.

Recycling

Is still ongoing, and there are still issues with glass and garbage being placed in the recycle bins, which means they get picked up with the regular garbage (and sometimes get missed). We are continuing to be about 60% successful with the recycle program

and we solicit your support and the support of your renters to improve our recycling success rate. Let us know if you have any ideas.

Flood Insurance Information

ALL OF OUR PROPERTY OWNERS SHOULD BE RECEIVING A 20% DISCOUNT ON ALL FEDERAL FLOOD INSURANCE POLICIES. You should call your agent and be sure they have your house listed as in the Town of Pawleys Island with the following ID number 450255 0001D. Because of the recent changes in the law property owners should be very careful about changing insurance carriers for flood insurance. If you are "grandfathered" the change can cost you the grandfathered status. Also be aware that ANY storage area under a house in a flood zone can cost a significant increase in premium for flood insurance. Typical of Government, FEMA

allows you to have up to 299 square feet but the insurance arm of FEMA will charge you substantially for it!

A new flood information mailer for your information, and for the requirements of FEMA for our Community Rating, is included with this TIDES. The Town has been working on being sure all drainage areas are clear and the pipes and ditches are open. We will be working over the next 2 years to gain more FEMA credits for the town in order to improve our discount to 25% or 30% under the new (and more difficult) rating system.

Turtle Season

What an amazing change this year vs 2014. This year we only had four nests laid by 3 turtles as opposed to the 23 nests in 2014. Only one turtle was matched from a previous year (2012), so 2 could have been first time nesters. Information is available

at http://www.seaturtle.org/nestdb/?view_beach=35. Our thanks go out to Jeff McClary, Phil and Mary Schneider, and all of the many volunteers of SCUTE who faithfully walked the beach every morning to make it all possible.

House Check Program

The off-season random checking of unoccupied houses by our police department started again on October 15th. If we have your telephone number, or know your rental agency, we will inform you or the agent of any problems found. If you are a permanent

resident, please inform the police department if you will be away from the island, and they will maintain a check on the house during your absence.

Police After Hours Phone Number

The weekend and after hours number to reach the police department is 843-237-3008. Please keep this number where you can access it if you need help. The number will ring at the

Georgetown County Radio dispatch center, and they will radio our on duty police officer to respond to your call.

Cats

The tourists are gone so if any property owner feels that they have a cat problem in their area please contact Diane at Town Hall, 843-237-1698. She will make arrangements to have traps

placed in the area, and those cats trapped. Those cats which have not been already spayed or neutered will be.

Dogs on Leash

There have been a number of warning and tickets issued this year for dogs off of a person's own property and not on a leash. As a reminder, the Town has an ordinance requiring dogs off of a

person's own property to be leashed 24 hours a day, all year. Our ordinance is consistent with State law and is applicable to roads, public accesses and the beach.

Town's Website

The Town's website continues to be very popular. It is our hope that this increased traffic will result in increased weekly rentals for those property owners who rent some to help offset the costs of coastal ownership. The "rentals" page is still the most viewed page on the website after the home page! The most recent

"TIDES" is posted on the web site and we hope to improve the information available for our owners during 2015. We also invite you to "like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter & Instagram, [@topawleysisland](#).

Town's Email

We continue to update our mailing lists and email addresses. Please email info@townofpawleysisland.com so we can capture your address if you haven't already submitted it. This will also

help our communication in case of a storm event. In either case, please add the new email address to your email address list so your spam filter won't block emails from Town Hall.

Mayor's Note

We cordially invite you to any Town Council meeting on the second Monday of each month in the Pawleys Library conference room. We provide time at the beginning of the meeting for anyone to speak for up to three minutes to express a concern, or just simply to speak to council. If I can be of further service please don't hesitate to call me at my home office 237-8005, or at my home, 237-2053. The other current council members are Mayor Pro Tem Mike Adams (237-0394), Howard Ward (843-297-8639) Glennie Tarbox (237-8228), and Sarah Zimmerman (237-7774). Any of us would be happy to sit down with you to discuss your interests or concerns.

The summer season is behind us and we are enjoying another beautiful storm free fall! The Cold weather just arrived, the holiday season is approaching, and it is a wonderful time to return to the beach. Crossing the causeways still makes your blood pressure go down! When making your plans, particularly remember that the Nights of a Thousand Candles will be at Brookgreen Gardens again this year for the first 3 weekends in December (4-6, 11-13, 18-20), and it is worth the trip with your family just to attend for an evening. See more information at www.brookgreen.org. We look forward to seeing you soon on Pawleys. Have a safe and Blessed Holiday Season!