Hello Pawleys Island property owners,

I hope that you have had a good start to the week. The impacts from Hurricane Idalia in our region are not too far off on the horizon, so I hope that you have begun your preparations for the storm. The current track and timing of the storm have not changed since my update yesterday afternoon. After Idalia makes landfall in the Big Bend region of Florida Wednesday morning, it is projected to track Northeast. The forecasted path of the storm did shift slightly west with the eye of the storm remaining overland longer before reentering the Atlantic Ocean in the vicinity of Georgetown Horry County early Thursday morning. Idalia is forecasted to retain Tropical Storm level strength as it parallels the South Carolina coast during the overnight hours Wednesday evening through Thursday morning. While the forecasts from the National Hurricane Center have remained fairly consistent over the past 24-36 hours, Adalia is still relatively early in its development so the strength, path, and timing can change very quickly. Below is the graphic for Idalia’s forecast cone as of 11 am on August 29th.
As far as the weather impacts anticipated from Idalia, there have been some minor adjustments to the forecasts provided yesterday. The rainfall totals for our immediate area have been downgraded slightly to 4-6 inches. Be mindful that higher rainfall totals could be observed on a very local scale. The wind speed projections for Idalia are forecast to reach 35-45 mph with occasional gusts up to 55 mph. Storm surge remains our number one concern, especially given the timing of the forecasted King Tides this week. Thankfully, the National Weather Service has moderated the storm surge potential for our area, but please do not let your guard down. The National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service - Wilmington Office are forecasting a storm surge of 1-3 ft for coastal Georgetown County, however, they are still projecting a 2-4 ft for Charleston County, so any slight change in the storm dynamic can alter these local storm surge projections drastically. Please see the following graphic displaying the peak storm surge forecast from the National Hurricane Center as of 11 am on August 29th.
The following is a summary graphic from the National Weather Service-Wilmington Office of all the various weather impacts anticipated in our area:

As a continued reminder, there are King Tides forecasted throughout the week. Please heed extra caution during the following high tide periods, particularly Wednesday evening through Thursday morning when the potential impacts from Idalia will be most directly felt:

**Tuesday, August 29 at 7:46 pm** (Similar to Monday night's high tide, based on forecasted wind speed/direction, impacts are likely minimal)

**Wednesday, August 30 at 8:07 am** (The forecasted wind speed/direction remains favorable, however rain from Idalia is anticipated to begin around that time so localized roadway flooding could be observed)

**Wednesday, August 30 at 8:40 pm** (Based on the forecasted arrival of Idalia, this is the time period of greatest concern)

**Thursday, August 31 at 9:00 am** (Based on the current storm track of Idalia, this is another time period of great concern)

**Thursday, August 31 at 9:31 pm** (Due to the potential variability of Idalia’s forecast and the projected King Tide conditions, this is another time period of concern)
Friday, September 1st at 9:52 am and 10:21 pm (The King Tide conditions are forecasted to begin diminishing on Friday, but due to the potential variability of Idalia’s forecast and the lingering impacts of the storm, please continue to use caution).

To summarize, please heed caution while traveling on and off the island this week particularly from Wednesday afternoon through Thursday midday. Please be advised that the state of South Carolina does not intend to issue an evacuation order for this event. As of now, the Town does not anticipate the need to close any roadways during this storm event. However, driving through flooded roadways can cause damage to your vehicle and the wake produced can cause damage to adjacent property owners.

Therefore, we strongly encourage you to stay off the island roadways during this timeframe unless absolutely necessary. If your property typically experiences flooding conditions during King Tide events, please consider relocating your vehicles to a safe location off the island. The Town will continue to closely monitor the peak storm surge forecast along with all of the other weather impact projections as they are released by the National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service- Wilmington Office.

Town staff continues to work closely with the Georgetown County EMD office to monitor Hurricane Idalia. I will be sure to provide regular updates throughout the week. Let’s all continue to be safe during the storm so that as a community we can enjoy the Labor Day weekend and all the great activities planned on the island.

I encourage you to continue to take this storm seriously and to remain vigilant through the remainder of the 2023 Hurricane Season.

Sincerely,

Dan Newquist