



Dear Residents, Property Owners, and Friends,

DREDGING & GROIN FIELD REPLACEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE:

As of earlier this week I am pleased to report that both the Jay Bird Shoals 2018-2019 Winter Dredging Project with sand placement along the island's south beach shoreline and the groinfield replacement projects are both complete and both contractors have moved all their equipment off the island. The Village can't say enough in expressing its gratitude for the competency and professionalism of both companies in executing the projects simultaneously, often at times working around one another, to get both jobs completed before the start of turtle nesting season. A big kudos to the staff of Marinex, SJ Hamill, and McPherson Marine Services LLC, in addition to Jeff Griffin, Assistant Village Manager & Shoreline Protection Manager, and finally to Dale McPherson who was the Village's "eyes & ears" on the ground representing both the Village and its coastal engineer Erik Olsen to ensure the jobs went smoothly without delay.



BHI South Beach Project Complete Photo – 15 MAR 2019

COUNCIL MEETING UPDATES:

The following items were discussed at the March 15th Council meeting as part of the Manager's update to Village Council;

2018-2019 Deer Herd Management & Immunocontraception Program Update – BHI
Conservancy staff & this year's deer team continue with deer herd management activities including tracking of deer, acquiring & analysis of blood samples from does previously dosed w/ GonaCon, and were to get underway with administering the immuno-contraception drug to additional does.

The deer team will be submitting weekly updates to the Conservancy's website at; <https://www.bhic.org/deer/> under the "2018-2019 season".

Hurricane Florence Task Force Update – The Council appointed Task Force recently held two meetings at which the four working groups presented preliminary findings and possible recommendations. The working groups reviewed emergency planning and decision-making, communications, floodwater management, and other issues including utilities, ethics, and good governance. The well attended meetings offered property owners the opportunity to comment and ask questions. If you were not able to attend in person, ([Click Here](#)) to view the presentations from the Village website.

The full Task Force will now be discussing, revising, and expanding these preliminary working group recommendations and plans to release a final report with recommendations in May. You can email the Task Force at hurricaneflorencetaskforce@villagebhi.org

Community Rating System Update - The Village has been working with NC Emergency Management staff and FEMA to gain acceptance into the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS program is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. When a community is accepted into the CRS program, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from community actions meeting three goals of the CRS; reduce flood damage to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP, and encourage a comprehensive approach to flood plain management. Additional information on the CRS Program can be found at www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system.

Sea Level Rise Presentation by Spencer Rogers, NC Sea Grant & UNCW Center for Marine Sciences – The Village and BHI Conservancy have coordinated for Spencer Rodgers with the NC Sea Grant and a CRC Science Panel Member working extensively on NC policy related to "sea level rise". Spencer has made numerous presentations on the work of the Science Panel around this key issue when the State was looking to include as part of their coastal management policy that local communities start to plan for sea level rise to the extent that it was to include specific building standards within their local flood management ordinances and CAMA policies.

The date for the Sea Level Rise presentation is scheduled for Thursday April 11th, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., at the Public Safety Complex Multi-Purpose Room.

NC State Ports Authority & Village on-Island Meeting – Village officials met with NC State Ports Authority CEO Paul Cozza and Port's staff to discuss the Port's plans as it relates to BHI and the federal navigation shipping channel to the Port of Wilmington. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Village to raise potential issues of concern including both the long-term environmental and financial sustainability of the island & Village as the Ports Authority looks to deepen the navigation channel.

FEMA Hurricane Florence Debris Management Update – Village staff continue to work with FEMA officials providing additional information at their request on the various claims submitted to date for public assistance reimbursement. The Village has expended approximately \$1.3M in storm-related expenses specifically for debris management. This includes the removal and processing of approximately 35,000 cubic yards of vegetative debris, 8,000 cubic yards of C&D debris with hauling it off island, and removal of golf carts damaged due to the storm flooding. The Village has submitted a beach claim in seeking reimbursement for a portion of the sand lost during the storm which was recently dredged and placed back on the shoreline, approximately 100,000 cubic yards at a cost just over \$1.0M.

Crown Castle Cellular Tower Project Update – Village staff continue to work with Crown Castle in review of the required permit process to include at minimum a “Conditional-Use” permit per the Village’s Zoning Ordinance. Crown Castle has completed most of the required state & federal regulatory review and have submitted preliminary construction plans. The proposed new tower is to be constructed on the same property adjacent to the existing tower going to a maximum height of 160’ feet, approximately 60’ feet above the current tower height. The increased tower height will be sufficient for significant improvements to both island-wide cellular communications and the Village’s 911 VIPER communications for emergency services.

OTHER UPDATES:

SPRING ROAD PAVING PROJECT UPDATE:

As was previously mentioned in the last Village Voice message, the Village was hoping to have the roads prepped & paved by the end of this week but given delays with the barge due to the extended days of high winds and rough river conditions the project has been delayed with mobilization of paving equipment to occur next Friday, April 5th followed by paving starting Monday April 8th. For a description of area roads impacted, including Lighthouse Wynd, please refer to the last Village Voice sent on March 14th.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Assistant Village Manager Jeff Griffin at 910-457-9700 (ext. 1003) or by e-mail at jgriffin@villagebhi.org

IN-GROUND PROPANE TANKS LOCATIONS IDENTIFIED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY:

Village Public Safety staff will be working on an effort to identify future potential issues with regards to the safety of our Public Safety staff and Public Safety Volunteers when on-site dealing with a potential fire call and/or structure fire. The Public Safety Department is requesting of all property owners who have an in-ground propane tank to notify the Department of its location relative to the home and/or any other physical features on the property. The intent of this effort will be to assist Village Public Safety staff in the event they arrive on scene to a structure fire, and already knowing the location(s) of the propane tank and shut off valve, to quickly turn off the gas supply preventing the potential for further complications.

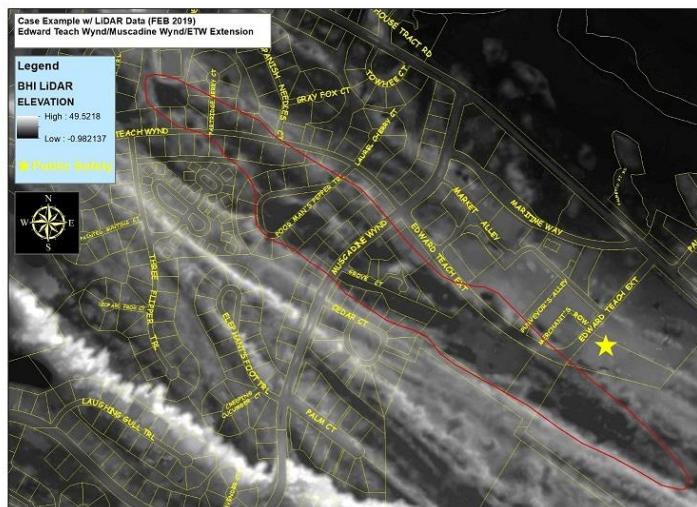
Please contact Captain Paul Swanson at the Public Safety Department at 910-457-5252 (Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) or by e-mail at pswanson@villagebhi.org to provide the requested information or to answer any questions you may have on this effort.

BHI ISLANDER’S DONATIONS PURCHASE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT – TEMPORARY ROAD CROSSINGS:

For many folks who have traveled the island's Wynds & Trails during times in the past when the Village has needed to use the larger 4" inch and 6" inch pumps, the Village's makeshift road crossings with the use of mulch and/or plyboard have not been ideal in withstanding the weight and frequency of traffic with golf carts and trams. With continued funds from the generous donations received, temporary road ramps like the one's pictured here will be purchased to provide quick connections of pump hose while providing temporary crossing for vehicular access where pipeline is required in mitigating floodwater. The Village again thanks all of those who donated funds for these items.



VILLAGE ACQUIRES NEW ISLAND-WIDE LiDAR SURVEY DATA: As part of several recommendations made at a recent Council meeting by the Hurricane Florence Task Force's "Floodwater Management" sub-group (J. Brawner, S. Gardner, and P. Fullam), Village Council approved timely the expenditures in a budget amendment for the surveying of the entire island's topography by LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging). LiDAR is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth's surface. This effort has already shown significant value to the Village with respect to gaining a better understanding of the island's topography relative to past, and as more recent as, flooding from hurricanes & tropical storm events. The information will further be used in a continuation of the Village's floodwater management and overall "Hurricane Floodwater Management Plan" in how the island removes floodwater off island in response to a storm event. Below is but just a small visual glimpse of the data reflective of areas that flooded during Hurricane Florence and to which the use of the Phase III system was instrumental in pumping of portions of these areas to the lagoon on the 15th fairway.





NEW VILLAGE EMPLOYEE:

While it's never too late to introduce one of our newest Village employees, I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce Stephen Pevarnik ("Stephen") who is our newest employee working at the Island Package Center (IPC)/Post Office alongside Raine Dishmon, Island Package & Postmaster Supervisor.

Stephen's primary role & responsibility as the "Island Postal Specialist" includes performing administrative, customer service and technical work in the provision of the Village's postal and packaging services to island residents, guests & tourists.

Stephen comes to the Village by way of BHI Limited/Transportation/Deep Point Marina Warehouse facility and of interest to note is an alum of the University of Pittsburgh, otherwise known as Pitt, and has been a welcomed asset to the Village organization already..., we are glad to have him on board.

If you have not had an opportunity to meet Stephen while visiting the Island taking care of your island package & postal needs, please do so next time you are on island.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

To put a close on this rather lengthy message I wanted to include a note of special recognition bestowed upon the Village of BHI by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners and to which was presented officially at the March 15th Council meeting by Mac Smith, Interim Emergency Services Director, for Brunswick County.

In part, the BC BOC's resolution highlighted the County's appreciation to the Department for its outstanding efforts in serving the people of Brunswick County during Hurricane Florence. Also inclusive of their recognition of the Department's efforts, they also recognized the efforts of numerous volunteers and organizations who gave unselfishly of their time to provide assistance without the expectation of thanks or tangible personal remuneration.

Along those same lines, I also want to convey again, on behalf of the Mayor & Council, Public Safety Department, Village, Island, and all of those who call this paradise "home", a sincere thanks of gratitude for those efforts, some of which still continue to this day some 6 months later, in bringing back "our community" to a new normal!

As always, if you have any questions or comments feel free to e-mail, call, or stop by Village Hall!

Thanks,

Chris McCall
Village Manager