

Bald  
Head  
Island

# Village's Voice

A NEWSLETTER FOR BALD HEAD ISLAND PROPERTY OWNERS



Dear Residents, Property Owners and Friends:

I apologize for the brevity delivered with my introduction and lack thereof in this Village Voice message but with numerous requests for updates on many items, including Council meeting actions from last Friday's regular meeting and the Special Council meeting on Tuesday, I will get right to it!

## **COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE:**

### **WINTER 2018 DREDGING PROJECT/APPROVAL OF BOND ORDER & SETTING OF SPECIAL BOND ELECTION:**

At the Council meeting last Friday afternoon, Village Council held a public hearing on the final adoption of the bond order and call for a special election on the Village's proposed "Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project" (a.k.a. Jay Bird Shoals dredging project). The project, slated to get underway in late winter of 2018, will look to place approximately 1Mcy of sand beginning at the Terminal Groin and extending east along south beach. The project also includes the replacement of five (5) geotextile soft-filled tube groins that are damaged beyond repair.

In terms of project costs, it is estimated at \$15.5M which would require approval of the \$6M bond referendum to add to the existing \$9.5M bond capacity carried over from approval of the 2014 bond referendum for shoreline management activities..., funding of which included the completion of several island shoreline protection related projects. This included the Terminal Groin, Marina jetty wall extension with spurs, and the Row Boat Row breakwaters projects.

After a presentation at Friday's afternoon regular Council meeting that included numerous historical visuals of shoreline conditions along south beach and the "Point" over the years (1989 – 2018), several slides from the Village's long time coastal engineer Erik Olsen were presented with information in support of recommendations for near-term sand requirements. This included a Sand Source Utilization Plan relative to the existing Wilmington Harbor Sand Management Plan (SMP). This graphic visual represents the schedule including timing and who (Caswell Beach & Oak Island or BHI) receives sand dredged from the navigation channel per the SMP. Given delays with the Army Corps of Engineers channel maintenance project for 2017 and now 2018 for dredged material to be placed on Caswell Beach & Oak Island, timing of the Village receiving the next channel maintenance sand relative to the SMP is likely not to occur until 2021 at minimum..., and given uncertainties with congressional funding it is not a given that channel maintenance will occur in 2021. For those who were not able to attend the Council meeting, [Click here](#) to view the slide presentation and [Click here](#) to view the project poster for additional details.

Following comments of Council on the importance of the project Council voted unanimously in approving several resolutions required as part of the bond referendum process in setting the date for the May 8th, 2018 election where BHI registered voters will vote to approve the proposed \$6M bond referendum. Prior to any opportunity for BHI voters to cast their vote on the referendum, two information/education sessions will be presented with the meeting details provided below:

**IMPORTANT:** Notice of two public information sessions for property owners and others interested in the proposed project have been scheduled for next month. The first session will be held on Saturday April 14th from 4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. at the BHI Club, and the second session will be held on Sunday April 15th from 9:30 a.m. (after religious services at the Village Chapel) to 10:15 a.m. at the BHI Association. Erik Olsen will be on island to give a presentation on the significance of the project with a question & answer session at the end.

If you have any questions related to the proposed project call or e-mail Assistant Village Manager & Shoreline Protection Manager Jeff Griffin at 910-457-9700 or [jgriffin@villagebhi.org](mailto:jgriffin@villagebhi.org)

**SPECTRUM UPDATE: COMING SOON – More Spectrum WiFi Hotspots!**

Using a cell phone on Bald Head Island can be a challenge – with coverage on the island being inconsistent. Most new cell phones allow calling over a WiFi network if the signal from the cell tower is not reachable.

Spectrum has recently launched high speed Internet across Bald Head Island. The Village is working closely with Spectrum to help enhance the overall mobile experience on the island by increasing the number of WiFi hot spots available. The overall goal of the initiative is to increase WiFi coverage at the most densely visited areas of the island, including businesses, larger public and private venues, Village Hall and a number of other key locations.

Spectrum Internet customers can use any Spectrum public WiFi hot spot free of charge at any time. If you do not currently have Spectrum services, Spectrum public WiFi hot spots can be used free of charge for 30 minutes and additional time can be purchased for a nominal fee. For more information about Spectrum WiFi visit [Spectrum.com/spectrumwifi](http://Spectrum.com/spectrumwifi).

**MULCH AVAILABLE AT TIMBER CREEK MULCH SITE:**

During the public comment portion of the Council meeting, it was brought to the attention of Council that there had been not been any mulch made available to island residents over the last couple of months. To date, the Village has received a significant amount of vegetative debris at the Timber Creek mulch site with the existing large pile of debris resulting primarily from recovery efforts with Winter Storm Grayson. In addition, landscape contractors and island residents, in preparation of the season, are beginning to do yard maintenance which is bringing additional debris to the mulch site.

The Village's contractor, Island Contracting, has been processing some of the debris with approximately 2,800 cy since January 15th resulting in +/- 700 cy of mulch and as of Tuesday an additional 400 cy was processed leaving about 100 cy for island residents (note: a large dump truck carries approximately 9 cy).

Having said, while the Village & Island Contracting recognize the need to provide mulch as a public service and manage the site efficiently, particularly in light of recent steps the

Bald Head Association has taken to increase the existing boat & trailer storage facility in the same location, it is likely due to a combination of factors including the present location of the mulch pile behind the debris pile not being highly visible at the entrance to the site and that landscape contractors are picking up large quantities of processed mulch for numerous residential and/or commercial projects, that by the time a resident working on their own property gets down to the mulch site, it is all gone.

With that in mind, Island Contracting is working to process the entire pile in the next few weeks to get the site back to a more manageable condition as it was prior to Winter Storm Grayson. This will include the processed mulch pile being positioned in a more highly visible spot from the entrance. As of yesterday, there was about 75 cy of mulch that remained from processing efforts on Tuesday as captured in the photo.



#### **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE ICE ANNUAL PERMITTING PROCESS REVIEW CONTINUES:**

The Transportation Committee's efforts in review of the annual ICE permitting process and subsequent recommendations brought forth to Council in October 2017, and further discussed at the Annual Council Retreat in early February 2018, was included on the agenda as a continuation of a work in progress.

Specific topics discussed during the morning worksession included recommendations for changes to the current permit application form that would be reviewed through a proposed ICE Permit Committee. Details related to size, selection process, and composition of the committee were identified including standards for which an application under review of the committee would be considered with an appeal process.

While there was no action taken on those items mentioned above, Council did approve the Committee's request to complete a comprehensive review of the Village Code of Ordinances Section 28, *Traffic & Vehicles*, and any other relevant sections pertaining to ICE vehicles including associated fee(s) and fine(s). Also, approval was given to the Committee's request to review ICE annual permit applications submitted for the upcoming 2018-2019 permitting year beginning in July 2018. The intent per the Committee's request is to meet with applicants during the review of the application to better understand the need & purpose for which the permit is being requested in lieu of an electric vehicle.

## **FEMA PRELIMINARY FLOOD MAPS & COUNCIL ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE UPDATE:**

After much anticipation, the Village received FEMA's Letter of Final Determination (LOFD) certifying the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that was issued on August 29, 2014. The receipt of the LOFD by the Mayor and Floodplain Manager initiates the final step required by FEMA to certify the revised flood maps thereby making them effective for use in issuing building permits and for insurance companies rating of flood insurance premiums on policies that are required by the lender.

This final step requires a mandatory 6-month compliance period for counties and local municipalities to update their respective Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (FDPO). Having said, the Village Council held a Special Council meeting on Tuesday March 20, 2018 to expedite this process and voted unanimously to adopt the updated FDPO to satisfy the FEMA requirement.

Council's action on Tuesday in approving the updated FDPO in advance of the mandatory 6-month compliance period permits the Village to administratively use the new flood maps for issuing building permits. However, for the purposes of any potential changes to current insurance premiums and use of the new maps for re-rating of policies, it will not take into effect until the end of the 6-month compliance period which is set for August 28, 2018 when the flood maps become officially effective per FEMA.

Property owners who wish to view the revised flood maps for a specific property can visit the NC Floodplain Mapping Program website at <http://www.ncfloodmaps.com/>. From the homepage simply click on the map in the general location of Brunswick County and then click "ok" on the disclaimer, at the next page move the mouse cursor over Brunswick County and click once highlighted, and from there you can zoom in to BHI to the location of the property and by using the toggle button at the top right corner of the page you can switch between the effective (current flood zone) and preliminary (new flood zone) flood zone maps to see specific changes that will take effect.

If you have any questions you can reach out to the Development Services Department by contacting Stephen Boyett, Development Services Director & Building Inspector, at 910-457-9700 (ext.1004) or by e-mail at [sboyett@villagebhi.org](mailto:sboyett@villagebhi.org). A copy of the flood zone map is available at Village Hall as well.

## **OPEN BURNING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT PROCESS UPDATE:**

Since the January Council meeting discussion on proposed text amendments to the open burning ordinance related specifically to the use of portable outdoor fire pits (both wood burning & LP gas), and subsequent update in the February 24th Village Voice message, Village staff has received input from property owners to the extent that staff is reassessing its initial recommendations.

While not specifically included in the January presentation, identifying the need for "grandfathering" of various LP gas fire pits (fixed) such as those existing at the BHI Club, Maritime Market, and Southern Living home were recognized in addition to other types of (portable) LP gas fire pits as potential exemptions. All to say that this effort is still a work in progress and from staff's perspective, given input received to date, it has been acknowledged for the need to take a step back and look at other potential exemptions.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE:**

The Village Public Safety Complex construction project continues at a steady pace although here of recent, with the weather not cooperating as all would like which is typical of this time of year, there has been some delays with the barge in getting concrete trucks across from Deep Point Marina for the continued installation of the driveway and entrance & exit aprons to the apparatus bays. While this has been a challenge, it will not hold up the project overall..., but only be a minor inconvenience at most! The Village appreciates the coordination & effort on the part of BHI Transportation in getting those materials to the island.

At the last monthly construction meeting with the architect and construction management team, items required for substantial completion in efforts to obtain a certificate of occupancy were identified along with numerous other small, but equally important, items that must come together to get to project completion. Those in the construction business will tell you that this part of the project can be the most difficult part of the process from a coordination standpoint.

Correction Enterprises staff & crew were recently on island bringing over the vanities and other cabinets they built in their wood works facility in Taylorsville NC to install them in their respective locations. They will be back again next week to complete installation of cabinetry around areas having plumbing fixtures present. They will likely make a 3rd and final trip to complete their part in the project. The crew was extremely professional in working to get the job done.



At present, Island Contracting continues to work on final site grading and installation of stormwater improvements required of the state approved stormwater plan and should have that wrapped up in the next week. So, the question most folks have been asking is when will the project be complete to which I would say barring know major issues arising that the new facility will be substantially complete sometime in late April or early May 2018.

Public Safety Director Carl Pearson, with the assistance of PSO Clay Brendle, have gone through an extensive effort in identifying what items (i.e. office furniture, desks, chairs, bunks, mattresses, etc.) can be repurposed from the current building to keep costs minimal relative to that which will be required to be purchased..., this includes working with Doshier Memorial Hospital to see if there is furniture and/or equipment they may have in surplus that can be used to outfit the 2nd exam room. The objective with this effort, we hope, is that it will make the move much smoother knowing what we have (including its location) and where it will go in the new building.



On behalf of the PS Department, I'd like to take an opportunity to thank an island resident, Cindy Hartung, who stepped up in a big way with the donation of a most beautiful dining room table & chairs for the PS staff to enjoy in the dayroom.



Also, a big shout out to the PSA and all the volunteers that participated with the PSA's fundraising efforts during Public Safety Day last summer, funds of which were gifted for the purchase of additional bunks and new mattresses.

**NCDOT TRANSPORTATION CUSTOMER SURVEY REQUEST – INPUT NEEDED:**

NC State University is working with NCDOT to administer a survey to NCDOT customers across the state (you may have seen the recent news release at the link below): <https://apps.ncdot.gov/newsreleases/details.aspx?r=14825>

As part of this process, there is an online survey available to anyone interested in sharing their opinions about transportation services in North Carolina.

The survey is available at: [www.go.ncsu.edu/customerservice2018](http://www.go.ncsu.edu/customerservice2018)

NC State University would appreciate any effort you can take to share this with residents in your area. We hope to have good representation from every county and municipality, so if you have contacts at these levels who would be willing to share the survey link, please share this information.

As always, if you have any questions or comments feel free to e-mail, call, or stop by Village Hall and as a reminder, if you know of anyone who may find the Village Voice message of particular interest, but are unsure if they are a current subscriber, please forward this message to them and let them know getting on the e-mail distribution list is as simple as sending me a follow up request by e-mail at [cmccall@villagebhi.org](mailto:cmccall@villagebhi.org).

Thanks

Handwritten signature of Chris McCall in green ink.

Chris McCall  
Village Manager