



TOWN NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF KIAWAH ISLAND

Mayor and Town Council Swearing In Ceremony



On Monday, December 8th the Town of Kiawah Island celebrated the swearing in of their Mayor and Council. In the ceremony officiated by Mr. Leo Fishman from the Municipal Election Commission, and according to the Laws and the Constitution of the State of South Carolina, Mayor William G. Wert took office for the 4th time; Councilman G. Steve Orban for his 4th term, Councilman Alan L. Burnaford and Councilman Charles R. Lipuma for the 3rd term. Mr. Harry McHugh joins the Council as the 4th Council member and begins his 1st term.

Town to hold Public Hearing Notices

Preliminary Plat Extension Request

A Public Hearing will be held on January 6, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers located inside of Town Hall which is located at 21 Beachwalker Drive, Kiawah Island S.C. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public input on proposed amendments to Article 12C Section 204, Kiawah Island Municipal Code. In particular, the Town is considering an amendment that would allow for one six month extension of a preliminary plat approval to extend the validity of a preliminary plat beyond the automatic three year period of validity. Proposed changes may be inspected at Town Hall, 21 Beachwalker Drive, Kiawah Island, SC; Monday-Friday between the hours of 9:00a.m. and 5:00p.m.

Zoning Map

A Public Hearing will be held on January 22, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in Council Chambers located inside of Town Hall which is located at 21 Beachwalker Drive, Kiawah Island S.C. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public input on proposed amendments to the Kiawah Island Zoning Map. These proposed amendments are to update the Zoning Map so that it is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and changes in the Development Agreements. All changes to the map will be outlined in tabular form and available for public inspection at Town Hall and on the Town's website at www.kiawahisland.org. Further, any property owner that is affected by the proposed changes will be notified by mail and any properties directly affected will be posted according to state law. A full public notice will be advertised in the Post & Courier within the required 15 day notification period. A draft Zoning Map will be available for review after December 29, 2008 at Town Hall between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm.

January Meetings

Ways and Means Committee Meeting, January 5 at 8:00am
Environmental Committee Meeting, January 5 at 3:00pm
Public Hearing, Article 12C-204, January 6 at 1:30pm
Town Council Meeting, January 6 at 2:00pm
Planning Commission Meeting, January 7 at 3:10pm

Arts Council Meeting, January 8 at 3:00pm
Public Safety Meeting, January 20 at 3:00pm
Public Hearing, Proposed Changes to Zoning Map, January 22 at 1:00pm
BZA, January 26 at 4:00pm
Ways and Means Committee Meeting, January 27 at 8:00am

Arts Council Season Planner

Event	Date/Time	Location	Tickets and Ticket Release Date
Wanda Johnson/Blues Concert	Friday, January 9 7:00pm	Turtle Point Clubhouse	250 Tickets 12/29/08
Charleston Ballet Theater Performing Carmen	Sunday, January 18 4:00pm	East Beach Conference Center	375 Tickets 1/5/09
Ann Caldwell /Jazz	Sunday, January 25 7:00pm	The Sandcastle	225 Tickets 1/12/09

Sponsored by
The Town of Kiawah Island

Wanda Johnson Blues Concert

Friday January 9th @ 7:00pm at the Turtle Point Clubhouse, Wanda Johnson and Shrimp City Slim are coming back to Kiawah for a night of jazz elegance. This all-original collaboration is an eclectic blend of R&B, soul, jazz, pop, and gospel music that will linger with you for days. Tickets available beginning December 29 th at Town Hall.



Charleston Ballet Theater Performing Carmen

Sunday, January 18th @ 4:00pm at East Beach Conference Center the Charleston Ballet Theatre performs CARMEN. Set in the gritty back streets of a Spanish factory town, CARMEN follows the exploits of the titular man-eating heroine as she makes her way through a bevy of unsavory men, taunting, teasing, and shamelessly flirting along the way. Obsession and envy lead to murder and sends the fate of Carmen into an endless but enigmatic downward spiral in the fashion of the greatest of tragic love stories. Do not miss this journey of fate and unbridled passion. Tickets available beginning January 5th at Town Hall.



Ann Caldwell and LooseFitt Jazz Concert

Sunday, January 25th @ 7:00pm at the Sandcastle Ann Caldwell and her ensemble LooseFitt are well known and loved for their jazz and blues music. Ann is a vocalist with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Pops Concert and regularly performs in restaurants for brunches and evenings to the delight with her smooth jazz sound. Other performances include a series of concerts devoted to the music of Duke Ellington. Join us in a cabaret setting for a night of mellow jazz. Tickets available beginning January 12th at Town Hall.



Meeting Highlights

GFOA Financial Awards

Mrs. Rucker stated that it should be noted that the Town's Financial Department, Ken Gunnells and Stacey Truesdale, did an outstanding job in assuring a great audit and producing an award winning Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Popular Annual Financial Report for the budget year ending June 30, 2008.

Approval of 2009 Town Council and Committee Meeting Schedules

Mayor Wert stated that all yearly Town meeting schedules are published in January of each year. Without exception, the Council adopted the meeting schedules.

Cost of Living Adjustments

Mayor Wert stated that the CPI numbers make an argument for up to a 4% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) per employee. However, the Ways and Means Committee recommended a 2% COLA per Town Employee due to the current economic climate. Council approved a 2% cost of living adjustment effective January 1st.

Employee Gas Subsidy

Mayor Wert motioned to cease the Employee Gas Subsidy of \$20 per week, per employee effective January 1, 2008. Mr. Burnaford seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Employee Insurance Subsidy

Mayor Wert stated that the Ways and Means Committee recommended approving up to a \$150 health insurance subsidy for employees effective January 1, 2009. Council approved the subsidy unanimously.

Authorization to Expend Funds for the Proposed Garage Expansion

Mayor Wert stated that the Ways and Means Committee voted to recommend to Council the deferment of expending funds for the proposed garage expansion. Mayor Wert motioned to approve the expenditure of funds for the proposed garage expansion. The motion did not receive a second and failed.

Coastal Hydropower Contract Renewal

Mrs. Rucker stated that the Town currently has a contract with Coastal Hydropower for exterior cleaning of the Municipal Center building. This contract is set to expire December 31, 2008 and allows for an additional one year term. Council voted to extend the contract.

Beach Franchise Agreement

Mrs. Rucker stated that staff prepared an RFP for the Beach Franchise Agreement and published it via the Post and Courier and mailed it directly

to the firms that expressed interest in the service. Mrs. Rucker stated that the Ways and Means Committee reviewed the three proposals and evaluated each on professional experience, technical ability, references, and reasonableness of price. The committee recommended the awarding of the Beach Franchise agreement to Island Beach Service, Inc. Council unanimously approved the recommendation.

Solid Waste Consultant

Mayor Wert stated that the Ways and Means Committee asked staff to publish RFPs and gather pricing information on solid waste consultants to be received at a later time.

Citizen's Comments:

John C. Olson, Jr, 4985 Green Dolphin Way
Mr. Olson stated that he is doing this on behalf of the Johns Island High School group that has been planning a trip to Washington, D.C. in order to witness the Presidential Inauguration. Mr. Olson stated that he is giving advance notice to Council on his application to the Town's Charitable Contribution Fund for \$5,000. Mr. Olson thanked the Council for their advanced consideration of this item.

Robert Wilkes, Charleston Beach Chair Co.
Mr. Wilkes asked numerous questions relating to the advertised request for proposals for the beach franchise. Mayor Wert clarified that this is not a question and answer session, but that answers will be answered in a timely manner, in order for staff to research the answer and provide citizens with a proper response. Mayor Wert directed Wilkes to state his concerns in writing and forward them to the Town.

Committee Reports:

Beach Parking

Mr. Lipuma stated that KIGR's attorney advised Mr. Roger Warren that the Resort is under a contractual obligation to provide 30 beach parking spaces. A letter of proposal has been drafted for Mr. Bill Goodwin's approval and the Town should receive further information within the month.

Environmental Committee

Mr. Lipuma stated that there were no wildlife calls between the last meeting and today. Mr. Lipuma stated that annual rainfall is currently 10% below normal.

Arts Council

Mr. Lipuma stated that the Arts Council has two events coming up in December: The Child's Christmas in Wales, Sunday, December 7 and the Holiday Brass, December 12.

Johns Island Roads

Mr. Burnaford stated that Mr. Paul Thurmond, County Council, put together a group of Mayors to discuss the road's issues and that they will meet December 17, 2008. The Mayors will be able to bring a professional of their choice to the meeting. Mr. Burnaford stated that he will attend a Johns Island Council meeting and a CTC meeting for further information on the roads.

Town Administrator's Report

Mrs. Rucker stated that during 2008, Town Staff made several accomplishments by seeking additional training that furthers both individual professionalism and that of the Town. The Town also made tremendous strides in disaster preparation by contracting with debris removal and debris monitoring companies. Mrs. Rucker stated that in 2009 Town staff will actively search for a proper debris burn location in an emergency clean-up situation.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wert stated that beached scallop trawler was removed on November 26, 2008 by a joint effort of the US Coast Guard, SCDHEC, Carolina Salvage, and the Town. No damage was done; neither damage to the boat or the beach.

Mayor Wert stated that the Town will have a County Building Inspector inspect the Old Inn for health and safety issues. Mayor Wert stated that in the past, any issues with the Resort have been immediately corrected. Mayor Wert stated that the Town will notify the Resort when the inspector will be coming, but believes it should be within the next 2-3 days.

Mayor Wert stated that December 8, 2008 the Sanctuary will host a Christmas tree lighting to kick-off the holiday season on Kiawah. Mayor Wert wished everyone a happy holiday and a very safe New Year's.

New Homes Under Review by the ARB

413 Amaranth

The above homesites have been presented to the ARB for conceptual review, the first of three reviews by the ARB prior to approval. Call 843-768-3419 for more information.

2009 Bobcat GPS Study

The 3rd year of the Kiawah Island Bobcat GPS Study being conducted by The Town of Kiawah Island (TOKI), in partnership with the Kiawah Island Conservancy (KINHC), is about to get underway. Ten bobcats will be captured during the coming months and fitted with GPS collars. Each of these collars will log thousands of GPS locations over the next 1-2 years. During this time, TOKI biologists will be able to periodically download the latest GPS position data from the collars. The data will be available for public viewing on the Kiawah Island Bobcat Tracker website, which can be accessed from the TOKI and KINHC websites.

Bobcats play a major role in regulating the deer population on Kiawah. They also act as an excellent "umbrella species" (protection of bobcats and their habitat will also benefit many other species) for our island. A healthy bobcat population is necessary to maintain the current ecological balance on Kiawah Island. Information from this study will help researchers determine detailed bobcat habitat usage patterns, their response to development, and continue to aid in habitat conservation efforts on Kiawah Island.



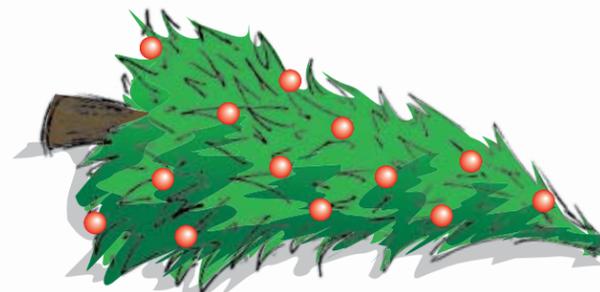
Stranded Vessel

An unlucky scallop boat unexpectedly ran aground on Kiawah Island Nov. 14th. U.S. Coast Guard, DHEC and Charleston Marine Service spent a week attempting to dislodge and refloat the vessel which had become a tourist attraction for those visiting Kiawah Island. With the assistance of some heavy equipment to dig a channel and apply a gentle nudge the vessel was towed and floated away during a high tide sending it on its journey to ports unknown. Many thanks to all those agencies involved in this project.

Business License Renewal

The Town of Kiawah Island will begin its annual Business License renewal process during the first week of January 2009. Business License renewal applications will be due on or before February 28 without a penalty. After this date, a 5% penalty per month will apply. Any property owner that conducts business on the Island is required to purchase a business license. Individuals that participate in the rental program, and purchase a license thorough a rental agency, but also rent individually are required to purchase

a separate license. Participants in the rental program are encouraged to update their information in the Short Term Rental Program and submit them to Town Hall. The 2009 Business License application and 2009 Short Term Rental forms are available on the Town's website at www.kiawahisland.org. For more information call Town Hall at (843) 768-9166.



Holiday Tree Collection

Beginning in January, Christmas trees and wreaths will be collected at the curbside, on Thursdays starting January 8th, along with regular yard debris pickup. All trees must be undecorated and placed with yard debris.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
from the Town of Kiawah Island