



A YEAR IN REVIEW

The new Mayor and Town Council began what turned out to be a very active 2013 year. Let's look at the actions and accomplishments as the year rolled out.

NEW PROGRAMS & ACTIONS:

~ SAFEbuilt was contracted to provide a full building department service at Town Hall, including the building code administration, permitting, inspections, plan reviews and flood plain management. This innovation results in quicker response time for the applicant and additional revenue to the Town. Architects, contractors, and homeowners now have a single point of contact housed at Town Hall reducing processing time from an average of six weeks to one week or less.

~ The development of a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan with Atlantic Business Continuity Services was funded to expand emergency coverage. The Town would follow the four phases of emergency management – mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Town's plan will serve as the framework for roles, responsibilities, and control during emergency management response and recovery operations.

The ***CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY*** was amended to specifically cover charitable donations grants.

The ***TALLOW TREE CONTROL PROGRAM*** was developed and implemented in cooperation with other Island entities to treat and control infestations of the invasive Chinese Tallow Tree. The initial phase involved treating 130.4 acres. The Tallow Tree is a severe threat to freshwater wetland areas on Kiawah Island and can alter the wetlands which provide habitat for amphibians, drinking water for animals, and support a diversity of plant species.

ANNEXATION OF FRESHFIELDS expanded the boundaries of the Town providing the Town control of planning and zoning of adjacent development and significant additional income. Four public information meetings and required public hearings were held. Months of coordinated and cooperative efforts between the Planning Commission, led by Lauren Patch and Fred Peterson, and representatives from Kiawah Developer, especially Mark Permar brought all maps and documents, including the Planned Development District Zoning, the Comprehensive Plan, and appropriate Ordinances.

SIXTEEN ORDINANCES were reviewed, updated, and approved. One of special note was the review of beach walkovers to address community concerns that drove this review. Council members and Town staff met with KICA and homeowners. Public Information meetings were held with DHEC representatives in attendance. Boardwalks were divided into three classifications; private, public, and community. Current beach walkovers were grandfathered. Community walkovers allowed to extend over the dunes and subject to additional regulations and inspection every five years.

The ***PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE*** established a monthly SCORECARD process which captures data for the activity levels in key performance areas for each of the agencies that serve the Island, fire district, EMS, and police coverage. The agencies submit the scorecard to the Public Safety Committee for review and explain performance on major incidents.

CONTRACTS RENEWED AND/OR AMENDED:

- ~ Island Beach Services Franchise; The Greenery contract; Night Heron Beach Franchise; Berkeley Electric Cooperative Franchise; Charleston County Deputies contract.
- ~ Entered into negotiations with KP to purchase the Kiawah Island Utility. Engaged Jacobs Engineering to update utility valuation of the Kiawah Island Utility.
- ~ Amended contract with Phillips and Jordan for the clearing of debris.

TOWN NOTES & WEBSITE: Town Notes mailed to full time residents with a digital version on the Town's website for all to view. Website upgraded with flash alerts and addition of Constant Contact email system.

APPOINTMENTS: Appointed new SATAX committee and chairman, Barry Abrams. Appointed John Strauch as the new Municipal Court Judge.

EXPENDITURES:

- ~ The Beachwalker Drive pedestrian path contract funded to extend the path in the entrance of the County Park.
- ~ Bridge joint repair proposal approved and later approved for funding from Charleston County.
- ~ New public safety vehicle and a beach utility vehicle purchased to be used by Town's biologists, relieving the use of Town's trucks to increase their longevity.
- ~ Aerial photography approved with KICA paying for half of the project.
- ~ Review quote for architectural and construction costs for modifications to Town Hall for additional office space.

EVENTS: Disaster Awareness Day was held at the River Course Clubhouse with panelists, exhibitors, demonstrations on preparedness tips, evacuation, emergency response and recovery.

ARTS COUNCIL held musical performances, art films, piano bar events, young artist event, holiday events, and a theater event.

AWARDS:

- ~ The Town participated in the Great American Cleanup by hosting a litter collection on its public roadways.
- ~ The Town received the Government Finance Officers Association award for the Popular Financial Report for the 6th year in a row.
- ~ The Town received the MASC achievement award in the Public Works category for the improvements made at the bridge on the Parkway. The new website design was featured also at the MASC meeting.