

Comprehensive Emergency Plan

Worked with a team of residents and consultant, Scott Cave to complete the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Plan that addresses potential threats to Kiawah; follows the Incident Command Structure; outlines internal preparation; and identifies response and recovery methods for each type of threat. This is the first document of this type published by the Town. The undertaking took five months and 100 meeting hours. It involved collaboration with each of the Island entities. The project also included revising existing Town ordinances for compliance. This plan was adopted by Town Council in May 2014 followed by staff and Council training.

RFP for Emergency Services

In April 2014, Council commissioned a study of all emergency services provided to Kiawah Island. Worked with Public Safety Chair to review responses from national firms and selected PSSi Consulting. The evaluation was completed in November 2014 and the newly elected Council will review the final consultant's report on January 6th at 1 pm.

Kiawah Bridge Joint Project

Worked with Collins Engineering to manage the project and oversee the construction. The bridge joints are still holding with no evidence of crumbling or cracking. This project was funded by the County Transportation Tax Fund totaling \$75,000.

Beachwalker Drive Pedestrian Path Project

Worked with McSweeney Engineers and Three Oaks Contractors to complete the asphalt pedestrian path into Beachwalker County Park. The path enhances beach access and reduces on street parking. This project was funded from the County Transportation Tax Fund totaling \$60,000.

VOA Transition

Transitioned Town operations to a Virtual Office or the "Cloud." This included a full appraisal of all operating systems, documents and software to insure full migration of all applications, and testing and activation of the system. Operating in the Cloud eliminates the need for back up servers or record storage. It increases functionality and allows users to work on the system from any location; continuous data backup; and ease of recovery from a disaster.

Communications

The Town advanced its communications by introducing electronic delivery of the newsletter and biweekly email blasts. The Town website was modified to include a new page for the bi-weekly e-blasts. Published a newly redesigned quarterly Town Notes in September 2014.

Annexation

With Freshfields Village annexed into the Town limits in December 2013, the Town worked to fully assimilate Freshfields Village into the Town. Introduced Community policing to the Village which currently has patrol consistently on all shifts to provide traffic control, deter crime and protect assets. The Village property manager was added as a member of the Public Safety Committee to ensure that issues specific to Freshfields were clearly communicated to the Town.

Building Services

Transitioned the building permitting, inspections and flood plain management services to the Town of Kiawah. Coordinated with Charleston County Building Services, Planning, Kiawah Architectural Review Board, Safebuilt and Town staff to incorporate these services into the Town's operations. Worked to renegotiate contract to increase revenue to the Town for FY2015. This resulted in an additional staff member, at no additional expense to the Town, to handle the higher than anticipated volume. Inspections started on July 1, 2013 and exceeded projected volume and revenue. The Town collected \$823,214 in FY14 as compared to \$35,974 in FY13. The transition has also been well received by contractors, praising the improved customer service, speed and thoroughness of plan reviews and inspections.

Community Rating Services Audit

Completed the five year Community Rating Services audit with the Town floodplain manager and FEMA auditor on September 18th. Worked with the auditor to document the Town's compliance with the newly updated FEMA regulations and attempted to improve our rate class. This would result in additional saving to Kiawah residents on flood insurance premiums.

Property Acquisition

The Town worked with a team led by former Councilman Richard Murphy, Charlie Moore of Carolina One Real Estate, Jacobs Engineering; SC DHEC; LS3P Architects and SCDOT to resolve contingencies to the purchase agreement of real property on Betsy Kerrison Parkway. The Town prepared two public presentations for the community to address questions on the property acquisition in October. On November 4th, the Town voted to acquire the 27.652 acre property for a total cost of \$2 million. On December 5th the Council held the final of two ordinance readings to annex the property into the town limits. The property will serve as the future location of a municipal complex for Town operations.

Financial Management

Through sound fiscal management, budgeting and oversight, the Town completed the year with a clean audit opinion and an increase in annual fund balance of \$1.8 million bringing the Town's total fund balance to \$17 million. The Town received a recertified Debt and Investment Policies Certificate in 2014 from the Association of Public Treasurers of the US& Canada. Also, the Town received the Award in Excellence for financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This is the highest recognition that can be bestowed upon a local government in the financial arena.

Wildlife Studies

Wildlife Staff completed a variety of projects and surveys during 2014. Tallow Trees were treated with herbicides on 240 acres during Year 2 of a long-term control program. Bobcat and coyote research was continued and 6 bobcats and 1 coyote were fitted with GPS collars. Fall Migration bird banding was conducted for the 6th year in a row and 5,083 birds were banded. Marsh sparrow banding produced 481 birds during its 4th year. The Bluebird Box program monitored 209 boxes this year utilizing 14 resident volunteers. In addition, long-term population surveys were continued for deer, alligators, and breeding birds.

TOWN NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF KIAWAH ISLAND



Town of Kiawah Island • 21 Beachwalker Drive Kiawah Island, SC 29455 • 843-768-9166 • www.kiawahisland.org

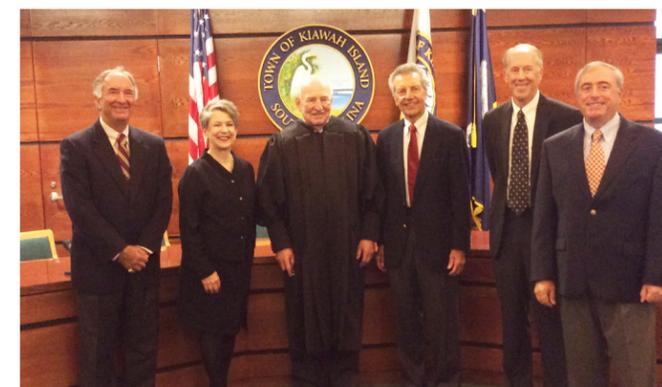
2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION



The Kiawah Island voters have elected its 13th municipal administration comprised of Mayor and Town Council. Approximately 403 voters turned out on a cold and rainy day to cast their votes. Voters selected between two mayoral candidates and four contenders for four council seats.

The voters re-elected Mayor Charles R. Lipuma for another two-year term with 253 votes of 64% defeating challenger Fran Wermuth. For Council, voters re-elected two incumbent candidates, Mr. John Labriola with 296 votes or 24% and Mrs. Mary Johnson with 274 votes or 22%. Two new Councilmen, Mr. Craig Weaver and Mr. John Wilson will join the ranks beginning in January 2015. Mr. Weaver received a total of 290 votes or 23.7% and Mr. Wilson received a total of 297 votes or 24.3% of the votes.

On December 8th, these newly elected candidates were officially sworn into office by Municipal Judge, the Honorable John Strauch. Joined by family, colleagues and community leaders, the five members of Council were congratulated and welcomed into service. As pictured above, everyone was elated by the outcomes and occasion.



As the Town embarks on 2015, the newly elected Council will begin strategizing and conduct planning sessions to determine their course for the upcoming term. Currently Council is scheduled to hold a full day strategic planning session on January 27th at the Marriott in downtown Charleston. Some of the strategy topics to be deliberated include the new Municipal Center, Comprehensive Plan update and results of the Emergency Services evaluation results.

Please join the Town in congratulating the newly elected Council members as they endeavor to conduct the business of the Town; formulate policies; and represent the interests of the Kiawah Community in the greater Charleston area and state.

You are invited to attend Town Council meetings and be an active and engaged community member. All meetings are open to the public and are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm in the Town Council Chambers.

TOWN NOTICES

OFFICE CLOSINGS:

Thursday, January 1st - New Years Day
Monday, January 19th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, February 16th - President's Day

SOLID WASTE CHANGE NOTICES:

January: New Years Day-Yard debris will be collected Friday, January 2nd rather than Thursday, January 1st.
*Holiday Trees will be collected with yard debris on Thursdays in January. All decorations must be removed.

March: Brown Trash & Hazardous Waste: Friday, March 6th.

Ordinance 2014-10 – To Amend Article 14, Chapter 3 - Elevated Buildings Council approved the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2014-10 in title only and to hold a workshop to further discuss the amendments. Council unanimously approved 2nd reading of ordinance 2014-10 at its November 4th meeting.

PSSi Contract Update and Presentation PSSi consultants provided Council with an update on the progress of the Emergency Services Assessment.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation Mayor Lipuma made a proclamation that declared October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Kiawah Island.

Betsy Kerrison Parkway Connectivity Pathway Council considered a proposal from County Councilman Qualey for a connectivity project that would be funded by the Charleston County Transportation Commission. The project would finish the existing asphalt pedestrian pathway along Betsy Kerrison Parkway to and connect it to Freshfields. Council decided not to support the project application due to the scope of the project; limited funding; and continued safety concerns.

Construction Board of Appeals Member Appointments Council approved the appointment of the two additional members to the Construction Board of Appeals.

Accurate Window Cleaning Contract Amendment Council approved a one-year contract extension for Accurate Window Cleaning at the annual rate of \$2,500.

Charleston County Sheriffs Office Fiscal Year 2015 Contract Amendment Approved a contract amendment to increase the hourly rate for deputy supervisors' from \$25 per hour to \$30 per hour.

Fiscal Year 2014 Audit Accepted the Fiscal Year 2014 audit completed by Webster Rogers. The audit was deemed to be a "clean audit" with a total fund balance of \$17 million.

Betsy Kerrison Property Acquisition In a 3-2 vote, Council approved the purchase of a 27+ acre tract of land located on Betsy Kerrison Parkway for \$2,000,000. The vote was taken following full public disclosure via Town Hall Public Information meetings held on October 28th and 30th.

Arts and Cultural Event Committee Charter Council approved a committee char-

ter which expands the Arts Council to the Arts and Cultural Event Committee. The advisory committee will oversee and manage those events designed to generate tourism but fall short of meeting the strict state accommodations tax guidelines as well as though provided for Kiawah residents.

Mobile Radio RFP Vendor Selection Approved the proposal submitted by Motorola Solutions, Inc. for 18 mobile radios, chargers and software in the amount of \$29,718.18 for use by the CERT team and damage assessment teams.

Kiawah River Estates Annexation Discussion Council heard comments from representatives of the Kiawah River Estates (KRE) property owners group pertaining to a potential annexation of the community into Kiawah Island. Both Town Council and the KRE representatives acknowledged that this was a exploratory discussion to determine if both parties found it legally feasible or mutually beneficial. No action was taken or determination made relative to this matter.

Annual Health Insurance Subsidy Approved an annual health insurance subsidy for employees totaling \$130 per month; a reduction from the previous \$175 subsidy.

Comcast State Issued Franchise Application Council approved the Comcast franchise application with a continuation of the current 3% franchise rate on Kiawah.

Ordinance 2014-11 to Provide for the Annexation of Contiguous Property Council approved the ordinance annexing the recently acquired Betsy Kerrison property into the corporate limits of the town. The property will have an interim zoning designation as Community Support.



Mayor's Corner - Charles R. Lipuma

Looking back 2014 was both a challenging and rewarding year. Rewarding as we achieved two of our strategic objectives; annexing Freshfields Village and the remaining 20 acres of property there and purchasing the new Town of Kiawah gateway, 21 + acres adjacent to the round about. Also, personally rewarding, was my reelection as Mayor by a near two-to-one margin, clearly signaling the electorate strong support of this administrations initiatives. We have now reconstituted Town Council. Dick Murphy and Lauren Patch chose not to run for a second term of office. The two incumbents, John Labriola and Mary Johnson were joined by Craig Weaver and John Wilson, two outstanding members of the Kiawah community. We thank both Dick and Lauren for their many contributions to the Town and its future during the last two years.

Looking ahead we have unfinished business. The January 6th Town Council meeting will deal largely with Town Council reorganization, Committee assignments and appointments. Our next strategic planning meeting will be held on January 26th. The major challenges faced will be purchase of the Kiawah Island utility, scoping and design of a new municipal center, assessment and follow up of PSSi's report on the Town's Fire, EMS, and Police services and John's Island Roads. It should be another exciting year.

Salary Adjustments Council approved a motion to adjust salaries by up to 5% along with a 1% salary range adjustment. The 6% total adjustment would be distributed to employees by the Town's Administrator.

PSSi – Emergency Services RFP Presentation Council deferred the presentation from PSSi until January after receipt the final report from the consultant.

2015 Holiday/Meetings Schedule Council approved the 2015 Holiday and meeting schedule.

Atkins Contract Amendment Council approved an amendment to extend the terms of the debris monitoring agreement with Atkins for an additional year.

Review of the Charleston Visitors Bureau Annual Audit Council reviewed the Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau's (CACVB) annual audit. As the Town's designated marketing organization, the CACVB receives 30% in state accommodations tax funding from the Town.

Kiawah Island Traffic Sign Discussion Council approved the Kiawah Island Traffic Sign and pavement recommendations to increase safe driving conditions on the Parkway and intersection of the Parkway and Beachwalker Drive. The project was approved for funding totaling \$10,000 by the Charleston Transportation Tax Committee.

Charitable Giving Policy and Application Discussion Council approved a revised policy and application process to simplify the process for applicants.

ADMINISTRATIVE

CALL FOR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS



The Town of Kiawah is seeking volunteers to serve on its various committees in 2015. If you are interested in serving on or learning more about any of the Town Committees, please contact the Town Clerk at 843-768-9166. Additional information about the committee descriptions and schedules are available online at <http://www.kiawahisland.org/boards-committees>.

Arts and Cultural Events Council: The committee shall advise the Town on matters relating to the planning, development, organization and implementation of activities relating to the visual and performing arts. The committee meets monthly or at the discretion of the committee chair person.

Communications Committee: The mission of the Communications Committee is to work with Town Staff to help maintain and improve the quality of Town publications and communications. The committee meets monthly or at the discretion of the committee chair person.

Environmental Committee: The Environmental Committee meets monthly to study and report on environmental issues such as flora/fauna control, monitor health and population of birds and animals like alligator, bobcat, deer, fox, and raccoons.

Public Safety Committee: The Public Safety Committee meets monthly and is responsible for assisting the Town in its responsibilities for public safety, health, and welfare.

Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee: This subcommittee of the Public Safety Committee shall review the emergency plan and make recommendations to Town Council for updates and improvements to the plan. The committee will meet annually or at the discretion of the chairman.

Public Works Committee: The Public Works Committee assists the Town in monitoring and making recommendations to improve solid waste services, infrastructure, facilities and utility needs. The committee will meet monthly or at the discretion of the committee chair person.

Construction Board of Appeals: The Construction Board of Appeals hears appeals regarding decisions and interpretations made by the Town's Building Official. The committee will also provide educational opportunities for contractors. The Board meets as called. (Volunteers on these committees serve a one-year term and are reappointed annually).

State Mandated Committees

Planning Commission: The Commission meets monthly to approve plats and make recommendations to the Town Council on planned developments; zoning districts; map amendments; text amendments; and comprehensive plan updates. Members of this group serve for four (4) year terms.

Board of Zoning Appeals: The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) meets as needed to: hear and decide zoning appeals of an alleged error; hear and decide applications for variances; and permit uses by special exception, (Special Exceptions). Members of this group serve for three (3) three-year terms.

State Accommodations Tax Committee: The State Accommodations Tax Committee meets annually to consider applications and make recommendations for the allocation of tourism-related funding. Volunteers on this committee serve a one-year term and are reappointed annually.

ENVIRONMENTAL

2015 BOBCAT MANAGEMENT PLAN



Kiawah is home to a healthy, stable population of bobcats. They play a vital role in our island ecosystem by helping to control rodent and deer populations. Because of their importance to the island, Town Biologists have been conducting research on bobcats using GPS collars since 2007. This research study, funded in part by the Kiawah Conservancy, is the longest-running GPS study on bobcats in the world. Over the last 8 years, 58 bobcats have been fitted with GPS collars providing important data on bobcat movements, habitat use, and reproductive success. More than 80,000 individual bobcat locations have been obtained during this study. In order to translate this vast amount of data into a usable form, biologists periodically produce a comprehensive set of Bobcat Management Guidelines for Kiawah Island. This document was first created in 2008 and was updated in 2011 and 2014. The document provides a wealth of information on bobcats and their general habitat needs and requirements. It also identifies specific parcels of land that are of vital importance to bobcats. The 2014 Guidelines provide information and details on 59 Important Bobcat Areas (IBA). These IBAs are located throughout the island on property owned by island entities and also by individual homeowners. This document is intended to educate and encourage island entities and homeowners to make land management decisions that will benefit bobcats and their habitat. The Kiawah Conservancy, in particular, uses this document extensively when evaluating lands for purchase or protection by conservation easement. Download the latest version of this document here www.wildlifeatkiawah.com and see if there is an IBA located near you.

CERT BASIC CERTIFICATION CLASS



The Town of Kiawah Island CERT Team will be holding Basic Certification Classes for those interested in learning life saving techniques. Attendees will obtain Charleston County Certification for CERT programs. They will also provide important first responder skills such as how to address the three major causes

of death in an emergency situation: breathing stoppage, excessive bleeding, and shock. Topics such as fire suppression, search and rescue, injury triage and earthquake response will also be covered. The training will consist of the following classes:

- Friday, January 23 @ 9-5pm – Unit 1 Disaster Preparedness, Unit 2 Fire Safety and Utility Controls, Unit 5 Light Search and Rescue Operations - Location: Kiawah Island
- Saturday, January 24 @ 9-5pm – Unit 3-4 Disaster Medical Operations, Unit 6 CERT Organization -Location: Kiawah Island
- Friday, January 30 @ 9-5pm – Unit 7 Disaster Psychology, Unit 8 Terrorism and CERT - Location: Kiawah Island
- Saturday, January 31 @ 9-5pm – Course Review, Final Exam, and Disaster Simulation – Location: Charleston County Rescue Squad 2521 Rescue Drive North Charleston, SC 29405

Anyone interested in attending these classes should contact Jack Regan at 843-768-1948 or jackregan@bellsouth.net. Class sizes will be limited and attendees will be selected on a first come basis.