



# 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](http://www.kiawahisland.org)

## KIAWAH ISLAND MUNICIPAL CENTER APPROVED



At the March 1st Town Council meeting, the Kiawah Island Town Council approved the new Municipal Center project for \$9.25M, and approved the Thomas Construction Group as the General Contractor with a bid of \$7.3M. Councilman John Labriola, who is also chair of the Municipal Center Committee, stated “this decision represents a major milestone for the Town to construct a new Town Hall on the Betsy Kerrison site and become the "Gateway" to Kiawah.” It is anticipated that site work will begin mid April.

The Town would like to invite the entire community to the groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, May 3rd at 12:00 pm at 4475 Betsy Kerrison Parkway. Light refreshments provided. Please join us in celebrating the beginning of this exciting project!

### GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY -TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016 AT 12:00 PM



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Photo: Jack Kotz, Kiawah Island Photography Club

## Town Office Closings

Monday, May 30th – Memorial Day  
Monday, July 4th – Independence Day

## Town Notices

### Town of Kiawah Island Concludes Forensic Audit

On March 4th, Mayor Lipuma announced that the Town concluded the forensic audit and reported on the findings. His remarks can be found in the Mayor's Corner or online at [www.kiawahisland.org](http://www.kiawahisland.org)

**Turtle Patrol Kick Off Meeting:** Monday, April 25th at 6:30 pm at the Sandcastle. Interested in volunteering? Contact Lynne Sager at (843) 670-7063 or [lynnesager@me.com](mailto:lynnesager@me.com)

## Solid Waste Change Notices:

### April

Paper Shredding (drive up): Wednesday, April 20th from 9-2 pm  
Town Hall garage

### May

Memorial Day Service Change: Monday's trash will be collected on Tuesday, June 1st. All other collections will be moved forward to the next day. Twice per week trash collection begins the week of May 2nd. Trash service request changes accepted from May 1-31st

### June

No Change in Service  
Brown Trash & Hazardous Waste: Friday, June 3rd.

## Biweekly E-Blasts

SUBSCRIBE

Are you subscribed to the Town's e-mail notifications?

To be added send your name and e-mail address to [sbraswell@kiawahisland.org](mailto:sbraswell@kiawahisland.org)



## Spotlight On

Kathryn McLerren,  
Finance Clerk

In March, Kathryn McLerren announced her retirement from the Town of Kiawah Island. Kathryn has worked for the Town for ten years in two separate positions. She started in 2005 as our receptionist and in 2009 became the Finance Clerk and Clerk of Court.

The Town wishes to thank Kathryn for her many years of service and wishes her a wonderful retirement.

Do you have a praise report for Town staff?  
If so, email Town Administrator  
Stephanie Monroe Tillerson at  
[stillerson@kiawahisland.org](mailto:stillerson@kiawahisland.org)

# MAYOR'S CORNER –

Charles R. Lipuma

March 1st is a date to remember given two seminal events. Firstly, Town Council approved the Municipal Center Project at our Betsy Kerrison site with an overall budget of \$9.25M. Secondly, the Community Association Board approved a purchase price of \$1,575M for the Town's existing Town Hall site on Beachwalker Drive which was accepted by Town Council. Subsequently, on March 7, a signed KICA "Letter of Intent to Purchase" was hand delivered to me which I accepted on behalf of Town Council the following day.

By way of background, while KICA and The Town have overlapping constituencies we are completely separate entities. KICA is a private, professional organization and the Town a statutory municipality incorporated in the State of South Carolina.

The Town must receive fair value for any asset sale. Based on appraisals from two independent assessors we concluded \$1,575M was a fair and reasonable price.

Similarly, KICA needed to assure their property owners that they would be paying a market based price for a 3.5 acre site on Kiawah Island with a 13,500 sq. ft. building and a four bay garage. The mutually agreed price of \$1.575 million is a win-win for both organizations.

On a less happy note, we concluded the second phase of our forensic financial audit covering the



years of 2011 and 2012. This second phase did not cover earlier years because payroll records prior to 2011 were not deemed to be sufficiently available in order to draw reliable conclusions.

The forensic auditor found that in 2011 and 2012 an additional \$81,400 in excess payments were made to former employees Rucker and Gunnells. The aggregate excess payments in this four and one-half year period, from 2011 to 2015, are \$206,425 with half attributed to each. Additionally information can be found on the Town's website.

We have sent this update to the US Attorney's Office and are urging them, the FBI and SLED to expedite their investigations.

*Charles R. Lipuma*

## ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER – Stephanie Monroe Tillerson



The Town of Kiawah will have a new website by the fall of 2016 thanks to Cobble Hill, a web design agency in Charleston. The Town posted a Request for Proposal on November 30, 2015. Twelve proposals were received. After a thorough review of the proposals, Staff recommended to Town Council the approval of Cobble Hill at the March 8th Town Council meeting.

Goals of this project are to re-design and greatly enhance the Town's existing website that will have a fresh look, improved navigation and new interactive tools. The new site will be developed by Cobble Hill, who will work with staff over the next several months gathering detailed information about the Town of Kiawah Island and the Kiawah Island Community. We anticipate production time will be at least four months so the community can expect the launch of the new site in fall of this year.

The updated design will incorporate enhanced graphics, improved navigation, a great search engine and a centralized calendar to quickly and easily find out more about Town programs, events and services. The new site will automatically adjust screen resolution to fit smartphones, tablets, laptops and other mobile devices. There will be many new key features of the website.

The Town's website is the first impression many people have of our community and it services as the portal for citizens to connect with local government from any location, at any time of the day or night. Our website is one of the most powerful tools we have to keep citizens engaged and informed. We look forward to using the redesigned website to communicate efficiently and effectively with the community.

*Stephanie Monroe Tillerson*

# TOWN ACCEPTS KICA OFFER TO PURCHASE CURRENT MUNICIPAL CENTER

At its March 1st meeting, Kiawah's Town Council voted unanimously to accept an offer by The Kiawah Island Community Association (KICA) to purchase the current Town Hall site for \$1,575,000.00. Specific details, such as a closing date, will be negotiated by the two parties over the next several weeks. The existing facility was built by the Town in 1996 and the Community Association has leased and occupied half of the building for its administrative operations since early-1997.



In a joint statement, Mayor Charles Lipuma and KICA Board Chair Dave Schoenholz hailed the agreement as a "win-win" for the community. Both KICA and the Town had the property independently appraised and over the past week representatives of the Town and KICA worked together with both appraisers to reconcile differences in various assumptions and to agree to a fair price. KICA and the Town will continue to be neighbors at the Beachwalker facility until completion of a new Municipal Center on the Town's Betsy Kerrison property in mid-2017. According to Schoenholz, "this will allow KICA ample time to solicit feedback on how the additional space can best be utilized for the community's use. KICA does not plan a member assessment to pay for the property, which can be paid for with existing reserves, a mortgage, or a combination of the two". The Town intends to use the proceeds from this sale exclusively toward the construction of the new Municipal Center. Both the Town and KICA look forward to providing updates to the community as they are available.



## SEASONAL LEASH ORDINANCE

As a reminder from March 16th – October 31st dogs must be on the leash at all times from the Critical Habitat Area west of the Beachwalker County Park to the eastern boundary of the Beach Club designated below in green. *Electronic leashes are prohibited.* A larger version of the map can be found by visiting [www.kiawahisland.org](http://www.kiawahisland.org) under popular links. **Critical Habitat Area:** Dogs are prohibited in critical habitat areas designated below in red. The **Dog Use Areas** designated below in blue will allow dogs off leash year round located between the eastern boundary of the Beach Club and the Ocean Course pedestrian access provided they are under voice command. **Off leash stipulations:** The owner must remain with their pet, have the pet under control, and have in their possession a leash in the event that there is a need to leash their pet, or if requested.



### LEGEND

-  **Critical Habitat Area**  
No Dogs Allowed
-  **Dog Use Area**  
Dogs off leash year round, must be under control
-  **Seasonal Dog Leash Area**  
(Nov. 1-March 15) Dogs off leash, must be under control

# CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION APPLICATION SELECTIONS



Every year the Town donates to worthy organizations through our charitable contribution application process. Applications are reviewed by the Ways and Means committee and amounts are recommended to Town Council. At the February 9th Town Council meeting, the following amounts were approved:

## Awardees

## Contribution

Kiawah Women's Foundation	\$7000
Sweetgrass Garden Co-op, Inc.	\$1,000
Backpack Buddies Seabrook Island	\$1,500
Lowcountry Food Bank	\$5,000
Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic, Inc.	\$20,000
Teacher's Supply Closet	\$10,000
Charleston Symphony Orchestra	\$30,000
Full Faith Ministries	\$7,500
Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Services, Inc.	\$20,000
Engaging Creative Minds	\$10,000
Sea Island Habitat for Humanity	\$12,000
Sea Islands Hunger Awareness Foundation	\$1,000
South Carolina Aquarium	\$5,000
Catesby Commemorative Trust, Inc.	\$2,500
Respite Care Charleston	\$2,500
Gibbes Museum of Art	\$20,000
Kiawah Island Conservancy	\$45,000

# TOWN COMMITTEES

The Town of Kiawah is seeking volunteers to serve on its various committees each year. Most committee volunteers serve a one-year term and may be reappointed annually. If you are interested in serving or learning more about any of the Town Committees, please contact the Town Clerk at 843-768-9166 or by email at [clerk@kiawahisland.org](mailto:clerk@kiawahisland.org)

**Arts and Cultural Events Council:** plans, develops and implements activities relating to the visual and performing arts. (Meets monthly)

**Audit Committee:** assists Town Council in fulfilling in providing oversight of the Town's systems of internal controls, risk management, integrity of financial statements, and performance of the Town's independent auditors. (Meets twice a year)

**Communications Committee:** works with Town Staff to help maintain and improve the quality of Town publications and communications. (Meets bimonthly)

**Construction Board of Appeals:** hears appeals regarding decisions and interpretations made by the Town's Building Official. The committee also provides educational opportunities for contractors. (Meets as called)

**Environmental Committee:** studies and reports on environmental issues such as flora/fauna control, health and population of birds and animals like alligator, bobcat, deer, fox, and raccoons. (Meets monthly)

**Public Safety Committee:** responsible for assisting the Town in its responsibilities for public safety, health and welfare. (Meets monthly)

**Public Works Committee:** assists the Town in monitoring and making recommendations to improve solid waste services, infrastructure, facilities and utility needs. (Meets monthly)

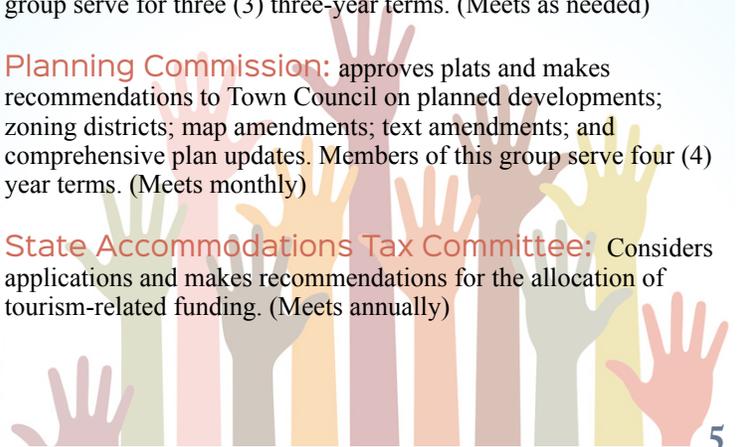
**Turtle Patrol:** (Not a committee) but taking volunteers. If interested contact Lynne Sager at 670-7063 or [lynnesager@me.com](mailto:lynnesager@me.com)

## State Mandated Committees

**Board of Zoning Appeals:** (BZA) hears and decides on all zoning appeals of an alleged error; hears and decides on applications for variances; and permit uses by special exception. Members of this group serve for three (3) three-year terms. (Meets as needed)

**Planning Commission:** approves plats and makes recommendations to Town Council on planned developments; zoning districts; map amendments; text amendments; and comprehensive plan updates. Members of this group serve four (4) year terms. (Meets monthly)

**State Accommodations Tax Committee:** Considers applications and makes recommendations for the allocation of tourism-related funding. (Meets annually)



## 10 YEARS OF BOBCAT GPS RESEARCH ON KIAWAH



This year marks the 10th anniversary of Bobcat GPS research on Kiawah Island! This project is the longest, continuous GPS study on bobcats in the world and was developed by The Town of Kiawah Island, in partnership with the Kiawah Conservancy, in 2007. Kiawah's bobcats play a vital role in our island ecosystem by helping to control rodent and deer populations. A total of 68 bobcats have been captured and fitted with GPS collars to date, including 4 in February 2016. Two additional collars are scheduled for deployment in March 2016. Collars are programmed to obtain a specific number of locations per day allowing biologists to identify habitat use patterns during day and nighttime hours, denning sites, travel corridors, survival, dispersal, and more. This information is used to pinpoint specific areas or habitat types on the island that are of vital importance to bobcats and to update the Bobcat Management Guidelines for the island. This plan provides suggestions and recommendations to all island entities and property owners regarding creation, preservation, and improvement of bobcat habitat. For up-to-date details on the 2016 bobcats, visit [www.wildlifeatkiawah.com/2016bobcats.html](http://www.wildlifeatkiawah.com/2016bobcats.html)

### Meet the first 4 bobcats of 2016:



**Bobcat 200** – This adult female (15 lbs, 8 oz) was captured near Beachwalker County Park on February 1. She was originally tagged as a kitten on April 3, 2013 and was collared during 2014 (Bobcat 200) and 2015 (Bobcat 450, “Susan”). Her home range typically extends from Captain Sam’s spit to Night Heron Park.

**Bobcat 250** – This adult female (16 lbs) was captured on Flyway Drive on February 1st. She was originally captured and released as a juvenile in March 2009 making her at least 8 years old. She was also caught during 2010 (Bobcat 220) and 2011(not collared). Her home range extends from the Vanderhorst Gate to Flyway Drive.



**Bobcat 800** – This juvenile male (13 lbs) was captured near Willet Pond and on February 3rd. This is the first time we have captured this bobcat. His home range extends from the Beach Club to the Ocean Course Clubhouse.

**Bobcat 900** – This adult male (21.5 lbs) was captured near the Vanderhorst Gate on February 7th. This is the first time we have captured this bobcat. His home range extends 6 Captain Sam’s spit to the Vanderhorst Gate.



## WINTER MARSH SPARROW RESEARCH PROJECT

Three species of coastal "marsh" sparrows winter in the saltmarshes of Kiawah Island: Seaside Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, and Saltmarsh Sparrow. Because this group of sparrows has very specific habitat needs, they are particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise and loss of habitat along their wintering range in the southeastern United States. Sparrows are captured in mist nets placed at high tide roosting areas in the saltmarsh. The high tide concentrates the sparrows into these smaller patches of habitat, making the birds easier to capture. Capture efforts typically begin in December and continue through April or May. There are only 6-7 days a month when the tide is high enough to efficiently capture these birds. Each sparrow is identified to species (and subspecies) and marked with a small aluminum band around one leg. A series of morphological measurements are taken and the bird is released back into the saltmarsh. Feather samples are also collected from Seaside Sparrows and Nelson's Sparrows for stable isotope analysis, which may help us link “our” wintering birds to their breeding areas up north.

The winter of 2015-2016 marks the 5th year of the Winter Marsh Sparrow Research Project. So far this season, 18 unique sites have been sampled, 289 birds have been banded, and 123 birds have been recaptured.

- Seaside Sparrow (193 banded, 89 recaptures)
- Saltmarsh Sparrow (30 banded, 26 recaptures)
- Nelson's Sparrow (44 banded, 8 recaptures)

This study will help us learn important information regarding the wintering ecology of these sparrows, including site fidelity, survivorship, and habitat needs.

## SEA ISLANDS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT



The 4th official Sea Island Christmas Bird Count was conducted on January 4, 2016. Fifty-five participants enjoyed pleasant, but slightly breezy conditions for the count this year. The count consists of 16 different territories covering Kiawah Island, Seabrook Island, Wadmalaw Island, and Johns Island. We recorded 21,525 individuals of 158 different species. Species highlights included Snow Goose, Roseate Spoonbill, American White Pelican, Wilson's Plover, Baltimore Oriole, Peregrine Falcon, Parasitic Jaeger, and Northern Rough-winged Swallow.

The Town would like to thank all of the volunteers for continuing to make this count a huge success. We would also like to thank the many private and public land owners and communities that allowed us to count birds on their property and the Kiawah Conservancy for providing chili and refreshments after the count. For more information on the Sea Islands Christmas Bird Count and to see a full list of volunteers and participating landowners, please visit [www.wildlifeatkiawah.com/seaislandcbc.html](http://www.wildlifeatkiawah.com/seaislandcbc.html)



# FRESHFIELDS VILLAGE

For more information call 843.768.6491 or visit [www.freshfieldsvillage.com/events](http://www.freshfieldsvillage.com/events)



## Kiawah Motoring Tour

April 15 – (9 - 10 am & 1- 2 pm)

Freshfields Village is honored to host the Kiawah Motoring Tour on Friday, April 15th as kickoff to the Kiawah Motoring Retreat (see back cover) A group of 50 cars will gather around the Village Green

from 9:00 to 10:00 am before beginning their tour of Kiawah, Johns, and Wadmalaw Islands. The cars will return between 1:00 and 2:00 pm for a special wine tasting at FortyEight - a Wine Bar. Be sure to stop by the Village and check out the unique cars on display during these times.

## Cars & Coffee

May 21 & June 18 (9-11 am)

This monthly event is held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The event offers a chance for car owners to meet, socialize, and view unique cars from around the Charleston area. Coffee and breakfast are available for purchase at Java Java.



## Memorial Day Weekend Concert Series

May 27 & 28 (6-9 pm)

The Memorial Day Weekend Concert Series kicks off the summer events with two evenings of live music on the Village Green. The free, family friendly concerts feature Swingin' Richards on Friday and Tullamore Road on Saturday. Visitors will have the opportunity to see live demonstrations, view works from local and regional artists in participating stores while enjoying wine, snacks, and live acoustic music. The event is free and open to the public.



## Starlight Cinema Movie Series

Wednesdays Beginning June 1 (8:30 pm)

Join us each Wednesday night at 8:30 pm for a free movie under the stars. Guests are encouraged to bring a beach chair or blanket for the event. June 1 - Free Willy, June 8 - Hotel Transylvania 2 June 15 - Tomorrowland, June 22 - Ant Man, June 29 - Cinderella

## Music on the Green Concert Series

Fridays Beginning June 3 (6- 9 pm)

Join us each Friday night from 6:00 to 9:00 pm for a free concert on the Green. Guests are encouraged to bring a beach chair or blanket for the event. June 3 – Forty Mile Detour, June 10 – Port Authority Band, June 17 – TBD, June 24 – Shem Creek Boogie Band



## Farmer's Market

Mondays Beginning June 6 (4-8pm)

Join us each Monday evening from 4:00 to 8:00 pm for our annual Farmer's Market featuring a variety of vendors with organic produce, locally made food products, prepared foods, and Lowcountry crafts. A full list of vendors can be found at

[www.freshfieldsvillage.com](http://www.freshfieldsvillage.com)

## Business Spotlight

### NEW STORE OPENINGS:



Las Olas – Now Open; Specializing in swimwear and lifestyle accessories for both men and women with a variety of designers and styles.



Dolittle's – Opening May 2016; Offering high quality pet foods, toys, treats, collars, beds, and so much more. The shop will also offer a self-service bathing room to help keep your dog clean!



TOWN OF KIAWAH  
**Arts**  
& CULTURAL  
EVENTS

Tickets are available online at [www.kiawahisland.org](http://www.kiawahisland.org) or at Kiawah Island Town Hall 843-768-9166. All events are open to public but Kiawah property owners have a 3 day lead time on tickets for Arts Council events. \*Cultural Events (in red) have only one release date.

## APRIL



### NEW YORK POLYPHONY

Sunday, April 3, 2016  
4:00pm - Holy Spirit Catholic Church  
Tickets Available Now

Praised for a “rich, natural sound that’s larger and more complex than the sum of its parts,” (National Public Radio) New York Polyphony is regarded as one of the finest vocal chamber ensembles in the world.



### 12TH ANNUAL BLUES BY THE SEA

Sunday, April 10, 2016  
2:30pm-7:00pm -Freshfields Village  
No Tickets Required

The Arts and Cultural events fund brings you another FREE blues extravaganza,

fun for the entire family at the 12th annual Blues by the Sea. Bring a lawn chair, blanket to Freshfields Village Green (rain or shine - we are tented) and enjoy three national Blues acts! Delicious food and beverages for sale on site. Coolers are allowed. Plenty of free parking.

## MAY | JUNE



Piccolo Spoleto

### PICCOLO PREVIEW

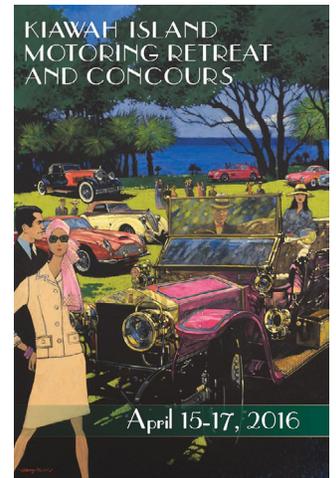
Sunday, May 1, 2016  
4:00pm - Holy Spirit Catholic Church  
\*Ticket Release: 4/15

### PICCOLO COMES TO “KITTIWAH”

Wednesday, June 8, 2016  
Oyster Roast – 5:30pm-6:30pm  
Dinner Buffet – 5:30pm-7:00pm  
Mingo Point  
Adults: \$47, Children ages 4 – 12: \$25  
\*Ticket Release: 5/25

# KIAWAH ISLAND MOTORING RETREAT

Art on Wheels Rolls onto Kiawah!  
The Kiawah Island Motoring Retreat and Concours (KIMR) is coming to Kiawah the weekend of April 15 -17. It is a Lowcountry celebration of outstanding automobiles. The major events will take place at Ocean Park, a beautiful and scenic new park at the entrance to the Ocean Course. More information and tickets available at [www.kiawahconcours.com](http://www.kiawahconcours.com). The master of ceremonies is Keith Martin; publisher of two popular enthusiast magazines and co-host of Velocity Network’s highly rated “What’s My Car Worth” TV series.



## FRIDAY, APRIL 15

**10:00am-1:00pm | Kiawah Motoring Tour** - Tour scenic Johns, Wadmalaw & Kiawah Islands with a stop at the Firefly Distillery for lunch and a moonshine tasting.

**2:30-4:30pm | Automotive Seminars**

**6:00pm-9:00pm | Lowcountry Oyster Roast and Craft Beer Tasting** (Rhett's Bluff) Watch the sun set over the river while enjoying fresh steamed oysters, hand-made mini-brats and southern side dishes. Live music by Honey Smoke.

**6:30pm-9:00pm | Wine reception at the Golf Club at Briars Creek** Wine reception with hors d'oeuvres followed by a five course gourmet meal coupled with upscale wine pairings.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 16

**10:00am-3:00pm | Cars on Kiawah** at Ocean Park Concours site and features more than 200 cars from local and regional car clubs and individual collectors.

**7:00am-10:00pm | BBQ & Bourbon** at the Grand Tent in Ocean Park. Chef Anthony of Swig & Swine will cook a whole hog on the rig. Experience a true Southern BBQ with all the fixins.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 17

*Main Event | World Class Concours show*

**10:00am-3:00pm | Judged Concours at Ocean Park**  
These cars represent the best of the best. It will be a fully judged event with awards for best of each class of cars and best of show.

**10:00am-1:00pm | Gullah Brunch**

**11:00am-1:00pm Kiawah Island Open House Tours**

**2:00pm | Awards Ceremony at Ocean Park** Watch as the judges crown the KIMR Best of Show and other class awards at the anticipated awards ceremony.