



# 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



## UPCOMING ELECTIONS

**Presidential Election – Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

**Municipal Election – Tuesday, December 6, 2016**

Here's what you need to know about voting for the Presidential and Municipal elections:

- When do I vote?** On election day 7:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.
- Where do I vote?** Sandcastle Community Center (1 Shipwatch Rd)
- How can I vote?** Residents can vote in person at the poll or absentee. To vote absentee, you must be a registered voter and meet the criteria. Absentee voting begins 30 days prior to the election and can be done two ways:

1) Residents interested in voting absentee can request a ballot from the Charleston County Board of Elections and Voter Registration office (843)744-8683.

2) Voters can go and vote in-person at the Charleston County Board of Elections and Voter Registration office up until the day before the election. *Absentee ballots for Presidential and Municipal elections are separate.*

For additional information on voting contact the Board of Elections and Voter Registration office by calling (843)744-8683 or by e-mail to [voterregistration@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:voterregistration@charlestoncounty.org) or by visiting [www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/bevr/voting.php](http://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/bevr/voting.php)

### Common criteria for absentee voting are:

- Members of the Armed Forces, Merchant Marines, Red Cross, USO, government employees, their spouses and dependents residing with them.
- Overseas citizens
- For reasons of employment
- Physically disabled persons
- Persons on vacation
- Persons age 65 or older
- Persons admitted to the hospital as emergency patients
- Persons attending sick or physically disabled persons
- Persons serving as jurors in a state or federal court on election day
- Certified poll watchers and poll managers

## Municipal Election Candidates

This election marks the fifteenth administration of the Town of Kiawah Island, which was incorporated on September 13, 1988. The terms of this administration will expire December 2018. Filing for the Town of Kiawah Island Municipal Election ended October 5th. This edition of Town Notes contains the Municipal Election candidates biographies beginning on page 4.

## Meet the Candidates Night

Monday, November 14, 2016

6:00 p.m. at the Sandcastle

Hosted by KICA

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Photo: Sylvia W. Bacon, Kiawah Island Photography Club

## Town Office Closings

Friday, November 11th – Veteran's Day  
Thursday, November 24th – Thanksgiving Day  
Friday, November 25th – Day after Thanksgiving  
Monday, December 26th – Christmas Day (observed)  
Monday, January 2nd – New Years Day

## Solid Waste Change Notices

### November

Thanksgiving Day Service Change: Yard debris will be collected on Friday, November 25th.

### December

No Change in Service.  
Brown Trash and Hazardous Waste: Friday, December 2nd.

## New Website Coming Soon

Over the summer Town staff worked diligently with web design firm Cobble Hill on the development of a new Town website. Although Hurricane Matthew delayed progress, the new site is in the final stages of production and is expected to launch in December. The updated design will incorporate enhanced graphics, improved navigation, a robust search engine and a centralized calendar to quickly and easily find out more about Town programs, events and services. Look for the launch announcement coming soon via e-blast!

## Biweekly E-Blasts

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)

SUBSCRIBE



# Spotlight On

## John Taylor, Jr., Planner

John Taylor, Jr., is the newest planner servicing the Town of Kiawah Island through Charleston County Zoning and Planning Department. He is a proud native of Wadmalaw Island, South Carolina. His interest in design led him to start a career in architecture, which eventually led to city planning. John has a bachelor's in architecture from Florida A&M University and City and Regional Planning from Clemson University at the graduate level. John gained planning experience with both the Charleston County Zoning and Planning Department and the Anderson County Planning and Community Development Department. John has also directed AmeriCorps volunteers through 12,000 hours of service as tutors and mentors, and continues to mentor youth near and far today. John loves spending time with family and friends and enjoys the fruits of being near the salt marsh to shrimp and fish.

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

# MAYOR'S CORNER —

Charles R. Lipuma

In 2003 Kiawah Town Council commissioned a study by two consultants, Frank Hefner and John C. Crotts, entitled “The Economic Impact of Kiawah Island on Charleston County”. Council’s objective at the time was to get an independent assessment which could be used in discussions with county and state officials.

Among the findings were; 1) Kiawah Island represented 0.4% of the county population but contributed 11% of the county property tax; 2) Total economic impact including on and off island sales (residents and visitors), construction and real estate sales was estimated at \$745 Million; and 3) Full time equivalent jobs on and off island were estimated at 8400. Given that Kiawah is a private gated community, county’s costs were negligible. The report concluded, “the island’s impact represents almost pure economic benefit to the county”.

Recently, Seabrook Mayor, Ron Ciancio and I met with two Citadel professors, Ronald Green and Russell Sobel. They offered to do a current economic impact study which would be done as an assignment by their graduate MBA students. This study would assess the individual and combined economic impact of the town’s of Kiawah and Seabrook. We accepted their offer which would be done essentially without charge.

In the years since 2003 both Kiawah and Seabrook



have grown significantly as has the county’s base. In our case, for example, the five star Sanctuary Hotel and Andell Inn have been built, hundreds of homes have been added, Freshfields is now part of our town and we are building a new municipal center. These additions represent significant additional economic benefit to the county at little or no cost to them.

The Citadel study is underway and is targeted for completion by the end of the Fall semester. If necessary, it could be extended into the spring semester. Councilman Craig Weaver working with Stephanie Tillerson will be coordinating the study with the Citadel.

*Charles R. Lipuma*

# ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER — Stephanie Monroe Tillerson

The Town of Kiawah Island finances are healthy. The Town completed in September its Audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. As required by State law, the report includes financial statements that have been audited by an independent certified public accountant, Greene, Finney & Horton, LLP.

The Treasurer provided information necessary to our auditing team to complete the 2016 Annual Audit. The Annual Audit was then reviewed by the Audit Committee that was created by Town Council in September 2015, and will be presented to Town Council at the November 1st Town Council Meeting.

We are in great shape. Our assets exceeded liabilities by almost \$25 million. Total revenues exceeded expenses by \$1.3 million. More importantly, at the end of June 2016, the Town’s Fund balances totaled approximately \$17 million. The Town’s Fund balance is comprised of a number of revenue streams, but the largest sources of revenue are generated from Business Licenses, Building Permits, Franchise Fees, and Accommodation and Hospitality Revenues. Unlike the majority of municipalities in South Carolina, the Town does not levy property taxes on its citizens.

The Town’s future remains bright with a strong and steady economy. We will effectively partner with other entities on the Island to foster what we all have come to enjoy and love about Kiawah and that is the great quality of life. We will continue to make Kiawah Island a great place to live and do business. The approved budget for fiscal year 2017 builds on past success and makes conservative but ambitious plans for the future. This budget continues to show a healthy surplus. A copy of the 2016 Annual Audit and budget can be found on the Town's website.

*Stephanie Monroe Tillerson*

# Mayoral Candidates



## Mary Johnson

[qjtiger@msn.com](mailto:qjtiger@msn.com)

My husband and I have lived on Kiawah full time for 32 years. My international travels throughout my career helped me realize long ago what a special place Kiawah is. It has only grown to be more special as time has gone by. Like many of you, I enjoy the natural beauty, it is the people who have made 32 years possible.

When the youngest of my 7 step grandchildren, Will, said at age 3, "I could get used to this" I laughed and said "Yes that is why we are here."

My service to the Town of Kiawah includes:

- Member of Town Council for 4 years
- Member of the Ways & Means Committee for 4 years
- Chair of the Arts & Cultural Events Council for 4 years and member for its 12 1/2 years since its inception
- Chair of Environmental Committee
- Chair of Communications Committee
- Member of Municipal Building Committee
- Member of Charleston Visitor's Board of Governors

I am a graduate of Municipal Association of South Carolina Legislative training program. I represented the Mayor at Mayor's roundtable for 4 years as well as represent Kiawah at regional meetings. I serve as the liaison to Conservancy board, and was acting Town Administrator for 6 months.

A challenge for the next mayor is to restore public trust. It is time to heal. Communication is critical towards that end. This will be a priority of mine to do through a proactive, less reactive, and sharing of communication in a clear and timely manner avoiding any argument of transparency with open meetings and greater community involvement utilizing their talents and skills. Working collaboratively with our Island entities has always been important to me and will continue to be an objective of mine.

A serious concern is our roads and the lack of progress for the past 25 years in the face of population growth throughout the Sea Islands. Kiawah cannot act in an isolated manner. I will work collaboratively with state and county officials to identify and work towards our desired goals with the best interests of the Island foremost. Our natural environment is a treasure to be preserved and enjoyed. A goal is to spotlight the studies disseminating the information to educate and protect while enhancing the enjoyment of our beautiful island. Another goal is to preserve and continue the arts program that has created a cultural climate that strengthens the social fabric, making the community more attractive, and enhances the quality of life for many. The Town will move into a new building mid-year with more public spaces to engage the community to foster communication through informative seminars and more. It is an exciting time for the fresh, positive attitude that I have for our Town working with a new council for the needs and desires of our community. I ask for your vote in December.



## Craig Weaver

[crater1@comcast.net](mailto:crater1@comcast.net)

With Mayor Lipuma's decision to not seek re-election after years of exceptional service to the community, I am running to succeed him as mayor. My wife Terry and I moved to Kiawah from Minnesota ten years ago. We both grew up in Michigan, where I received bachelors and master's degrees from Michigan State University. We have two children, a son in Tucson and daughter in Detroit.

I have thirty years of management experience that will enable me to provide the Town with effective leadership. Working with the Town Administrator, the Mayor must ensure that the Town is well managed and work closely with the other council members to establish priorities, address issues, make decisions, and recommend budgets. The majority of my career was spent in the energy industry, where I had management responsibilities in the US, Europe, South America and Asia. Later in my career, I changed industries and joined the Best Buy Corp. as human resources vice president. Before retiring to Kiawah, I worked for UBS providing investment advice to individuals. Since moving to Kiawah I have had the opportunity to work with a number of organizations in the community. These experiences have helped me develop a good understanding of how to get things accomplished in our community and provided relationships with organizations on Kiawah, Johns Island, and Charleston County. I was elected to Town Council two years ago and have led the Town's communications and public safety committees. I have served on several KICA committees, was elected to the KICA board, and served two of those three years as the board's chair. I also was appointed to the St. John's Fire District commission for two years.

The community needs a town government that is responsive to its residents and focused on maintaining the island's unique attributes. When I talk with residents I hear some common concerns. As the island continues to grow – bringing more homes and more visitors– we need to maintain an effective balance between being a popular tourist destination and a highly desirable residential community. We need to ensure that we maintain property values and remain a great place to live and own a home. This requires protecting and preserving Kiawah's natural environment, maintaining a responsible approach to development, supporting recreational and cultural opportunities for the entire community, and finding solutions to the challenges that inevitably come from our community's growth. Residents want a capable and respected town government that is working to benefit them and the community. The current council has worked hard towards this objective and has taken a number of actions that need to be continued. As a coastal community that can see its financial resources quickly strained by a major storm or prolonged downturn in the economy, we especially need to protect our strong fiscal position and avoid spending or expansion in the size of our local government that might hinder our financial flexibility down the road.

I would appreciate your support. If elected, I will work with Town staff and the other Town council members to help ensure that Kiawah remains a great place to live.

# Candidates for Council



## Jack Koach

jackkoach@bellsouth.net

I'm Jack Koach and I am running for Town Council. My wife, Jennifer and our four children first visited Kiawah in 1978 and have been property owners since 1980. Needless to say, we have seen a lot of changes since we first visited. We have been full time residents since 2005.

As to background, I graduated with a BA from Fairfield University and a JD from UNC-Chapel Hill law school. My career involved working overseas for about twenty years. I retired in 2005 as Chief Legal Counsel from R.J. Reynolds International and its successor companies based in Geneva, Switzerland.

I, subsequently, retired again as of-counsel to the Venable Law Firm in NYC in 2012. While working overseas, I served on the board of directors of the American Club in Hong Kong and on the executive board of directors of the American International Club in Geneva.

For the past three years, I have served on the Town's Planning Commission and have had first-hand experience in witnessing the continued growth of the island. As a consequence, this has led me to take a particular interest in what the Town is able to do to increase our ability to get on and off the island. Secondly, I'm interested in having the Town and Kiawah Island Community Association (KICA) work in a more cohesive manner.



## Diana Mezzanotte

dmezza444@gmail.com

Kiawah Island has been a part of my life since the first time my husband, Dave, and I visited in 1980. By 1989, we recognized there wasn't another coastal community with everything Kiawah had to offer, so we purchased a lot on Bufflehead Drive and eventually built a home there. In 2014, we purchased our current Rhett's Bluff home. In the 1980s and early 1990s,

Dave and I liked the fact that many people had never heard of Kiawah and felt we had found our own secret paradise. Today, our "secret" island is recognized around the world as a premier resort/retirement destination. This added attention, and the island's continued development, has increased expectations for improved island services such as better/faster emergency medical care and fire protection, quality art and cultural events and safer roads accessing our island. In addition, our residents are concerned about Kiawah retaining its unique natural setting, its wildlife and maintaining our 10 miles of spectacular beach.

The Town of Kiawah Island is an integral part of making all of the above happen along with our partners - Kiawah Island Community Association (KICA), Kiawah Island Golf Resort, Kiawah Partners, Kiawah Conservancy and our many resident volunteers. It is important that the town work closely with these other Kiawah entities to ensure that the island remains idyllic. The cooperation between the Town and our partners during the last few weeks ensured that our island was prepared for Hurricane Matthew and rapidly returned to normal after the storm. I believe that communications and openness regarding town policies/decisions is vital because our residents need to understand how and where their town resources are allocated. Also, all town monies need to be managed properly and efficiently to ensure the greatest benefit to our residents. Increased partnering, especially with KICA, may identify additional financial savings and efficiencies. Our town's financial stability helps to ensure that Kiawah Island remains a premier community and that property values are enhanced.

I attended St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN where I obtained a BBA with a Concentration in Accounting. I started in public accounting, obtained my CPA and spent most of my career with DuPont. At DuPont, I worked in internal auditing, accounting, site support, training, and plant operations. My final job was as a manufacturing manager and a member of plant staff. After leaving DuPont to raise our two children, I became a certified mediator in Virginia and worked pro bono for the Better Business Bureau mediating domestic and business disputes. I have volunteered as a job mentor in Florida, at the Johns Island Goodwill Job Center and the Johns Island Library assisting clients with resume preparation, job searches and preparing for job interviews. I assisted with several KICA job fairs and the Sea Island Habitat program. While living in London, I volunteered with Oxfam, an international anti-poverty organization.

Currently, I am a member of the KICA's Finance Advisory Committee and active in fundraising for Our lady of Mercy Community Outreach and Kiawah Cares/Community in Schools. My family and I have been fortunate to have enjoyed Kiawah for 36 years and I would like to give something back in return. I ask for your vote this coming December. 5

*Meet the  
Candidates Night*

**Monday, November 14, 2016  
6:00 p.m. at the Sandcastle  
Hosted by KICA**

# Candidates for Council



## Chris Widuch

cjwiduch@gmail.com

I was raised in the Chicago suburbs and attended Western Illinois University. Upon graduation I joined Inland Steel, working in a variety of sales positions. In 1990 I joined a small, employee owned steel firm. I became the 14th employee and steadily rose through the ranks to become President and

CEO. During my tenure as President we expanded the business, made important equipment and facility investments, and completed multiple acquisitions. Some of what we tried worked very well and some didn't. On balance we got more right than wrong, evidenced by our ability to grow revenue over fivefold and increasing share price a whopping 1700% in the decade prior to the sale of our firm in 2015. By selling the company at a cyclical peak of the industry, 105 employees and their families benefitted, each participating in the distribution of proceeds. For scores of men and women it was a life changing achievement, providing long term financial independence few ever experience. I am proud to say the business continues to operate and not a single employee lost their job due to the sale.

Leading an employee owned enterprise taught me a great deal about getting input from other stakeholders. I learned it was better to ask questions than to offer quick answers. I learned the hourly worker is far more insightful about what is happening around them than they are given credit for. And I appreciated the people who felt responsible for our success or failure. Most had an opinion about what we were doing, and whether it was effective or not. We implemented the best suggestions and worked to make our company better. We communicated tirelessly, sharing details of the business few employees ever hear. I know from experience that more information helps foster a successful culture. I will bring this approach to the Town Council, since in many ways we mirror an employee owned company; all of us have an interest in developing our island for long term success.

I like to confront issues in a professional manner, fix them, and then move onto the next challenge. I am fiscally cautious, certainly when it comes to spending my own money, but also when it comes to spending OPM (other people's money). During my career, I always asked myself whether I would make a given investment if it was my personal money at risk. Such an approach helps focus the mind on what has true value versus what would be nice to have. I will approach the issues facing the Town with the same attitude. I am involved with the Mentoring Program at the Citadel, partnering with upper classmen and graduate students to assist them on a one to one basis as they prepare to enter the business world. I have authored two novels, and recently contributed to the Naturally Kiawah publication. Theresa and I have two grown sons; Matthew lives in Orlando and Brian lives in Washington, DC. I ask for your vote and pledge to work with all parties to ensure Kiawah remains a special place for those of us here today as well as the future residents who will follow.



## John Wilson

jrwilson749@msn.com

My name is John Wilson and I am running for my second term on the Town Council. My wife Linda and I have been property owners on Kiawah since 1987. Our first vacation home was in Inlet Cove. Subsequently, we purchased a lot and built our current home in 2001. We've lived on Kiawah as full time residents since February of 2001. I'm a retired Managing Director and was head of an Institutional Investment Unit of Prudential, managing a portfolio of approximately \$4 billion. My career included assignments in portfolio and asset/liability management, strategic planning, interest rate risk management, information systems, accounting and auditing. I graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and attended the Boston University Graduate School of Management, completed the ICFA Investment Management Program at Princeton and The Program on Futures and Options at Northwestern, have earned the Chartered Financial Analyst designation, and am a member of the CFA Institute.

Local positions since my retirement include former Chair of the KICA's Finance Advisory Committee and subsequently a member of the KICA Board, serving as Treasurer, Vice Chairman and liaison to the Town. Also, I have previously served the Town of Kiawah as Chair of the Election Commission. I've tutored for several years at the Angel Oak, Frierson and St. Johns schools with Communities in Schools. For both the Senior PGA and PGA Tournaments I served as volunteer Chairman of Contestant Transportation. I was one of the principals who conducted the highly successful Kiawah Island Motoring Retreat last April at Ocean Park.

The Town of Kiawah is one of the most financially sound municipalities in the State and the Mayor and Town Council need to make certain that continues. During my first term, the Town experienced serious issues with the embezzlement of Town funds by the previous administrator and treasurer as well as large multi-year overpayments to certain Town employees. I initiated several major changes to the Town's financial and control processes to reduce this possibility in the future, including an upgraded payroll system, a Town Audit Committee and a new outside auditor with a strengthened audit process. However, areas remain that will need to be addressed by Town staff and the incoming Council and it is critical that the new Mayor and Council not become complacent. Another area of critical concern is the inadequate and unsafe road situation on Johns Island. The recent evacuation has proven once again that having only two routes off the Sea Islands is grossly inadequate and dangerous. County Council, including our representative, has been unresponsive in this area and it is critical that we develop a strategy to get their attention. We have been working with various Johns Island groups in this regard, but to date have been unsuccessful. This effort must continue.

# JOHNS ISLAND ROADS

Written by Dr. Paul Roberts and Council Member John Wilson

## Background

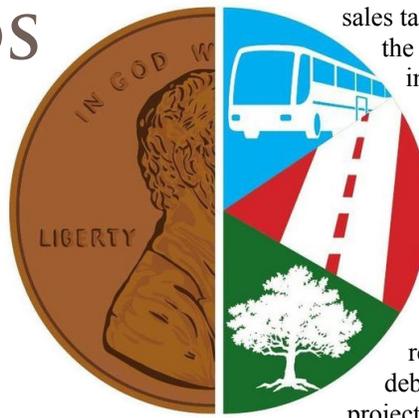
Johns Island roads, on which Kiawah Island property owners and visitors depend for access, are becoming more and more congested. It goes without saying that solutions to our traffic problem have to serve all the Sea Islands. Though the needs are slightly different, they are complementary. Johns Island is, for the most part, a bedroom community. Most of the workers who live on Johns Island commute to jobs elsewhere, traveling off island in the morning and returning in the evening. By contrast, Kiawah and Seabrook are job generators. More than 14,000 jobs are located on the two islands, including jobs at Bohicket Marina, and Freshfields shopping center. These jobs attract workers from throughout the metro region. By 2035, the traffic to and from Kiawah and Seabrook is forecast to be 20,000 trips per day, out of a grand total of 60,000 trips crossing the two bridges on and off Johns Island.

For many years, the leaders of Kiawah and Seabrook have worked to advance the road, originally called the Cross Island Parkway, as the best means to meet these particular travel needs. This road, which would connect Betsy Kerrison Parkway with the Stono Bridge across the mostly unoccupied center of Johns Island between Bohicket and River Roads, has been selected by five separate transportation engineering studies as the preferred access route to and from the Sea Islands. However, other voices have favored either doing nothing or widening Bohicket or River road.

The most recent study of ways to solve the congestion and safety problems on Johns Island Roads was performed by the LPA Group. In this engineering study undertaken for the Charleston County Council, the engineers examined three basic alternatives and costed them out. Their study showed that building the Cross Island Parkway would greatly relieve the traffic on both Maybank Highway and Bohicket Road. The Towns of Kiawah and Seabrook favor the Cross Island route, which is less expensive to build, less disruptive to residents and more effective than widening either Bohicket or River. It also leaves Bohicket and River Roads undisturbed with their historic sites and beautiful canopy of live oaks.

## Current Situation

The extreme heavy rains and flooding experienced in South Carolina last October and more recently Hurricane Matthew brought access to and from Johns Island to the attention of both the public and County authorities. When Main Road was closed by flooding and the Limehouse access point made unavailable, it became clear that a single bridge connection could not handle Johns Island traffic alone. The congestion that resulted was a severe inconvenience to users of both bridges. It also called attention to the inadequacy of the Maybank Highway connection to the Stono Bridge and the proposed Superstreet solution to the traffic congestion that has long existed at Route 17 and Main Road. The entire problem of traffic congestion on Johns Island was brought to a head with the decision by the South Carolina Infrastructure Bank to withdraw the \$420 million funding which they had pledged for the I-526 Extension unless the County could find the \$300 million needed to complete the project. The failure of the South Carolina Legislature to pass an increase in the gasoline tax further exacerbated the problem of funding needed improvements on Johns Island roads. The County Council decided that a ½ cent increase in the local sales tax was the only feasible way to generate the additional funds needed for road repairs and improvements throughout the County. Increasing the



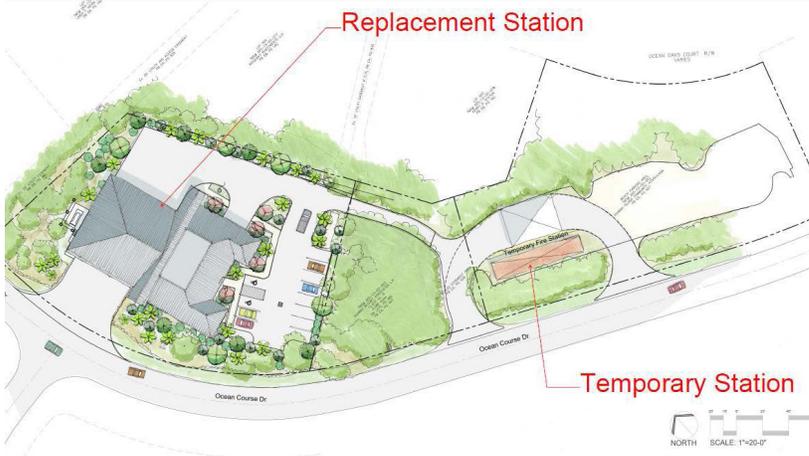
sales tax requires that the issue be put to the voters in the form of a referendum in this fall's election. The ½ cent is expected to generate \$2 billion of funds for road improvements, conservation and commuter transit in the County over the next 25 years. An email campaign entitled "Complete the Penny" was initiated to generate public support for the referendum and the County Council debated which of a list of potential projects should be included on the list of potential recipients of the funds generated.

The list of potential projects included several of direct interest to Johns Island: 1) the completion of the I-526 Extension, 2) a flyover of Route 17 over Main Road, 3) widening of Main Road from Bees Ferry Road to Betsy Kerrison Parkway to four lanes and 4) a special fund for land conservation. The Cross Island Parkway was not on this initial list so Kiawah and Seabrook Island town officials advocated for including the Parkway instead of widening Bohicket Road. County officials argued that the Cross Island Parkway was too controversial to be included in the referendum.

Support for or against I-526 poses a major problem for the referendum. The City of Charleston is strongly in favor of the Extension. Mount Pleasant is against it, saying that Charleston County voters have been taxed enough (having paid for the portion of I-526 serving Mt. Pleasant). The Coastal Conservation League is opposed to the Extension and vows that they will lobby against the referendum if it is included in the list of projects. The Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce is for the Extension and will not actively lobby for the referendum if it is not included. The Johns Island Community Association, a new group on Johns Island, has announced that it will actively lobby against the referendum if the I-526 Extension is not on the list of projects. From the point of view of Kiawah and Seabrook having an I-526 Extension is highly desirable. However, contract complications between the State Infrastructure Bank, the S.C. Department of Transportation and the Charleston County suggest that there could be a long and acrimonious law suit among the parties, the resolution of which is completely unknown at this point.

## Conclusions

The referendum will be put forward for voter approval on the November ballot. If approved by the voters, it would generate a source of funds available for Johns Island road improvements. A new Route 17 flyover at Main Road and the widening of Main Road would substantially improve access to the Sea Islands over the Limehouse access point. The already approved widening of Maybank Highway to three lanes from River Road to the Stono Bridge should at least slightly improve access over that gateway. A four-lane Maybank Highway from the Stono Bridge to Main Road appears to be out of the question at the current time. The addition of the I-526 completion to the list would give a much-needed alternative evacuation route. Regarding a Cross Island Parkway on Johns Island, members of County Council have stated there is "too much opposition" to any further road improvements on Johns Island beyond the flyover and some Main Road widening. It is unlikely that this widening will encompass Bohicket Road, but that is at the bottom of the list. Realistically, Johns Island (as well as Kiawah, Seabrook and Wadmalaw Islands) will largely be shortchanged in any distribution of new sales tax revenue and local traffic gridlock will continue and worsen.



# ST. JOHNS NEW FIRE STATION

A long-standing fixture on the island will soon be transformed into a state-of-the-art facility to benefit all Kiawah Island property owners. The existing fire station located at 66 Ocean Course Drive was built in 1996 and has not had any significant renovations since its original construction. The St. Johns Fire District completed an assessment to determine the feasibility of renovating the existing structure versus rebuilding to meet current earthquake, hurricane, and flood building codes. The assessment also took into consideration the District's 25-year plan for growth on the island and departmental improvements including new apparatus. Renovating and expanding the existing building to meet projected spatial requirements would have required clearing a substantial portion of the existing site for a ground-level building and additional parking areas, so it was determined that the best solution would be to demolish the existing building and rebuild in a more compact elevated design that would also meet current and future growth on the island. The new code-compliant facility includes an additional apparatus bay and spaces to serve an increased number of firefighters. This will allow the District to better serve property owners, resulting in enhanced emergency response, and better meet the needs of the rapidly expanding population on the east end of the island as homesites in areas like the Preserve and Ocean Park are built out. The new station will include increased living quarters, enlarged Day Room, exercise areas for the firefighters, and a 100% backup generator. During construction, the fire department will operate out of a temporary facility located in the adjacent KICA parking lot. Construction is estimated to begin at the end of 2016, with completion in early 2018.

## MUNICIPAL CENTER CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



- The slab for the main building has been poured
- The water tap is complete and crews have extended the water line to the building.
- Vertical construction began on Monday, September 26th and is still underway at this. Steel erection is approximately 70% complete.
- The steel for the garage has been established. The garage will be a single story structure and contain 6 garage bays for Town vehicles, a small storage room, and additional storage space. This building will be approximately 3,000 square feet.

The municipal building is a 14,000 square foot single story building consisting of the main lobby, administrative offices, conference rooms, council chambers and Charleston Visitors Bureau.



## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ACCEPTED INTO LEADERSHIP CHARLESTON

The Town is excited to announce that Town Administrator Stephanie Monroe Tillerson has been accepted into Leadership Charleston. For more than 41 years, the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce has sponsored Leadership Charleston, a 10-month program for professionals, offering an intensive and up-close look at various issues impacting our region.

## CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION APPLICATIONS



Each year the Town of Kiawah Island supports a variety of charitable and educational organizations on Johns Island and in the Tri-County area. Charitable Contributions Applications for 2017 will be posted online at [www.kiawahisland.org](http://www.kiawahisland.org) on November 30, 2016. Applications are due by 3:00 p.m. on January 17, 2017. Reviews and recommendations will be made by the Ways & Means Committee and then approved by Town Council.

# HURRICANE MATTHEW

For the first time in 17 years, the coastal communities of South Carolina were ordered to evacuate in anticipation of Hurricane Matthew. On October 5, 2016, Mayor Lipuma signed a Proclamation declaring Kiawah Island under a State of Emergency. It was anticipated that Hurricane Matthew would be a category 2 or 3 with 5-7 ft. storm surges and sustained wind speeds of 100 mph. By the time it reached our coast, it had weakened to a Category 1, yet still delivered a 3-4 ft. storm surge with severe flooding to downtown Charleston and isolated flooding on our island. Kiawah's most significant damage was to the beach area. With the exception of three private boardwalks, all walkways, both private and public were damaged. In an attempt to complete beach clean-up efforts, sections of private boardwalk structures that were detached were removed.



All things considered, Kiawah Island was very fortunate. Debris recovery efforts across the island are still underway and will carry on until completion. Beach cleanup operations have been completed and preparations for rebuilding of boardwalks have begun. In an unprecedented manner, all Kiawah Island entities worked together to put into action the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan which addressed the coordination of emergency response and recovery activities. Thanks to the intricate collaboration of Town Council, Town Staff, Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Freshfields Village, Kiawah Island Community Association, Kiawah Island Golf Resort, Kiawah Partners, Kiawah Island Utility, and St. John's Fire District, we weathered the storm successfully.



## POST STORM BEACH REPORT

By Jim Jordan, Wildlife Biologist

Town Staff conducted a GPS survey of the dune line before and after Hurricane Matthew. The pre-storm survey was conducted on October 5th and the post-storm survey was conducted on October 10th. Surveys were conducted using a survey grade GPS with submeter accuracy. Overall, Kiawah's beach suffered extensive erosion but no homes were impacted by erosion. *Kiawah's extensive dune system performed its role exactly as it should have. The role of dunes is to sacrifice themselves to protect inland areas. This is exactly what occurred.* Beaches are extremely resilient and eroded sand will slowly make its way back up onto our beaches and dunes will begin to rebuild naturally. Aerial footage and the full report with pictures of erosion rates by section is available on [www.kiawahisland.org](http://www.kiawahisland.org) under "In the News."



## EROSION RATES BY SECTION:



**Captain Sam's Inlet to Beachwalker County Park | 70-120 feet**  
The primary and secondary dunes were completely destroyed.

**Beachwalker County Park to The Sanctuary | 30-50 feet**  
Highest rates were seen near West Beach and the western portion of Eugenia Avenue.

**The Sanctuary to Jackstay Court | 30-50 feet**  
Erosion rates were fairly uniform in this section, with the lowest rates adjacent to the eastern end of Surfson Road.

**Jackstay Court to The Beach Club | 25-45 feet**  
Highest rates were seen adjacent to Ocean Palms.

**Beach Club to Ocean Course Clubhouse | 10-60 feet**  
Highest rates were seen just east of the Beach Club and adjacent to the Ocean Course Clubhouse.

**Ocean Course Clubhouse to New Inlet | 10-220 feet**  
Sand fencing installed after the East End project was damaged but most remains in place. The new dike constructed during the East End Project was not breached and remains intact. The outer beach dune ridge directly in front of the Ocean Course Driving Range was completely destroyed. This will have a positive long-term benefit since it will allow waves to push additional sand directly onto the beach adjacent to the driving range and clubhouse.



## Turtle Patrol Season

The 2016 Loggerhead sea turtle nesting season is complete. There were 393 nests located on Kiawah's beach. **This currently stands as the 2nd highest year on record, surpassed only by the total of 402 nests in 2013.**

This was a very successful nesting season. Nearly 30,000 hatchlings emerged from Kiawah nests. There were no nests depredated by coyotes this year. The 2017 nesting season will begin in May 2017. If you are interested in volunteering next season, please contact the Town at 843-768-9166.

# FALL MIGRATION BIRD MONITORING

As the breeding season comes to a close, birds all across North America begin to prepare for one of the hardest times in their lives – migration. The demands of traveling hundreds or thousands of miles across unfamiliar landscapes are tough, but the rewards are worth the risk. Why do birds choose to take on such an arduous journey? The answer is simple – food. In order to survive, birds must seek out a predictable and sustainable food source to carry them through the winter. Each fall, millions of songbirds migrate from the forests and prairies of North America, where they breed, to their winter homes in tropical and subtropical forests. Most don't make this journey all at once; they make several stops along the way. For thousands of migrating birds, Kiawah Island is one stop that provides them with the resources they need to rest and restore their fat reserves.

The Town of Kiawah Island, in partnership with the Kiawah Conservancy, created a long-term fall migration monitoring program in 2009 - the Kiawah Island Banding Station (KIBS). KIBS is made up of two banding sites, one on each end of the island. The Captain Sam's site has been in operation since 2009, while the Little Bear site was started in 2015. Kiawah's banding stations are operated daily, weather permitting, from August 15 – November 30. Birds are captured in fine mesh nets and fitted with an aluminum band. Each band has a unique number which provides each bird with its own "identity". Bird banding allows biologists to learn valuable information such as migration patterns and timing, survival, longevity, population distribution, and physical condition.

The 2016 season began with a relatively slow start. The last two weeks of the August were hot and humid and Tropical Storm Hermine closed the stations down for two days in early September. Over much of September, a high pressure system, sitting over the southeast, created unfavorable conditions for coastal migration. Bird activity picked up substantially after Hurricane Matthew with the arrival of the first major cold fronts of the year.

Birds have an innate urge to migrate, called *Zugunruhe*, but the weather also plays an important role in migration patterns and timing. Contrary to popular belief, temperature is not a major factor in a bird's decision to migrate. Most birds leave their breeding grounds well before the temperature begins to drop. The primary cue for migration is a change in the length of the day, called photoperiod. Once migration begins, local weather patterns and conditions influence how, when, and where birds travel.

During the fall, low pressure systems (cold fronts) move across North America from the northwest to the southeast. The air behind the cold front is noticeably cooler and the associated winds are normally stronger and from the northwest. Birds await the passing of these fronts and take advantage of the favorable winds they provide. Imagine riding your bike down the beach to Captain Sam's Inlet with a stiff wind in your face. It's hard work! But on the way back, the wind is helping you cruise along the beach with very little effort. This is what it is like for migrating birds. The tailwind helps them conserve energy – energy they may need if conditions adversely change during their flight.

## New species for the State of South Carolina



The Kiawah bird banding staff captured a very unusual species at Little Bear Island on September 22, a *Yellow-Green Vireo*. This species lives in Central and South America and this bird represents the first ever record of this species in South Carolina.

## Two new species on Kiawah



*Warbling Vireo*



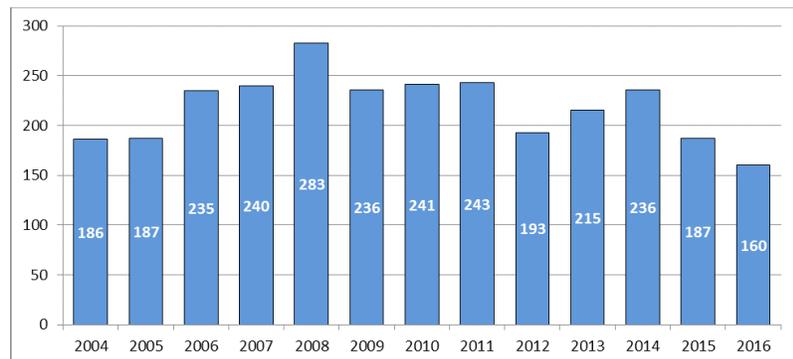
*Mourning Warbler*

Two new species were captured and banded as part of this year's Migration Monitoring Program - Mourning Warbler and Warbling Vireo! Both are quite a rare find for South Carolina as they tend to migrate through the central United States. Follow along with the fall migration season by visiting the Banding Station Blog for daily updates:

[www.kiawahislandbanding.blogspot.com](http://www.kiawahislandbanding.blogspot.com)

## ALLIGATOR SURVEY REPORT

The 2016 Kiawah Island alligator spotlight survey was conducted on August 2-3. This survey has been conducted annually since 2003 and provides details on the density and distribution of Kiawah's alligator population. It is a joint effort between biologists from the Town of Kiawah Island and the Kiawah Island Community Association. The survey route covers most of Kiawah Island and includes 48 different ponds. Surveys are conducted by truck with a 4-person crew and take approximately 3 hours to complete. Alligators are observed using spotlights and placed into categories based on their estimated length. A series of formulas are then used to generate an estimated density of alligators on the island. The graph below shows the estimated density of alligators per 100 acres on Kiawah Island beginning in 2004. As you can see, alligator densities have fluctuated up and down and the data suggests a slight decline over the last 2 years. Kiawah is home to approximately 600 alligators.



# Fall & Holiday

For more information call 843-768-6491 or visit [www.freshfieldsvillage.com/events](http://www.freshfieldsvillage.com/events)



## Fall Sip & Strolls

Thursday, November 17 (4-7 pm)  
Thursday, December 15 (4-7 pm)

Join participating shops in a Fall Sip & Stroll held the 3rd Thursday of each month. Browse the shops featuring new merchandise, events and sales, giveaways and more while enjoying light sips and snacks.



## Sea Islands Cars Coffee

Saturday, November 19 (9-11 am)  
Saturday, December 17 (9-11 am)

Calling all car enthusiasts! Arrive in your favorite ride and join us for Cars and Coffee at Freshfields Village the 3rd Saturday of every month. The free event will feature antiques, classics, exotics, concepts and any other cool cars. Coffee and other refreshments available for purchase by Java Java Coffee House.



## Santa Visits the Village

Friday, November 25 (10 am - 6 pm)

Saturday, November 26 (10 am - 6 pm)

Santa visits the Village every Thanksgiving Weekend. Families can visit Santa's Workshop throughout the weekend to meet the big guy himself, send their wish list to the North Pole and receive one free photo per family.

## Holiday Festival

Saturday, November 26

(11am - 3 pm)

The Holiday Festival is held the Saturday after Thanksgiving and is a full day of free activities including face painting by Cupcake the Clown, an inflatable obstacle course and jump castle, and rides on the Mechanical Reindeer. Various craft booths are set up, including the North Pole Post Office to send your letters to Santa. The Big Bang Boom Band, an interactive children's band guaranteed to have the crowd on their feet, will perform. Food and beverage vendors will be on-site with delicious treats available for purchase.



## Business Spotlight

trés *C*armen  
boutique

### Tres Carmen Boutique

Women's boutique offering a selection of local and national designer apparel and accessories. Designers include Nicole Miller, DL1961, Joie and BCBG Maxazria, Alice and Trixie, Free People and more. 615 Freshfields Drive. (854) 444-3035

  
vineyard vines®

Vineyard Vines®, a company best known for its whimsical neckties and smiling pink whale logo, was founded in 1998 on

Martha's Vineyard when brothers Shep and Ian Murray cut their ties with corporate America to start making ties that represented the Good Life. In addition to signature neckwear, Vineyard Vines offers a variety of clothing and accessories for men, women and children.

560 Freshfields Drive (843) 768-2375

2016 - 2017  
Season

TOWN OF KIAWAH  
Arts  
& CULTURAL  
EVENTS

Tickets are available online at [www.kiawahisland.org/specialevents](http://www.kiawahisland.org/specialevents) 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.

## NOVEMBER

CHARLESTON  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA  
Ken Lam - Music Director

### CHARLESTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday, November 5, 2016  
5:00pm - East Beach Conf. Center  
No Tickets Required



### HUMORIST JEANNE ROBERTSON

Wednesday, November 9, 2016  
7:30pm  
New Venue East Beach Conf. Center  
\$10 Ticket Release: Kiawah 9/16 Public 9/21



### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA CONCERT CHOIR

Friday, November 18, 2016  
7:30pm - Church of our Saviour  
Ticket Release: Kiawah 11/1 Public 11/4

## DECEMBER



### BRIA SKONBERG QUINTET

Saturday, December 3, 2016  
7:30pm - Seabrook Island House  
Ticket Release: Kiawah 11/15 Public 11/18



### MORANZ ENTERTAINMENT KIAWAH CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Tuesday, December 13, 2016  
7:30pm - East Beach Conf. Center  
\* Ticket Release: 11/29

## JANUARY



### QUENTIN BAXTER PRESENTS... HOUSTON PERSON, SAXOPHONIST

Sunday, January 8, 2017  
7:30pm - Turtle Point Clubhouse  
\$20 Tickets via [www.baxtermusic.com](http://www.baxtermusic.com)  
or 843-766-8814 Ticket Release: 12/5



### ART FILM SERIES

Friday, January 13, 2017  
Friday, January 27, 2017  
3:00pm - Sandcastle  
No Tickets Required



### FRED HERSCH TRIO

Saturday, January 14, 2017  
7:30pm - Seabrook Island House  
Ticket Release: Kiawah 12/27 Public 12/30



### HELLO POPS: A TRIBUTE TO LOUIS ARMSTRONG FEAT. WYCLIFFE GORDON QUINTET

Thursday, January 19, 2017  
7:30pm - East Beach Conf. Center  
\$15 \* Ticket Release: 1/5



### THE KING'S COUNTERPOINT

Sunday, January 22, 2017  
4:00pm - Church of our Saviour  
Ticket Release: Kiawah 1/3 Public 1/6



### BILL CHARLAP TRIO

Wednesday, January 25, 2017  
7:30pm - East Beach Conf. Center  
\$10 \* Ticket Release: 1/11



### SIMONE PORTER, VIOLINIST WITH ACCOMPANIST

Sunday, January 29, 2017  
4:00pm - Church of our Saviour  
Ticket Release: Kiawah 1/10 Public 1/13