

Kiawah River Terrapin Working Group's Diamondback Terrapin Day



Thanks to the support of many folks, the Diamondback Terrapin Day was a successful event recently. Voted unanimously by the Environmental Committee of the town, this terrapin day of celebration was also given unanimous Town Council Support and a formally signed proclamation by The Honorable G. Steven Orban, Mayor of the Town of Kiawah Island.



Held in two locations; a shady spot at the Town Garage and then the Earth Day Festival at Night Heron Park, one could bring a crab trap to be given a free Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD). This simple attachment, designed to keep terrapins from drowning in a trap, allows the crabs to enter easily. A number of folks claimed the BRD kits to install in their own traps, no tools required. More BRDs are available throughout the coming months at the Nature Center. A friendly adult and a tiny terrapin were on loan from the Nature Center for folks to

hold. Somehow this connection makes it inviting for seeing one in the wild, savoring the thought that the BRDs might keep these rare turtles evermore in the environment of our great island.

The Kiawah River Terrapin Working Group is sponsoring an Incidental Terrapin Sighting project where now over 60 volunteers are on the lookout for these turtles. Kayakers have the best chance to spot one sunning on a creek bank or popping up for air while swimming. Photos of these two occasions are at the Nature Center display. But one might just see a female ambling along a roadway, looking for a place to nest. DataMaps are available at Town Hall foyer to report a sighting. Diamondback Terrapin advocate Marilyn Blizard will welcome any inquiries.

Submitted by M. Blizard 843-768-3303

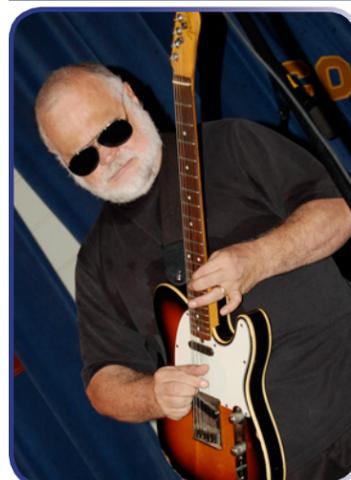
The Kiawah Resident Xchange is LIVE!



The Xchange is LIVE! The Town of Kiawah Island provides a new way to communicate with residents via the The Kiawah Resident Xchange. This Xchange is a secure virtual community for Kiawah residents to send and receive email notifications, pose questions or search for information. For example, members can receive notices from the Town; related to emergencies, utility outages, solid waste schedules, Arts Council events, and meeting schedules. Xchange members will also be able to ask and answer questions. All answers to questions posted on the Xchange will be added to a fully searchable knowledge base that other members can reference. Members do not have to login to a website to receive updates, but will receive e-mail notifications on all categories chosen for their member profile. Register today by going to the Town's website at www.kiawahisland.org under the residents tab and choose Kiawah Resident Xchange. Follow the prompts to create your member profile to select the categories that you would like to receive notifications about. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Braswell at sbraswell@kiawahisland.org or (843) 768-9166.

Town of Kiawah Island Arts Council

Rickey Godfrey and the Beach-Boogie-Blues Kings at the Sundown Festival



Wednesday, June 27th at 6:30 pm at Night Heron Park

No Tickets Required

Multi-talented Rickey Godfrey, blind from birth, is an ultra-talented artist originally from Upstate South Carolina (but now based in Nashville) who works his magic on guitar, keyboards, and vocals. With his horn-driven band, Godfrey plays a winning combination of jump blues, beach music, and shag tunes that will delight the young and the old. His latest CD "Nasty Man" (2011) features the regional hit "Allergic to Mink" and a batch of other danceable melodies and is a must-have souvenir of good times on the Carolina coast. Get ready to party, rock, and sway with this super musician and his all-star band! You won't want to miss this eclectic musical performance while the sun sets in Night Heron Park during the Sundown Festival. The Sundown Festival features music, southern lawn games, and for the children inflatables and a train available throughout the evening. Night Heron Grill will be open for extended hours. Admission is complimentary. Rickey Godfrey's musical performance is presented by the Town of Kiawah Island Arts Council in collaboration with the Kiawah Island Golf Resort's Sundown Festival.



TOWN NOTES

National Flood Insurance Community Rating System (CRS): What Does this Mean for Kiawah Owners?



The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS: reduce flood losses; facilitate accurate insurance rating; and promote the awareness of flood insurance. The lower the number of the CRS class rating, the higher the flood insurance premium discounts to the citizens.

The Town of Kiawah Island has participated in the CRS since June 22, 1999 with its adoption of the Charleston Regional Mitigation Plan. The Town strives to maintain or improve the current Community Rating System level while incorporating achievements and new goals through its annual Action Plan. One of the action items is to increase awareness of the flood risk to the island. In May each property owner will receive a brochure outlining the flood risks to Kiawah properties.

In 2009 the Town completed its 5 year Community Rating System Review with FEMA and successfully maintained its Class 6 rating which equates to a 20% reduction in flood insurance premium for residences and businesses on the Island. Please be sure to share this information with your insurance representative. For more information on the CRS program please contact the Town of Kiawah Island at 843-768-9166 or Charleston County Building Services at 843-202-6930.

Town Notices

- Town Council Public Hearing FY 2013 Budget, May 1 at 1:30 pm
- Town Council Meeting, May 1 at 2:00 pm
- Planning Commission, May 2 at 3:00 pm
- CERT Team Meeting, May 3 at 10:00 am
- Arts Council Meeting, May 3 at 3:00 pm
- Environmental Committee Meeting, May 7 at 3:00 pm

- Communications Committee Meeting, May 9 at 10:30 am
- Public Safety Committee Meeting, May 15 at 3:00 pm
- Board of Zoning and Appeals, May 21 at 4:00 pm
- Town Offices Closed in Observance of Memorial Day, May 28
- Ways & Means Meeting, May 29 at 9:00 am

Old Business
Second Reading of Ordinance 2012-03 HVAC Setback Exceptions
 This ordinance allows HVAC equipment and stands to extend up to 5 feet in the side or rear setbacks when certain conditions are met for the replacement of HVAC equipment which was originally placed below an existing structure. It is now required to be elevated to meet the requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Town of Kiawah Island Building Code. After a motion and discussion, the ordinance passed unanimously.

New Business:
Beachwalker Drive Landscaping Improvements
 The Greenery provided the Town with a proposal totaling \$16,037.41 to rework the landscaping on Beachwalker Drive. The proposal was reviewed and approved unanimously by the Ways and Means Committee. Funds are budgeted in the Hospitality Tax Fund. After a motion and discussion, the ordinance passed unanimously.

National Audubon Society's Important Bird Area Program
 The Environmental Committee voted unanimously to forward a request to Council for the submission of an application to the National Audubon Society to seek the Important Bird Area (IBA) designation for the Kiawah beach. The US National Audubon Society acts on behalf of a global group that identifies areas that are significant for bird populations. There are 2,548 designated IBAs worldwide, with 49 located in SC. There are three categories of importance: state, continental and global; and Kiawah would likely qualify for global importance due to the number of migratory birds on the island. The IBA designation is of no cost to the Town, and there are no legalities involved in the process. The designation allows the Kiawah beach to be included in an arbitrary listing of IBA areas. After a motion and discussion, Council accepted the Committee's recommendation.

Beach Franchise Agreement Night Heron Park
 The Night Heron Park beach franchise agreement between the Town and the Resort had expired. It was agreed upon that the Resort would maintain operation of a beach franchise on property in front of the Sanctuary. The franchise agreement is effective April 3, 2012 to March 31, 2013, and may be extended for two 1 year terms. The current agreement listed a buffer zone of 50 yards on each side of the franchise area; however, the Resort and IBS agreed to reduce the buffer zone to 25 yards. The annual franchise fee will be \$7,500. Following discussion, the agreement was approved unanimously as amended.

Diamondback Terrapin Day Proclamation
 Mr. Lipuma proclaimed April 18, 2012 as Diamondback Terrapin Day on Kiawah.

Committee Reports:
Dr. VanDerwerker:
 Dr. VanDerwerker met with Mrs. Rucker, Jim Jordan and a representative from OCRM to review the Town's Local Beach Management Plan. Due to OCRM template changes, the Town will complete an official 10 year review of the plan this year. The Native Plant Demonstration Garden in the Town Hall parking lot is progressing well, and additional native plants will be delivered to finish the project. The British Broadcast Company (BBC) completed filming bobcat studies to use in the BBC Natural History Unit, which is broadcast throughout the UK. National Geographic is also on Kiawah setting up cameras to capture alligator activity. This project could last up to one year. Heather Walbright was introduced to the Environmental Committee as the new Sustainability Coordinator for the Resort. The ADA improvements to the Municipal Center are ongoing. The Greenbelt Project for river access and fishing pier improvements are underway.

Mr. Lipuma
 A Cello Piano Recital of the Music of Paris was held on March 29th at the Church of Our Saviour. It was very well performed and received. Piccolo Preview was performed on April 29th at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church. The Sundown Festival will be held on June 27th at Night Heron Park. Mr. Lipuma stated that the Arts Council is working to provide a new and exciting group of performances for next season.

Mrs. Wermuth:
 The Communications Committee met on April 11th at 10:30 am. The Mayor requested that the Committee review the Town website. Mrs. Rucker provided a presentation of the changes and recommended updates to the Committee. The PGA Public Safety Committee met on April 19th. The Town Public Safety Committee met on April 20th and received a PGA report. Mrs. Wermuth asked that Mrs. Rucker provide an update on the Comcast cable franchise questions raised during last month's meeting.

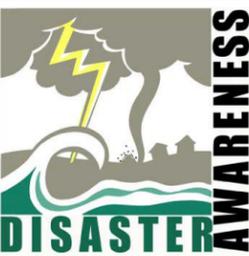
Dr. VanDerwerker:
 In conjunction with the Diamondback Terrapin Day, residents could have a bycatch reduction device installed on their crab traps on April 18th from 2-4 pm at the Town Hall garage. This service was also available from 5-8 pm in conjunction with the Resort's Earth Day Festival at Night Heron Park. The Town's River Road Cleanup Day was held on April 27th.

Town Administrator's Report:
 The Kiawah Resident Exchange is now available. Residents are encouraged to register for the service. Staff is currently working to complete the Kiawah Merchant Plaza and Citizens Request Management modules. The Town has executed the contract with Treat & Woodman for the completion of the ADA improvements to the Municipal Center. There will be interruption to the front access of the Municipal Center once construction begins. Visitors and employees will be asked to use the rear entrance of the building and a temporary access will be installed for the public. Kiawah flood maps are currently undergoing edits and updates in conjunction with the Community Rating System, and will be mailed to residents in May. Ongoing Town projects include the FY 2013 Budget, RFP for Solid Waste Services, and the Municipal Code update. The Town's Annual Disaster Awareness Day will be held on June 7th at the Sandcastle from 10 am to 3 pm. Mrs. Rucker stated that she has contacted Comcast cable regarding concerns about the lack of cable service in select areas of the island. As requested, a map of the homes in that area has been provided to Comcast and sent to their engineering department to assess feasibility of providing service.

Mayor's Report:
 Mr. Lipuma reported on behalf of the Mayor. Council has been invited to participate in the Maybank Highway Environmental Assessment Stakeholder meeting at Haut Gap Middle School on April 3rd to receive comments on the plans for widening Maybank Highway from River Road to Main Road. A Public Information meeting on the proposed project was held on April 17th at 7:00 pm at Haut Gap Middle School.

Correspondences:
 Mr. Lipuma read into the record a letter from Mayor Orban to Ms. Danya Jordan, of Roper St. Francis Hospital, regarding the request for a \$250,000 contribution from the Town for the Roper St. Francis Helipad Project. The letter advised Mrs. Jordan that the Ways and Means Committee agreed not to fund the project. Mr. Lipuma also read into the record a letter from Mayor Orban to the Charleston Symphony Orchestra (CSO) regarding their funding request of \$100,000. The letter advised that the Ways and Means Committee has recommended funding \$50,000 for the next fiscal year.

Go to www.kiawahisland.org for detailed minutes.



The 2012 Atlantic hurricane season is predicted to be "below-average" in activity. The forecast predicts 10 expected named storms and about a one in four chance a major hurricane will hit the East Coast. Despite this forecast, the Town is urging all residents to prepare themselves and their homes for this hurricane season which begins June 1st.

To stress the importance of preparedness and education, the Town of Kiawah Island and Town of Seabrook Island are hosting the 15th Annual Disaster Preparedness Day on Thursday, June 7th at the Sandcastle from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. In addition to hurricanes, the event will focus on other natural disasters including earthquakes, tornados and flooding. There will be a host of informative panelists, exhibitors, demonstrations, prizes and a catered lunch, served at noon. Please save the date and plan to attend the event on June 7th.

Code Red - Emergency Communication Network - Enroll Today!



The CodeRED emergency notification system is a high speed telephone communication service that can deliver customized pre-recorded emergency messages directly to homes and businesses. The system provides notifications to all residents and businesses enrolled in the CodeRED system. Notifications are sent via telephone, cell phone, answering machine, TTY/TTD equipment, email and text messaging. The CodeRED system is used in the event of natural disasters; search and rescue; man-made disasters; crime; and public works' emergencies.

The Town of Kiawah Island offers the CodeRED notification system to residents, island business and interested parties that have requested notifications. The Town will conduct a test of the CodeRED emergency notification system at the onset of the 2011 Hurricane season in early June. To ensure that you are properly notified, please take the time to register your name, Kiawah Island property address, home telephone, cell phone and email address in the CodeRED system. To access the registration portal, visit the website at <http://www.kiawahisland.org/EmergencyPreparedness> and select the CodeRed page from the drop down navigation bar. Please make note that CodeRED registration is separate from the Xchange and residents have to enroll separately for both.

FY 2013 Budget - Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Kiawah Island Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on the Town of Kiawah Island's proposed budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013.

Date: May 1, 2012
 Time: 1:30 P. M.
 Place: Council Chambers, Town of Kiawah Island Municipal Center
 21 Beachwalker Drive Kiawah Island, SC 29455

To download the full proposed FY13 budget go to www.kiawahisland.org select Town Government tab > Documents > Finance

	2011/2012 Budget	2012/2013 Budget	% of Change
General Fund:			
Revenue	\$3,064,600	\$3,201,100	5%
Expenditures	\$3,319,996	\$3,180,220	-5%
State Accommodation Tax Fund:			
Revenue	\$967,094	\$1,163,529	21%
Expenditures	\$1,294,418	\$1,259,559	-3%
County Accommodation Tax Fund:			
Revenue	\$240,000	\$240,000	0%
Expenditures	\$186,400	\$235,400	27%
Local Accommodation Tax Fund:			
Revenue	\$505,800	\$535,800	6%
Expenditures	\$503,360	\$495,860	-2%
Beverage Permit Tax Fund:			
Revenue	\$24,000	\$24,000	0%
Expenditures	\$70,000	\$30,000	-58%
Hospitality Tax Fund:			
Revenue	\$239,000	\$250,000	5%
Expenditures	\$213,500	\$245,500	15%
Victims Assistance Fund:			
Revenue	\$2,650	\$2,650	0%
Expenditures	\$2,650	\$5,750	117%

Employee Spotlight - Ken Gunnells, Town Treasurer



H. Kenneth Gunnells, Jr. (Ken) is the Town Treasurer for the Town of Kiawah Island. Ken began his service with the Town in April 2007. As Town Treasurer, Ken is responsible for the financial reporting, budgeting, investing, internal controls, disbursements, deposits, payroll, court reporting, annual audit and other financial duties for the Town as they may arise. Specifically, Ken is responsible for supervision of Finance Department and the Business Licenses and Solid Waste programs. The Town Treasurer also prepares the financial reporting to the State including the State Accommodations Tax annual reporting and other reports submitted to the Federal and State Government. Ken brings over 28 years' experience to his position with the Town. Ken has managed financial departments in organizations which have revenue in excess of \$600 million, one of which is the largest employer in Charleston. He also spent over 9 years in public accounting with Ernst and Young. Ken has experience in government, healthcare, banking, utilities, real estate, bankruptcy and tax preparation.

On a personal basis, Ken is a native of Charleston, South Carolina and has been married to his wife, Nancy for over 30 years. She is also a native of the State of South Carolina (Kingstree). They have three children. Their eldest daughter, Ashley will finish nursing school (MUSC) as a Presidential Scholar in December 2012; their only son, Harris will graduate with honors from the College of Charleston with a Master's Degree in Public Administration in May 2012; and their youngest daughter, Bethany will graduate from Wando High Schools in June 2012. She will attend Winthrop University, with an intended major of Elementary Special Education. Ken and his family are active members of Seacoast Community Church.

New Homes Permitted by the ARB

179 Bull Thistle

Contact the ARB for more information at 843-768-3419 or by email at kiawaharb.com