



SUNSET BEACH

North Carolina

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September 2012

ANNUAL REPORT: 2011~2012

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Town of Sunset Beach Annual Report. The past year has been a busy one for Town Officials and Staff. Some projects identified in the Town's CAMA Land Use Plan have been completed, while others are still in the planning or beginning stages.

We've experienced personnel changes: the 2011 election resulted in a new mayor and councilman; the retirement of Fire Chief Chris Barbee resulted in a series of promotions in the fire department and the hiring of some new fire fighters; a police officer rose in rank to Detective; a new policeman joined the force.

The Town looks different: we have new bathrooms at the gazebo — bye, bye porta johns! The new boat ramp, fishing pier, and Fire Station #2 are open. Landscaping at Town Hall has been refreshed and in Spring of 2013 the Mannon C. Gore Bridge will be landscaped.

Some changes in parking rules were put into effect, trash carts are being rolled back, beach trash cans are being emptied by staff, and the Town's ordinances are being streamlined and reorganized.

And this is just a snapshot of all that's happened. Yes, it's been a busy year but the improvements in our Town were worth the time, effort, and hard work.

We want to thank all the residents who served on committees, attended Council Meetings and Workshops, sent us e-mails, challenged our thinking, and supported our efforts.

We can only imagine the great happenings in the coming year — **Sunset Beach's 50th Anniversary!**

Mayor & Town Council

SEWER PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION

The Brunswick County Sewer Project is almost complete. A major goal of the Town's *Land Use Plan*, the sewer system will begin the process of healing the currently closed shell fishing areas.

While there are some problems and issues that still need to be resolved to the satisfaction of the Town and residents, service at this point should be available to almost all with the appropriate plumber and/or electrical permits.

The County web site (www.brunasco.net) contains specific information about the project, lists of plumbers and electricians who attended training, information about the Sunset Beach Connection Assistance Program (still accepting applications), connection issues, and a list of FAQs.

Information about connecting in the first year to avoid connection fees is also posted; this period ends on April 16, 2013 for the Island, and a year from the date of a completion letter expected to go out to the Mainland in October 2012.

Sewer assessments should be finalized this fall, with the assessment amount estimated to be less than \$6,000. The County will bill this to you, provide a 10-year period in which to pay this amount (with interest), or give you a 5% discount if you pay the assessment within 30 days of the bill.

We encourage our residents to connect to the sewer system so that the environmental benefits to our area will be realized in the shortest possible time frame by removing wastewater seepage and discharge associated with septic systems close to coastal waters, and avoiding soil seepage in areas

ALL property owners with lawn irrigation systems are encouraged to contact Brunswick County to learn if an irrigation meter will lower their sewer bills.

with severe septic limitations.

For more information, go to the County web site and click on the Town of Sunset Beach logo.

If you have specific questions or complaints, call 910.253.2567 to speak with a member of the County Staff.



THE TOWN BUDGET

The Town Administrator and Finance Director develop the Town's budget through a multi-step process that begins with a review of the previous year's revenues and expenditures. They then meet with each department head to ascertain revenue and expenditure projections for the upcoming budget year. After developing a draft budget, the Town Administrator and Department Heads meet with the Town Council to conduct a line-by-line review.

With guidance from Staff and input from citizens, Town Council constructs an annual budget based on those revenue and expenditure projections. The final budget is available on the Town's web site as well as at Town Hall for review at any time.

From the Town's \$6,385,819 total budget, \$518,452 is designated for capital expenditures including a new fire truck to replace two older models (1992 and 2001), air pack replacements, a lawn mower, video cameras for both entrances to the Mannon C. Gore Bridge, and a new police vehicle. The funds for street repaving (see the charts on page 3) will be transferred from reserves that the Town set aside in anticipation of this ongoing project.

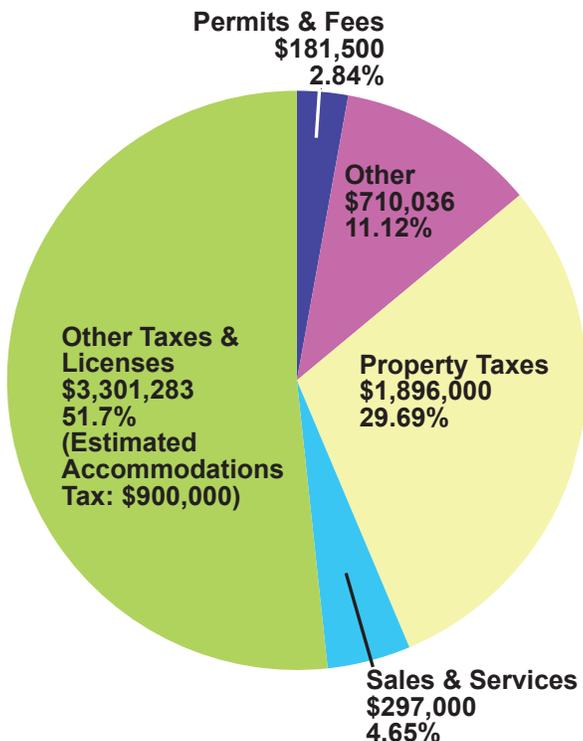
The largest portion of the revenue budget is not derived from the collection of property taxes. More than 50% of the Town budget is supported by other taxes collected such as accommodations tax, beer and wine license tax, local option sales tax, gasoline tax, utilities/cable franchise tax, solid waste disposal tax, fire fees, beer and wine tax, and misc. State shared taxes. The property tax is 30% of Town revenues.

By function, the largest portion of the expenditures budget – fifty-five (55%) percent – is devoted to public safety (police, fire, inspections).

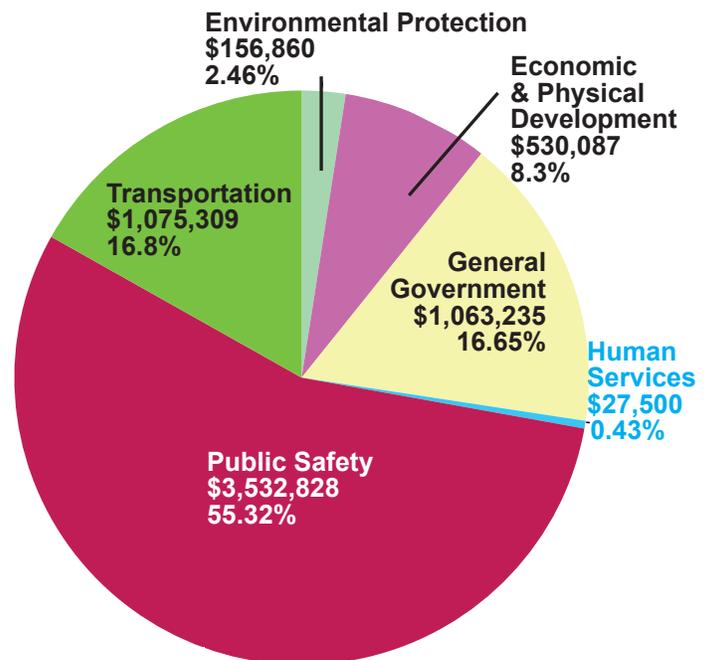
For the past seven years, the Town's Auditors have consistently pointed out that the Town's finances are in excellent condition. (*The complete Town Audit is available on the web site or can be viewed at Town Hall.*)

Thanks to the diligence of Staff and previous Town Councils, as well as the current Council, as of the end of the summer the Town has approximately \$9,000,000 in cash reserves to fund capital improvements and to continue operating in the event of a natural catastrophe.

2012 - 2013 Projected Revenues



2012 - 2013 Projected Expenditures



HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT

Town expenditures are categorized according to the financial rules set by the NC Local Government Commission as noted in the pie-charts (see page left). Some expenditures like police, fire, and staff are obvious. But many are essentially behind the scenes projects that keep our town safe and moving forward. Some of the projects are quite visible in different areas of Sunset Beach and some are never noticed by the average citizen. Here is a brief look at just some of the services included in Town expenditures.

Transportation: public works; street maintenance and paving.

General Government: administration; Town attorney and legal services; Annual Audit.

Human Services: mosquito control; contributions to non-profit organizations.

Environmental Protection: bulkhead and drainage repairs; sanitation services; storm water drain maintenance and repairs; hurricane preparedness.

Economic & Physical Development: planning and zoning; Chamber of Commerce dues; engineering services; beach strand expenses.

Public Safety: police; fire; inspections.

STREET PAVING SCHEDULE

Street maintenance is included in the Town's long-range planning program. Roads are paved on a rotating basis unless a particular road needs immediate attention due to unforeseen events. This year's schedule is complicated by the sewer installation project. Repairs on roads impacted by the installation cannot be repaved until at least one year after the final sewer work to ensure the Town is able to take advantage of the warranty. Roads scheduled for 2011-2012 have been postponed due to the sewer project but work should begin later this year.

Budget Year 2011/2012	Cost Per Street	Budget Year 2012/2013	Cost Per Street
Stokes	23,431	Oyster Pointe Drive	100,154
Acorn	34,051	Wedge	5,971
Great Oak Circle	76,839	Green	7,850
Triangle Court	51,320	Forest Point	7,850
Dogwood Drive	67,514	Bay	5,987
Live Oak Drive	117,060	Twin Lakes Court	19,524
Old Oak Lane	29,270	40 th Street	99,367
Kings Trail	87,647	39 th Street	30,071
Coaches Trail	12,280	33 rd Street	33,990
Cypress	8,679	30 th Street	33,990
Long Leaf	24,253	Canal Drive	118,987
Hemlock	10,098	Oyster Shell	21,697
Total Cost	\$542,442	Total Cost	\$485,438

The chart includes all roads, and their respective costs, scheduled for repaving over the next two years. Residents will be notified in advance.

FAST FACTS

Each month department heads provide reports to the Town Council outlining the previous month's activities. Since these reports are included in what is called the Consent Agenda, they rarely get discussed. Here's a quick look at just some of the work done on a daily basis by Town staff over the past 12 months.

Police Calls for Service	5,830	Inspections	3,967
Tons of Leaf & Limb Collected	458	Average # of Inspections Per Day	15.96
Fire Incidents	1,003	Beach Crossovers Overhauled	10
Fire Department Training Hours	4,304	Beach Surf Chairs delivered to families	60
Permits Issued	2,651		

Stay informed about Town events by visiting the web site: www.sunsetbeachnc.gov
Sign up on the website home page to receive meeting & emergency notices via e-mail.

Town Council meets the 1st Monday of each month in the Council Chambers at Town Hall. Meetings begin at 6:45 p.m.

Save the Date - 50th anniversary of Sunset Beach - March 26, 2013

RIBBON CUTTINGS! GOOD THINGS HAPPENING!

Numerous projects were completed during the 2011-2012 year and each one had its own dedication ceremony.

FIRE STATION #2

Nearly one hundred people, including current and past members of the Town Council, participated in the dedication of the new Sunset Beach Fire Station on April 9. The ceremony included a traditional *Housing Ceremony* where fire fighters push a fire truck into the station. In addition, keynote speaker U.S. Congressman Mike McIntyre spoke about the \$1.5 million dollar federal grant to build the station.

Architect Scott Garner described the process used to ensure that the building receives a LEED (leadership in energy and environmental design) Silver Certificate after a final inspection.



Firemen perform Housing Ceremony.

Built using strategies to achieve high performance in key areas of human and environmental health, the building has efficient lighting, maximum energy savings, a solar water heating system, and other environmentally efficient components.

The ceremony began with a traditional playing of the bagpipes by Kevin Mulholland and a parade of fire fighters. The event concluded with light refreshments, and tours of the facility conducted by fire department staff.

*Back row: Bob Bobinski, Ron Watts, Wilson Sherrill, Ed Gore.
Front row: Congressman Mike McIntyre, Carol Scott, Lou DeVita, Karen Joseph, Ron Klein perform the official ribbon cutting.*



SEWER SYSTEM PUMP STATION

On April 14th Brunswick County Public Utilities Department Director Jerry Pierce conducted an open house tour of the island pump station. Scheduled to go into operation two days later, this was the only opportunity for interested persons to tour the facility.

The station has three floors, including a basement that sits eight feet below sea level. The station includes two pumps and a two million gallon tank which will handle five times the daily usage on the island prior to the sewer system installation.

Waste from the facility will be pumped 60 feet under the Intracoastal Waterway to the Sea Trail waste treatment plant. The estimated costs for the full system - mainland and island - are nearly \$30 million. To date, the County has received a \$2 million grant from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



Jerry Pierce conducts tour of pump station.

REST ROOMS AT THE GAZEBO

"What a delight it was to go into a nice air conditioned clean rest room. What an improvement. Thanks!" "Kudos to the Town of Sunset Beach for the beautiful air conditioned toilets."

Those are just two of the messages Town Council received since the arrival of the two new mobile rest room units at the beach gazebo. Dedicated on May 14, Councilman Wilson Sherrill (*photo at right*), who brought the proposal to Town Council, cut the ribbon and performed the *first flush*.

These units were chosen because in case of a storm they can be easily moved and stored to prevent damage.

Cleaned daily during the season (Memorial Day - Labor Day), and three times each week off-season, the rest rooms are open 7:00 a.m. to sunset. Winter hours will be announced after Labor Day.



BOAT RAMP & FISHING PIER

It was a perfect day, the sun was shining, the breeze off the Intracoastal made the 90° day pleasant, and nearly 100 well wishers came to the grand opening of the Sunset Beach Water Access Area — known by local residents as the Boat Ramp & Fishing Pier.

Designed, built, and paid for by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, the Town received a \$500,000 grant and \$500,000 from Brunswick County toward the purchase of the property.

Within 24 hours, nearly every parking space was filled with boat trailers! These new additions to Sunset Beach have the potential to bring new dollars to local businesses.



"The tranquility and beauty of this site was the comment of many attendees today. The remaining pieces of the master plan for this part of our beautiful town are slowly falling into place and my hat is off to our Town Administrator and his staff for making it happen," said former Council member Bob Bobinski.



From top right: Ribbon Cutting; Fire Department boat was the first boat launched; (left) Erik Christofferson of the Wildlife Commission; attendees applaud the launch.



Photos by Ronnie Holden and Sharon Maple

TOWN HAPPENINGS

TOWN PARK PLANS MOVE FORWARD

Did you fill out your park survey? Nearly 5,400 property owners were mailed a survey in July asking for their input on the design of the future town park. The firm of Withers & Ravenel (W&R), hired by the Town Council to design the site and coordinate public input, will compute the survey results.

In addition, property owners will have three opportunities to voice their opinions at public meetings. The first was held on August 2nd at a "charrette," which is an opportunity for interested parties to give their opinions on a particular issue. W&R staff met with small groups to hear their ideas and incorporate them into the planning process.

Multiple opportunities for public input are included in the process.

Following the charrette, W&R will present two plans to the Town Council at its September meeting, at which the public will again be given an opportunity to comment.

With input from the Council, W&R will draft a proposed final plan for presentation at a second public input meeting on October 11th.

In November, the Council will consider adoption of a final plan, and interested parties will once again be given an opportunity to give their input.

Throughout the process, residents can send their ideas to W&R and the Council via the Town web site (www.sunsetbeachnc.gov).

SPRUCING UP THE LANDSCAPE

It took 25 hours spread over five days, but the efforts of the Town's Beautification Committee, with help from Public Works staff, gave Town Hall a landscape manicure.

Every bed was weeded and the mulch was renewed; landscape blocks were installed to keep the beds neat and trim; bushes and trees were pruned. When the team finished their work at Town Hall they moved on to the road medians in the Twin Lakes Restaurant area and the beach gazebo. "This project was huge, but we are proud of our work," said Committee Chairperson Lynn Eriquez. "Without the assistance of our Public Works Department, our project would not have moved along as smoothly as it did. They came through with muscle, machines, and supplies."

Next on the Town's landscaping program is an improvement in the beach gazebo area and the major project centering on the Mannon C. Gore Bridge.

This \$170,000 project, funded by the NC Department of Transportation and designed by local landscaper Tim Cate, will be completed in Spring 2013.

The Beautification Committee, charged with enhancing Town Hall and other areas in Town, includes:

Lynn Eriquez, Katie Bodner, Marianne Cerniglia, Jean Hutchinson, Barbara McCoy, Linda Rudick, and John Walz.



More news ...

- ♦ North Shore Drive Extension project to install the last overhead power lines underground will be completed during the off season.
- ♦ Town Council made numerous changes to public parking on the island to promote safety: parallel parking only island wide and the removal of parking in various areas throughout the island.
- ♦ Design work on the Bike Trail and Pedestrian Walkway, which encompasses the Town from Georgetown Road to the island, is nearing completion.
- ♦ Brunswick County Capital Improvement Plan includes a 2nd water line to the island and improvement to the water pressure in Sandpiper Bay.
- ♦ Business Owners Reception scheduled for the fall – Check the website for details.

TOWN HAPPENINGS

WHAT IS THE UDO?

Over the last year and a half, the Town has worked on the development of a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) merging and coordinating all land use regulations including the Town Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations, Floodplain Development Regulations, and Stormwater Regulations. This effort is common among municipalities aiming to coordinate and integrate regulations that have been independently developed at different points in time.

The Town Council appointed an ad hoc committee comprised of Town Planning Board members and citizens at-large to oversee development of the UDO.

The committee represented a broad range of interests enabling them to focus on balancing growth with protection of the Town's quaint coastal atmosphere.

Begun in January 2011, the process is nearing completion with a Public Hearing tentatively scheduled for the October 1, 2012 Town Council meeting. A full copy of the 368-page draft is available on the Town's website at www.sunsetbeachnc.com.

The Committee members include: William (Bill) McDonald, Chairman, Marci Berry, Alan Doolittle, Bill McLane, Charlie Nern, Becky Noble, Carol Santavicca, Jim Strandquist, Al Seibert, David Stuart, Tom Vincenz, and Eddie Walters.

SUNSET BEACH REVIVES MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

It's been a number of years since the Town held a Memorial Day ceremony, but a request from life-long resident and former Council member Ed Gore prompted the Town Council to schedule the event.

Council member Mike Williams, Police Chief Lisa Massey, and Detective Joe Smith organized the event.

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard started the ceremony with precision as they presented the colors. Boy Scout Troop 201 led the crowd of nearly one hundred in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the laying of a wreath.

After the invocation by Reverend Merlin Boone, Gore gave the keynote address. A sergeant in the Air Force, he encouraged the audience to remember the thousands of fallen who gave their lives for freedom. He spoke of "the pain and hurt of war. It is filled with memories that veterans and their families would forget, if they could."

Gore recited the numbers of fallen from our nation's wars beginning with the Revolutionary War (4,435



deaths, 6,188 wounded) and concluded with the most recent number of fallen (1,539) and wounded (15,950) in Afghanistan.

Harvard Holden, retired Air Force Captain and member of the National Sojourners, who promote good fellowship among their members and patriotism and Americanism across the nation, ended the ceremony with a tape explaining the genesis of Francis Scott Key's *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Participants then gathered in the Council Chambers for light refreshments.



Sunset at sunset

Mark your calendar — **Saturday, October 6** is the date for the 6th Annual Sunset at Sunset Community Festival. Held in the area in front of the Ingram Planetarium, the day celebrates the end of the beach season and offers residents and visitors a day of music, food, crafts, and activities for children.

Volunteers are always needed and welcome. Visit the web site (www.sunsetatsunset.com) for more information.

SAS Steering Committee members: Jean Hutchinson, Marci Berry, Karen Dombrowski, Lois McClellan, Ann Bokelman, Bev Williams

CONTACT US

HOW TO REACH TOWN HALL & COUNCIL MEMBERS

Town Hall: 579-6297 or 579-3808
Inspections Department: 579-0068 or 579-0075
Police Department (non-emergency): 579-2151
Fire Station #1 (non-emergency): 579-2456
Fire Station #2 (non-emergency): 579-8090
General e-mail: sunsetbeach@atmc.net

Gary Parker, Town Administrator
Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk
Donna Rogers, Finance Director
Dustin Graham, Public Works Director
Sandy Wood, Inspections Department Head
Lisa Massey, Police Chief
Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief

Mayor Rich Cerrato ~ 910.579.1418
sunsetbeachmayor@atmc.net

Mayor Pro-Tem Lou DeVita ~ 910.579.2780
deesatplay@atmc.net

Councilwoman Karen Joseph ~ 910.579.4891
kjoseph@atmc.net

Councilwoman Carol Scott ~ 910.579.9104
ckscott13@gmail.com

Councilman Wilson Sherrill ~ 910.575.3083
wilsonsherrill@hotmail.com

Councilman Mike Williams ~ 910.579.8066
mikecwilliams@yahoo.com

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