

# The Edisto Beach Comber

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH NEWSLETTER, EDISTO BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA  
(843) 869-2505 September, 2012 - website: [www.townofedistobeach.com](http://www.townofedistobeach.com)

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

TIDE Committee	10/03	10:00 am
Council WkSess	10/09	10:00 am
Municipal Court	10/11	2:00 pm
Town Council	10/11	6:00 pm
Zoning Board	10/15	5:00 pm
Plann WkSess	10/17	4:00 pm
Planning Comm	10/23	5:00 pm
TIDE Committee	10/31	10:00 am

## EDISTO FALL FESTIVAL



## VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>

Polls will be open in Town Hall Council Chambers for the General Election on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm. **Your vote does count!** See you at the polls. The last day to register to vote is October 6<sup>th</sup>.



## ART GUILD FALL SHOW & SALE

This arts and crafts event is an Edisto institution always held in conjunction with the Annual Tour of Homes & Plantations. This year on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, it will be held at the Edistonian. For more info contact Dan Carter at 869-3867.

## WELCOME DEBORAH HARGIS MUNICIPAL CLERK

Our new Municipal Clerk, Deborah Hargis, joined the Town Hall family on September 25, 2012. She is a new resident to Edisto Beach although she has been coming here all her life. She has two daughters and taught school for 20 years before relocating to Edisto Beach. Please come by Town Hall and welcome Deborah as a great addition to our community and work force.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival is Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. This event is managed by the Chamber of Commerce, and their long term vision is to utilize the weekend date following the home tour and ultimately attract visitors to stay the entire week. The anchor venue for the festival is the very popular street fair held on Jungle Road. Arts and crafts vendors as well as local businesses look forward to this opportunity to reserve a table and share their products and services with attendees. This family oriented venue includes children's activities, and on festival weekend, local businesses host their own events (kayak tours, walking tours and excursions, oyster roasts, street dances, etc.). While enjoyed by locals, the event introduces visitors to what Edisto has to offer during our off season. For more info on this event, contact Dan Carter at 869-3867.

## BEYOND EDISTO ANNUAL TOUR OF HOMES & PLANTATIONS



Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Edisto Island Historic Preservation Society  
Annual tour of Plantations, Churches Graveyards  
& Historic Sites  
Edisto Island  
843-869-1954

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

## **TRICK OR TREAT AT THE CREEK**



The Town of Edisto Beach will host Trick or Treat at the Creek at Bay Creek Park on Friday, October 26, 2012, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. There will be a costume contest, games and prizes, table to table trick or treating, cake walk, and more. Come join in on the fun!

## **EDISTO RECIPES**

### **CANDY CORN BARK**



16 chocolate sandwich cookies, chopped  
1 ½ cups broken small pretzels  
1/3 cup raisins  
1 ½ # white chocolate, broken into squares  
2 cups candy corn  
Orange and brown sprinkles

Spread the cookies, pretzels and raisins evenly onto a lightly greased small baking sheet. Melt chocolate in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water, or in the microwave, stirring frequently until melted. Remove from the heat while there are still a few chunks, and stir until smooth. White chocolate burns easily.

Drizzle chocolate with a spoon over the goodies in the pan, spreading the top flat to coat evenly. Top with candy corn and sprinkles. Let cool until firm and break into pieces and store in an airtight container. Enjoy!

## **BEACH COMBER TREASURES**



**Knobbed Whelk**

Whelks have flourished off of South Carolina in the Atlantic for over 30 million years. Adult whelks are usually 5 to 9 inches in length and characterized by low knobs on the shoulder of the whorl with the aperture on the right side. Aperture coloration ranges from light orange-yellow to brick red. The knobbed whelk is the most common whelk in South Carolina.

The structure and coloration of knobbed whelk shells vary greatly, not only over their geographical range, but also within a locality. It is not unusual to find whelks on South Carolina beaches with different knob lengths, knob directions and aperture colors. Whelks grow by extending the shell around a central axis, producing turns, or whorls, as they evolve. Whelks also have a separate hard horny plate called a shoe that is attached to the top of the living animal's foot.

Knobbed whelks in South Carolina lay egg strings twice a year, usually from September through October and April through May. Estimates of the average number of eggs per capsule is 34 to 35 and capsules per string are 100 to 120. Spent egg strings often wash up on beaches and consist of a series of flattened capsules attached at one end to a tough cord or string-like structure.

If one finds a large knobbed whelk on the beach, chances are good it is a female. Normally, female knobbed whelks have larger shells, weigh more and possess a larger foot.

The knobbed whelk is a common species of the shallow shelf ecosystem and South Carolina estuaries. The prevalence of knobbed whelk in this habitat makes it an excellent indicator of the health of this ecosystem. Many people enjoy collecting the deceased animal's shell. Aside from its recreational and ecological value, the knobbed whelk is targeted in the offshore whelk trawl fishery in South Carolina. South Carolina has a highly regulated, short exploitation window that is further limited by fishing gear restrictions, weather conditions, minimum harvest size, etc.

## **A NOTE OF THANKS**

Jeannie Mims Barnhill learned of her battle for life on February 25, 2012, with the diagnosis of a brain tumor, which turned out to be CNS (Central Nervous System) Lymphoma. She lost the battle on September 3. Her family would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the friends, acquaintances, and, yes, even strangers, at Edisto Beach who helped us through our journey. For nearly seven months, we were showered with acts of kindness that ranged from help in the yard to driving to Charleston for treatments. We were never without offers for beds for family members or retreats of solitude for us. Our refrigerator was always full of delicious meals and desserts, from the first arrival home after diagnosis through the week after the funeral. While no battle with brain cancer is easy, we recognize that this time could have been so much worse. So we thank God for the blessings of the good people at Edisto Beach! You made it a little easier to leave when each of us returned to our responsibilities of family and home. We knew that our parents were never more than one phone call away from help. May God bless each of you as you have been used to bless us.

The Jeannie Barnhill family.

## **GARBAGE & YARD DEBRIS FALL PICK UP SCHEDULE**

Beginning the last full week of October (10/22/12), household garbage service will revert to once a week service with pick up each Monday. Twice weekly service will resume the last full week of March, 2013. Yard debris will continue to be picked up each Tuesday. **Roll carts must be rolled back under house after pick-up.**

## **MINUTES AUGUST 9, 2012 COUNCIL MEETING 6:00 P.M.**

Present: Burley L. Lyons, Mayor, Larry "Babe" Hutto, Mayor Pro Tempore, Pete Anderson, Jane S. Darby and Tommy Mann, Council Members; *Quorum of Council Present.*

Mayor Lyons welcomed guests and thanked all who served the Town of Edisto Beach.

Council Session opened with a word of prayer by Councilman Anderson, who also led those present in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Hutto moved to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2012. Councilman Mann seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Proclamations and Presentations**

Mayor Lyons recognized Donald Hartman, Jeanne Hackett and Robert E. "Bobo" Lee with Starfish Awards for their service on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board. He then recognized Paul Murdaugh, Rogan Gibson and Brennan Zeigler with Starfish Awards for their assistance in the rescue of a lady in distress. Next, he recognized Mr. Bob Foster with a Starfish Award for building a shelf for the Council Chambers for the Town's Municipal Association Award. Finally, he recognized Jimmy Mellersten and Quinn McCollum from the Utilities department and Walter Hutchinson, Julian Meggett and Alfred Meggett from the Public Works department with Starfish Awards for trimming palm trees at Town Hall and around McConkey's Square.

Erin Garner, Chairperson of the TIDE Committee, presented Wyndham Ocean Ridge with a TIDE Committee Beautification Award for the entrance to Wyndham/Ocean Ridge.

Chrissi Jackson gave an update on the Lowcountry Charter School that will be opening in Hollywood, SC for the 2013-2014 school year.

### **New Business/Appearances**

#### **Application Procedure and Deadline for Committee Vacancies**

Councilwoman Darby requested that a procedure be developed to govern application and deadlines for committee vacancies. Councilwoman Darby moved to establish a procedure by resolution that requires committee applications be turned in prior to the Council Work Session. Councilman Mann seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### **Denied: Minimum Water Fee for Vacant Commercial Buildings**

Mr. Tom Kapp requested that Council consider revising Town Code 82-33 to waive the minimum water fee for vacant commercial buildings rather than having to pay a fee of \$500.00 to disconnect the water meter. Mr. Kapp's fee as an out of town user is \$258.47. The minimum water fee was established to ensure all who are connected to the water system pay to maintain

the system. Councilman Mann moved to deny waiving the water fee for vacant commercial buildings. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Approved: Budget Transfer from General Fund Contingency to General Fund Building Maintenance for Council room door storm shutters not to exceed \$2,000**

A budget transfer was requested from general fund contingency to general fund building maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for the installation of a new storm shutter for the Council room doors. The current shutter is broken and will not close over the handles of the new doors. The contingency balance is \$151,162. Councilwoman Darby moved to approve the budget transfer general fund contingency to general fund building maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for the installation of a new storm shutter for the Council room doors. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Failed: Distracted Driving Policy**

The distracted driving policy for all Town personnel states that Town employees may not use a hand-held cell phone while operating a vehicle – whether the vehicle is in motion or stopped at a traffic light. This includes, but is not limited to, answering or making phone calls, engaging in phone conversations, and reading or responding to emails, instant messages, and text messages. These rules apply to any employee operating a Town vehicle or using a Town-issued cell phone while operating a personal vehicle. Councilman Hutto moved to approve the Distracted Driving Policy. Councilwoman Darby seconded the motion. Councilman Mann stated that he doesn't have any issue with stopping the use of cell phones/smart phones for texting and sending or receiving emails while driving, but he doesn't feel that having a phone conversation while driving is too much of a distraction. He has a problem with the telephone conversation portion of this policy. Councilman Anderson stated that he agreed with Councilman Mann. He said that this is not Atlanta, GA, and we do not have that much traffic on the beach. If every time there was a phone call, it would be a lot of trouble to pull over every time you need to answer. Councilman Hutto stated that the Federal government has already implemented this policy for its employees. Councilman Mann stated that he didn't always agree with the Federal government. Councilwoman Darby asked Administrator Hill if this is something that is advantageous for our insurance. Administrator Hill stated that it would not make any difference

as far as insurance premiums were concerned. Mayor Lyons asked Chief Coffey if the Town's police officers use their cell phones for conversations or if they use police radios. Chief Coffey told the Mayor that they use their cell phones quite frequently, and although texting and checking emails while driving is very distracting, making calls is sometimes necessary when the police are responding to a call. The motion to approve the Distracted Driving Policy failed with a vote of 2 to 3 with Councilwoman Darby and Councilmen Anderson and Mann opposed.

**Approved: Agreement with Presbyterian Church for use as temporary Emergency Operations Center**

Councilman Mann moved to approve an Agreement with the Presbyterian Church of Edisto Island for the use of the Omni building as a Temporary Emergency Operations Center. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Approved: Fund Balance Policy**

The Fund Balance Policy states that the goal of the Town is to achieve and maintain an unassigned General Fund Balance equal to two (2) months expenditures. The Town considers a balance of less than two (2) months to be cause for concern. Councilwoman Darby moved to approve the Fund Balance Policy. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Approved: Special Event Application for Music and Shag Festival**

Darrin Moore submitted a Special Event Application for the Music and Shag Festival. Mr. Moore requested the use of the Bay Creek Park from August 30 through September 2, 2012. Total rental fees are \$1,435 which includes the park rental fee, electrical fee, solid waste fee, and additional roll cart fees. Mr. Moore requested that all rental fees be waived because this event is similar in nature to the Governor's Cup, whose fees were waived. Councilwoman Darby moved to approve the Special Event Application for the Music and Shag Festival and waive the fees for the use of the Bay Creek Park, and that Council schedule a time to discuss the handling of the expenses for the park. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Approved: Expense from Sewer R&R to replace two pumps at the Fat Jack's Lift Station**

Councilman Mann moved to approve an amount not to exceed \$12,500 for the purchase of two

replacement pumps at the Fat Jack's Lift Station. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Approved: Expense from Local Accommodations for Assessment of Beach Restoration and Groin Lengthening \$19,295**

Councilwoman Darby moved to approve \$19,295 from the local accommodations fund for the assessment of beach restoration and groin lengthening. The local accommodations balance is \$135,268. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Committee Vacancies  
Zoning Board of Appeals**

There were two vacancies on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Cathy Price and Ida Tipton were selected to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**Planning Commission**

**Approved: First Reading of Ordinance #2012-17 to Amend Article V of Chapter 86, Sections 86-211 through 86-234, of the Town's Code Related to Signs**

Councilwoman Darby moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2012-17 to amend Article V of Chapter 86, Sections 86-211 through 86-234, of the Town's Code related to signs. Councilman Mann seconded the motion, which carried with a vote of 4 to 1. Mayor Lyons was opposed.

**Approved: First Reading of Ordinance #2012-18 to Amend Section 86-3 of the Town's Code to add the definition of Yard Sale**

Councilman Anderson moved to approve the first reading of ordinance #2012-18 to amend section 86-3 of the Town's Code to add the definition of yard sale which means a sale of used household belongings of the seller at the home of the seller typically held outdoors. For definition purposes a yard sale is the same as a garage sale. Councilwoman Darby seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Deferred: First Reading of Ordinance #2012-19 to Adopt the Zoning Map of the Town of Edisto Beach, as Revised and Amended in Relation to the PUD District**

On June 14, 2012, Council requested the Planning Commission consider an amendment to the zoning map to change the zoning for the Cabana located at 2001 Baynard Street to be reflected in the PUD zoning district with limitations and restrictions on the use consistent with the historical use of the tract. The changes are reflected in Exhibit A of this ordinance. This

item passed with a 4 to 1 vote by the Planning Commission. Councilman Hutto moved to defer the first reading of Ordinance #2012-19 to adopt the Zoning Map of the Town of Edisto Beach, as revised and amended in relation to the PUD district until the Town has received documentation of deed restrictions on the property from Wyndham Ocean Ridge. Councilwoman Darby seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Burley L. Lyons Park Rules**

Councilwoman Darby moved to approve Burley L. Lyons Park Rules. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Accommodations Tax Advisory Board**

**Approved: Town of Edisto Beach-Bay Creek Park Restrooms not to exceed \$85,000**

Councilman Mann moved to approve the Accommodations Tax application submitted by the Town of Edisto Beach for the construction of the Bay Creek Park restroom in an amount not to exceed \$85,000 with the stipulation that Town staff attempt to cut this cost considerably. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Approved: Edisto Chamber of Commerce-Edisto Beach Fall Festival \$2,000**

Councilwoman Darby moved to approve the Accommodations Tax application submitted by the Edisto Chamber of Commerce for the Edisto Beach Fall Fest in the amount of \$2,000. Councilman Anderson seconded this motion, which carried unanimously.

**Approved: Edisto Chamber of Commerce-Edisto Beach Music and Shag Festival \$4,000**

Councilwoman Darby moved to approve the Accommodations Tax application submitted by the Edisto Chamber of Commerce for the Edisto Beach Music and Shag Festival, reducing the amount of funding from \$4,000 to \$2,000. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Approved: Edisto Chamber of Commerce-Edisto Beach Shrimp Fest 2012 \$3,000**

Councilman Anderson moved to approve the Accommodations Tax application submitted by the Edisto Chamber of Commerce for the Edisto Beach Shrimp Fest 2012 in the amount of \$3,000. Councilman Mann seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Approved: Edisto Chamber of Commerce-Event Marketing and Advertising 2012 \$17,190**

Councilwoman Darby moved to approve the Accommodations Tax application submitted by the Edisto Chamber of Commerce for Event Marketing and Advertising 2012 in the amount of \$17,190. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Council stressed upon the Chamber that advertising should be conducted outside of the Charleston/Beaufort areas.

**Departmental Reports and Committee Updates**

**Administration**

The finance report was presented by Iris Hill, Town Administrator for the month ending July 31, 2012.

	Received	Spent
General Fund	3.77 %	5.34 %
Water Fund	0.42 %	5.68 %
Wastewater Fund	0.25 %	4.66 %

**Building Department Report**

The Building Department report was presented by Patrick Brown, Building Official, for the month of July 2012.

	July-11	July-12	YTD
Business/Rental License Fees	\$2,833	\$2,982	\$2,982
New Construction Permits	0	1	1
Other Permits	19	22	22
Permit Fees	\$1,882	\$3,850	\$3,850
Inspections	99	62	62

**Fire Department**

The Fire Department report for the month of July 2012 was given by Chief Larry Waddle.

Calls	July-11	July-12	YTD
Medical	36	42	42
Fire-related	13	5	5
Public Assistance	38	54	54
Beach Wheel Chairs	25	24	24

Currently the Fire department is working with the Army Corps of Engineers on the permitting process for dry hydrants in the Hammocks.

**Police Department Report**

The Police Department report was presented by Chief Coffey for the month of July 2012.

	July-11	July-12	YTD
Citations	11	50	50
Speeding	7	10	10
Warnings	124	97	97
Alarm Calls	27	14	14
Calls for 2 or More Officers	20	12	12
Miles Patrolled	9,953	7,669	7,669
Assaults	3	1	1
Larcenies	12	15	15
Burglaries	2	1	1
Incidents & Calls for Service	158	178	178
Golf Cart Violations	0	8	8
Domestic Violence Calls	1	0	0
Property Checks	1,543	1,015	1,015
Open Container		9	9
D.U.I.		1	1
Other Citations (parking)		21	21
Disorderly Conduct		1	1
Animal Control Call		1	1

**Utilities Department**

The Utilities Department report for the month of July 2012 was given by Bob Doub, the Utilities Director.

	July-11	June-12	YTD
Pumped MG Water Treated	32.49 MG	34.04 MG	34.04 MG
Wastewater	9.32 MG	7.2 MG	7.2 MG
Water Line Repairs	0	140	140
Work Order Repairs	95	173	173

During the month of July, the Utilities department pumped 34,035,500 gallons of water, with a daily average of 1,097,919 gallons. This was an increase in water consumption of 1.51 million gallons over July 2011. The Utilities department had some issues with high level alarms at pump stations "A" and "B" due to the increased number of visitors at the beach. There was also a problem on July 28, 2012, when a storm knocked out power to the wells, and they had to be reset manually. On July 26, 2012, SCDHEC, conducted their annual sanitary survey of the Town's water system, and we received a satisfactory rating.

### Public Works

This report was presented by the Utilities Director, Bob Doub for the month of July 2012.

	July-11	July-12	YTD
Mowed Acres	41	54	54
Cleaned Ditches (miles)	6	3	3
Roll Carts Delivered	8	29	29

During the month of July, the Public Works department replaced 11 signs, painted bike symbols on bike paths, assisted the Utilities department in trimming palm trees around the marina parking lot and the Town Hall complex, assisted in the preparations for the Governor's Cup and maintained parks, beach accesses and roadway shoulders.

The Edisto Chamber of Commerce report for the Month of June was given by Dan Carter.

Ida Tipton of Edisto Pride informed Council and the audience that this year's beach sweep/river sweep is scheduled for September 15, 2012. She requested that the Town pick up the trash after they have picked it up from the beach. She also requested use of Beach Access 1 on September 15, 2012, from 8:30 until 10:30 am.

### Signed in to Speak

Bob Sandifer: Mr. Sandifer stated that he wanted to speak about the sign ordinance that just passed first reading. He referred to section 86-214(a)(6) that states that churches can only have one sign, section 86-215 that states should the existing sign be destroyed, it shall not be replaced except in accordance with the ordinance. He also stated that he has a problem with the portion of the ordinance that regulates signage on moving vehicles. He doesn't like this portion because a lot of the vehicles on the beach are from somewhere else. Mr. Sandifer stated that he had attended the Water Committee meeting where the RO study was discussed. He said that he wants to commend Town staff and the Water Committee because he thinks they are doing a great job solving the Town's water problem the correct way.

David Cannon: Mr. Cannon stated that he wanted to discuss the solution to a problem that is very serious: the Pavilion septic system. The septic tank is half way exposed, the septic field is shot, the septic system has been shut down and the Pavilion is currently operating on port-a-potties. The use of port-a-potties is killing business because people don't like using them. He is the engineer on this job. He has gotten

approval from DHEC and OCRM, but the issue is that they are going to have to close off the entrance to the parking lot on the south side, which is the beach access side. The solution involves moving the septic tank back as close to the road as possible. The trouble is that now cars are using part of the beach access to get into the Pavilion parking lot, and that situation was brought up by the Building department and the Town Administrator. He requests Council continue to allow things to stay as they are because there is a 10 foot setback that people can drive on but that is not enough room for people to turn around and leave the parking lot. Mr. Cannon gave Council copies of a drawing of the plans for the installation of the septic system at the Pavilion. Councilman Mann asked Mr. Cannon if the request for the Pavilion to use part of Beach Access 1 was permanent or temporary. Mr. Cannon stated that the drain field is going to be permanent; therefore, the use of the portion of the beach access would be permanent. Councilwoman Darby stated that she understands the position that the Pavilion is in, but Council has to discuss situations like this one with legal counsel in executive session. Mr. Cannon stated that he just wanted to point out that something needed to be done as soon as possible. Councilman Mann stated that his issue is giving up public property for use by a private enterprise, and asked if there is an alternative. Mr. Cannon said that yes there is an alternative. Mayor Lyons asked Mr. Cannon to wait while Council discussed this issue in executive session.

Councilman Hutto moved to go into executive session. Councilman Mann seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Darby moved to exit executive session. Councilman Mann seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Councilman Mann moved to go into regular session. Councilwoman Darby seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Councilman Mann moved to deny the Pavilion use of any portion of Beach Access 1. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Councilman Mann moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.