

# Monthly Highlights

## Jay Watts Sworn-in to Town Council

Jay Watts was sworn-in by Judge Susan Williams to Town Council at a special Council meeting on November 30, 2021. His wife Sherrie was there in support.



## Stopping Urban Invasive Plants

Here are some reasons that towns may want to play a role in invasive plant species management:

- Loss of biodiversity and habitat by impeding the growth of native trees and other plants.
- Reduced water quality and erosion problems since some invasive-exotic vines pose significant threats to soil loss and sedimentation. Edisto Beach code does not allow Beach Vitex in the Town limits. This is an exotic plant from the western pacific that has shallow roots and will choke out native sea oats which has deep roots holding sand in place.
- Less tree cover since invasive-exotic plants smother native seedlings from becoming established. Vines like English Ivy, Chinese Wisteria, and Japanese Honeysuckle girdle trees.
- Increased maintenance costs when exotics like the Bradford pear tree are planted. This tree has weakly attached branches that break in storms. The SC Forestry Commission has partnered with Clemson University rewarding removal with free, native replacement trees. <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/>.
- Negative impacts on economies and human health can be attributed to invasive plants like Kudzu climbing guy wires supporting electric poles which can cause disruption to power supplies.



Beach Vitex

### Inside this issue

- Grants .....2
- Accomplishments .....2
- Phishing.....2
- Sand Scraping.....3
- Septic Systems.....3
- Council Retreat.....4
- Recognitions.....4

### Special points of interest

- Special Election February 1, 2022 .
- Council Retreat January 25, 2022.
- Utility Bills Past Due After January 6, 2022



## Maximizing Public Funds Through Grants

Edisto Beach aggressively pursues grant funding to maximize the limited funds available to achieve capital projects.

- ⇒ The sea level study was performed by the South Carolina Sea Grant consortium at no cost to the Town.
- ⇒ Permitting of the Lift Station A and B upgrades was paid for with Colleton County Capital Project Sales Tax funds.
- ⇒ Construction costs of the Lift Station A and B upgrades was paid in part by a \$500,000 SC Rural Water Infrastructure Grant.
- ⇒ The Arc Billow Drainage project is being funded by American Rescue Plan funds.
- ⇒ Grant applications have been submitted for an interior lagoon study, boardwalk at Burley L. Lyons Park, bike path repairs, and restroom and kiosk at Jungle Road Park.

*“Grant funding is pursued to maximize limited Town funds”*

### Town Accomplishments

Each year the Town publishes their accomplishments that outline all the Town’s achievements for the fiscal year. Last year’s notable accomplishments were the completion of the 1st Master Recreation Plan and repair of the primary dune from Hurricane Dorian damages. Check it out!

[https://www.townofedistobeach.com/sites/default/files/uploads/town\\_accomplishment\\_fy\\_2020-2021.pdf](https://www.townofedistobeach.com/sites/default/files/uploads/town_accomplishment_fy_2020-2021.pdf)

## Phishing Emails Use Small Font Size To Bypass Security Filters

Researchers have spotted phishing emails that use a font size of one to fool email security scanners. The emails appear to be password expiration notifications from Microsoft 365. The attackers have inserted benign links that are invisible to the human eye, but trick security scanners into viewing the email as a legitimate marketing email.

All links are hidden within the code. This confuses natural language filters. Natural language filters see random text; human readers see what the attackers want them to see. In addition, hackers put links within the (font) tag, and brought the font size down to one. This breaks semantic analysis, which leads many solutions to treat it as a marketing email, as opposed to phishing.

Researchers conclude that the phishing emails themselves appear suspicious, so a trained user would be able to spot them as malicious. The emails simply state, “Notification for Password 365. Access To Your Email will be Expired.”



*Repaired dune through sand scraping*

### Sand Scraping

The King tides in early November eroded sand in areas on the front beach that resulted in some homes being imminently threatened by erosion. Under SCDHEC emergency order 2021-001, the Town was allowed to scrape sand from the intertidal beach and only between property lines of the structures receiving the sand. Scraped sand was placed against an eroded scarp or used to replace an eroded dune that is seaward of a threatened structure. The dune could not exceed 6 feet above grade or twenty feet in width. Only areas eroded within 20 feet of structures could be scraped. Westbank Construction completed this project on December 1, 2021 at a cost of \$8,500.

## Protect Our Ocean, Creeks and Rivers

Fecal matter has been found where we swim and boat. Two of the largest contributors are septic systems that are poorly functioning or septic systems in disrepair and pet waste. Edisto Beach has sandy soils, so when a septic system is in disrepair, it often goes unnoticed while sewage is leaching into nearby water sources. Most properties on Edisto Beach have septic systems. When was the last time your septic system was cleaned? Do you pick up after your pets and properly dispose of the waste? Help fix this problem!

### **Follow these tips to keep your septic tank system running smoothly and save yourself money on repairs.**

Have your septic system inspected every one to two years and [cleaned \(pumped out\)](#) every three to five years or more frequently, depending on the tank size and number of people using the system.

- Never flush cat litter, coffee grounds, diapers, towelettes (even the 'flushable' type), cigarette butts, tampons, condoms, grease, dental floss, baby wipes, paints, thinners, pesticides, oils, medicines, or excessive household chemicals.
- Know your system's location. Add a barrier to prevent anyone from driving over the drainfield.
- Conserve water. Reduce the amount of wastewater that must be treated and disposed of by your system:
- Wash no more than one or two loads of clothes daily. Up to 53 gallons of water flood your septic system with each load, so it's best to spread laundry out over the week.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets; over time, they can send hundreds of extra gallons of water through your septic system.
- Use low-flow fixtures and appliances whenever possible.
- Do not use a garbage disposal. It adds up to 50 percent more solids to your septic tank, and your tank will require more frequent pump-outs.
- Do not use caustic drain openers for clogged drains. Use boiling water or a drain snake instead.
- Use commercial bathroom cleaners and laundry detergents in moderation.

<https://scdhec.gov/environment/your-home/septic-tanks/septic-tank-maintenance-tips>

## Council Goal Setting Retreat

Each year Town Council holds an annual goal setting retreat to set goals for the coming year. This process guides how funds will be allocated. Your opinions matter. Please contact Town Council and let them know what you would like to see done next year. This meeting is open to the public and will be held in Council Chambers on January 25 starting at 10:00 a.m.

## Special Election

There will be a special election on February 1, 2022 to fill the Town Council seat vacated when Crawford Moore was elected Mayor.



## Fire Department and Police Staff Recognized

Often we take for granted those that dedicate their life to protect us. Although we don't say "thank you" enough, we do appreciate those who serve the public. The following received awards:

Fire Fighter of the year - Patrick Moses  
Part time fire fighter of the year - Robert Griffin  
Volunteer fire fighter of the year - Scott Epps  
Memorial recognition - Jack Slade Evans

COVID-19 Letter of Recognition: Ken Dasen, Daniel Seyle, David McWatters, Casey Bell, Patrick Clemens, and Ruben Carter  
Letter of Commendation: Patrick Clemens  
Life Saving Award: Daniel Seyle and Patrick Moses  
Officer of the Year: David McWatters



David McWatters, Ken Dasen, Ruben Carter, Patrick Clemens, Daniel Seyle, and Casey Bell



David McWatters-Officer of the Year



Lt. Daniel Seyle and Firefighter Patrick Moses-Lifesaving Award

## Water Taste Complaints

In early December 2021, the Town received complaints about a change in the taste of the water. Our system produces a blended rate meaning raw well water is blended with treated water. Upon investigation of the complaints, the Town discovered the automatic valve in the blending process malfunctioned. Since the water is disinfected after blending, the water was safe to drink, but due to a higher level of sodium and chloride, the taste was affected. This valve is being operated manually until it can be replaced.

*Utility Bills have been mailed and are due by January 6, 2022*

