

Town of Edisto Beach

# Monthly Highlights

June 2023



## IMPORTANT

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## Edisto Beach Receives SCIP Funds

Town officials were delighted to recently learn that Edisto Beach received \$8,904,385 dollars in funds through the South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program and \$500,000 from the Rural Infrastructure Authority to be used towards wastewater system upgrades within the Town. In March 2021 the Town imposed a moratorium on connecting to the sewer system due to the overextension of the distribution system. Capacity issues at the collection facilities and their much needed updating can now be addressed. American Engineering developed the scope of work needed to address these issues and an associated cost proposal. The total cost of all recommended improvements was requested and awarded in grant funding. These improvements will not expand the Town's sewer system. They will instead improve the

existing infrastructure to properly accommodate the existing and allocated capacity. Therefore, it is critical that homeowners who are not connected to the sewer system ensure their septic tanks are being properly maintained. More information on proper maintenance can be found [HERE](#). A special thanks to all involved in helping the Town achieve this grant award, including Mayor Moore, Town Council, former Town Administrator Hill, the Town's lobbyist, and those who submitted letters of recommendation on the Town's behalf, including SC Senator Chip Campsen, US Representative Nancy Mace and US Senator Tim Scott.



Improvements being constructed to Pump Station B on Gun Bluff Rd. - February 2023

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## Business License and Local Accommodations Compliance

The Town will begin utilizing a new software program that identifies short term rentals not in compliance with Town ordinances. The software continually searches the internet for rental listings from third-party booking agencies such as Airbnb and VRBO. Once identified, the program cross references the Town's business license list to ensure the listing has a valid business license. Next, the program determines the approximate amount of rentals that have occurred each month to ensure that local accommodations are being remitted to the town. These estimates are derived from a variety of available information

included on the listing and available state auditor records. Please ensure you are aware of and compliant with the laws. In order to operate a short-term rental unit, a business license must be secured and local accommodations taxes must be remitted. A business license application can be found [HERE](#). More information on the required local accommodations tax can be found [HERE](#).



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## Hurricane Preparedness Workshop

The Town will be holding a Hurricane Preparedness Workshop on June 9th at 11:00am at the Civic Center. All residents are invited to attend, and new homeowners and those who have not experienced a hurricane previously are encouraged to attend. Town staff, along with the Colleton County Emergency Management Department, will provide a brief presentation on how to prepare for hurricane season and what to expect in the event of a hurricane.





## Pickleball Approved

Town Council approved an Accommodations Tax Board recommendation to spend up to \$25,000 for Pickleball Court upgrades and associated parking improvements. The proposed project will resurface and restripe the existing court, increasing the number of pickleball courts from two to four. The existing tennis court lines will remain in place. The parking area will also be improved and increased as part of the project.



## Town Project Updates

- Pump Station B - substantially complete.
- Pump Station A - design complete. Bid specifications anticipated to be released June 2023.
- New Town Hall / Emergency Operation Center - design and permitting are underway.
- Interior Lagoon Study - in progress.
- Jungle Road Park Bathroom and Trailhead Project - in progress, bathroom construction anticipated to begin fall 2023.
- Arc Street / Billow Street Drainage Improvement Project - in progress, construction anticipated to begin August 2023.

## Starfish Award

Phyllis McElveen, Special Projects Coordinator for the Town of Edisto Beach, received a Starfish Award during the May Town Council meeting. She received this award by going above-and-beyond in preparing the Civic Center for the Edisto Beach Property Owners Association annual meeting.



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# May Town Council Meeting Highlights

At the regular monthly Town Council meeting on May 11th, Council approved the following items:

- Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-07, to amend Section 82-139 of the Town's Code to adjust the rates for sewer service. The rates were increased by 3%.
- Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-09 to amend Section 66-8(c) of the Town's Code to adjust the rates for solid waste service. The fees increased by 3.5%.
- First reading of Ordinance 2023-10 to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget. A public hearing will be held on this matter on June 8 at 5:55 pm at Town Hall.

ATAX Board recommendations were considered and projects approved by Council included:

- \$15,000 to the SC Lowcountry Tourism Commission for advertising and promotion of Edisto Beach
- \$3,600 to the Edisto Art Guild Summer Series 2023, Arts in the Park events.

- \$15,000 to the Town of Edisto Beach for the Cookin' on the Creek BBQ Festival to be held October 13-14
- \$152,510 for a two-year period for a police officer position
- \$43,800 for a two-year period for beach patrol
- \$50,000 to be applied toward the Bell Property Bond Debt.

Council approved committee appointments as follows:

- Municipal Election Commission: Thomas McElroy and Phyllis Bunkley
- Beachfront Management: Dallas Lovelace, Bob Ringer, Marie Bost
- Planning Commission: Tom Hart and Virginia Stephenson.

The next regular monthly Town Council meeting will be held on June 8th at 6:00 p.m., with public hearings on the 2023-2024 budget and the Beach Overlay Zoning District ordinance at 5:55 p.m.

As a reminder, Council agendas and minutes are found on our website [HERE](#).

