

Town of Edisto Beach

Monthly Highlights

July 2023



IMPORTANT

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Hurricane Season 2023

Hurricane Season 2023 is upon us, and the Town has been conducting annual training and planning to ensure we are as prepared as possible. On June 9, Mayor Crawford Moore and Town Administrator Mark Aakhus presented a Hurricane Preparedness Workshop for the residents of Edisto Beach. Colleton County emergency officials were also present for this workshop. Please click on the following link to view the workshop presentation: [LINK HERE](#).

As well, Town staff participated in a Hurricane Tabletop Exercise with Colleton County Emergency Management. Various scenarios, preparation tactics, communication strategies, and other important items were discussed during this two-hour exercise.

Please begin now to ensure you and your property are prepared for the hurricane season. The time to begin is now -- not when a hurricane is upon us.

Important Contact Information:

- Edisto Beach Town Hall: 843.869.2505
- Colleton County Fire-Rescue: 843.539.1960
- Colleton County Emergency Operations Center: 843.549.5632



Marine 14 and Mutual Aid Agreement

For the Town of Edisto Beach, the Marine Response Team is a joint effort between the Police, Fire, and Volunteer Fire departments. Our marine asset (Marine 14) is kept on a jet dock at Bay Creek Park which allows for rapid deployment when necessary.

The boat is a valuable and necessary asset for the Town due to its capability to handle oceanside rescues, which are often in rough ocean conditions.

The boat was re-fitted recently with funds made possible by a donation from the Edisto Beach Volunteer Fire Department.

Recently, the Town joined the

Charleston Metro Marine Unit, which is a collaborative coastal unit consisting of several surrounding agencies. This allows us access to an immediate response from partner agencies for search and rescue and allows us access to valuable training resources.

At the June 8th Town Council meeting, Police Chief Daniel Seyle, and volunteer firefighters Scott Epps and Bryan Henderson were recognized with a Starfish Award for their water rescue with Marine 14 on April 6 in response to a boat which had run aground in St. Helena Sound. The Mayor thanked them for their great response and work in helping the boaters.

Governor's EOC Tour

On June 5th, Town officials participated in Governor McMaster's tour of the emergency operations center in Beaufort County. The Governor also visited emergency operations centers in Horry and Charleston counties. This annual "hurricane fly around" exercise enabled the Governor to meet with emergency management leaders as the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season began.

As a reminder, the hurricane season began June 1 and runs through the end of November.



American Legion Mental Health Awareness

At the June 8th Town Council meeting, Jim Phelps, Commander of St. Paul's American Legion Post 145, announced a new mental health program for veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs, Charleston Veteran Center, will provide outreach services to service members and veterans within the St. Paul's region. This outreach effort will take place at the American Legion St. Paul's

Post 145 at 6328 Highway 162, Hollywood, SC. Free counseling services for military-related issues to service members, veterans, National Guard and Reserve components will be offered. The first two sessions were held on June 12 and 26, and future availability will be determined by this initial interest and use. Please call American Legion Post 145 at **843-889-8090** if you are interested and for further information.

Loggerhead Turtle Project

The Edisto Beach Loggerhead Turtle Project started in 1982. Our Town beach volunteers walk sections of the 4-mile stretch of beach daily which spans from the Atlantic Ocean to the mouth of the South Edisto River. Our volunteers will mark the area with a flag and then locate the nest. If the nest is in an area where it could be threatened by tides, they will relocate it to higher ground. We cannot do our job without the help of the public. Please report any unauthorized activities. If you see an injured or dead sea turtle, DO NOT TOUCH IT! Please call the Edisto Non-emergency number (843)549-2211.

Sea Turtle Facts:

- There are 7 living species of Sea Turtles: Green, Loggerhead, Hawksbill, Leatherback, Kemp's Ridley, Olive Ridley, & Flatback. The primary species at Edisto are the Loggerheads.

- A mama sea turtle lays nests every 2-4 years.
- In the year she lays, she will lay 4-7 nests each year.
- Each nest will have an average of 100 ping-pong sized eggs.
- Incubation time is 45-65 days.
- On average, only 1 out of 1000 sea turtle hatchlings will survive to adulthood.
- A Loggerhead sea turtle's favorite food is jellyfish.
- A Loggerhead reaches maturity around 30 years old and can live to be 100.

Remember:

- Keep dogs on a leash.
- Fill in your holes.
- Remove all tents, chairs, etc. daily.
- No white lights, use red flashlights or covers.
- Turn out lights on the beach front.
- Do not disturb nesting turtles.

For More Information:

- www.edistobeachseaturtles.com
- Email: edistoseaturtles@gmail.com

June Town Council Meeting Highlights

At the regular monthly Town Council meeting on June 8th, Council approved the following items:

- Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-08 to amend Section 86-145 of the Town's Code of Ordinances Related to Beach Management Overlay Zoning District. This amendment allows for the Town to consider using conditional use construction permits within property setback areas provided they satisfy certain criteria.
- Second reading of Ordinance 2023-10 to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.
- First reading of Ordinance 2023-11 to amend Section 87-127 of the Town's Code related to tie-on of existing sewer system exceptions.

Council also approved the Charleston Metro Marine Patrol Unit Mutual Aid Agreement between the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and the Edisto Beach Police Department. This agreement will support multi-agency marine public safety units in responding to waterborne issues

utilizing assigned marine patrol boat operators, as well as specialized units to patrol the waterways, conduct search and rescue missions, and waterside firefighting, as well as other services.

Town Council approved the Special Event Application for the Cookin' on the Creek Festival, to be held on October 13-14, 2023, at Bay Creek Park.

At this meeting, the Mayor and Council members cautioned residents and visitors to be alert and cautious during the summer season. The Town already has many visitors here and things are quite busy, so they advised all to be extra careful while driving, walking, and biking. Be alert!

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

