

Town of Edisto Beach

Monthly Highlights

March 2024



IMPORTANT

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For more information
on SC Beach
Advocates, visit their
website at
sbeaches.org.

SC Beach Advocates Annual Meeting

The South Carolina Beach Advocates Annual Meeting was held from January 29-31 in North Myrtle Beach. Mayor Crawford Moore and Town Administrator Mark Aakhus, who holds a seat on the board of directors, attended the meeting where numerous items were discussed.

January's meeting featured many dignitaries, including Governor Henry McMaster, U.S. and state legislators, and state agency directors. Ideas regarding beach preservation and management were shared as part of this annual meeting. SC Senate Bill 282 and SC House Bill 3930 were also discussed at this meeting, and further explanation of these bills is found on Page 2 of these highlights.

The SC Beach Advocates is a non-profit organization formed in 2015. The mission is to advocate for South Carolina beach preservation, and to educate the public, governmental authorities, and elected officials on the environmental, economic, and societal impact of SC's beaches and inlets.



SC Beach Advocates Board of Directors with US Representative Russell Fry



Mayor Moore participating in a panel discussion at the Annual Meeting.

SC Senate & House Bills

Senate Bill 282 and House Bill 3930 are both before committees for discussion and possible action. Both these bills are directed toward an annual line item in the State's budget for beach restoration and improvement.

Proposed Senate Bill 282 amends the South Carolina Code to place the Beach Restoration and Improvement Trust Fund under the authority of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism and requires the General Assembly to appropriate a certain amount for the fund annually. One of our local representatives, Senator Campsen, is a sponsor of this bill. This bill is currently with the Senate Committee on Finance.

House Bill 3930 is similar to Senate Bill 282, which establishes an annual fund for beach restoration. Rep. Leber is one of the local representatives who is sponsoring this companion bill.

Both these bills were introduced in early 2023. Supporters of these bills note that "our beaches are a statewide treasure that needs a strategic, long-term investment in periodic maintenance."

Governor McMaster has included funding in his budget recommendations and included this item in his most recent State of the State address.

Yard Debris

As a reminder to all residents, the collection of yard debris is regulated by Town of Edisto Beach ordinance.

As per Section 66-43, yard trash shall be placed in neat piles at curbside adjacent to owner's property or at the property line nearest the street with the following limitations:

- materials are not to be placed on an adjoining lot whether vacant or otherwise
- leaves, pine straw, pampas and grass clippings, small shrubbery clippings, etc., must be placed in yard waste bags or other containers. Such loose material placed at the curb, not in a yard waste bag or other container, will not be collected
- brush, limbs, and shrubbery trimmings not containerized must be neatly stacked and bundled together in a consistent manner and bound by string or twine; must not contain any limb, brush, etc., greater than five feet in length and must not weigh more than 30 pounds per bundle
- no garbage or construction debris may be mixed with yard trash as it will not be picked up.

Any questions regarding garbage and debris pickup may be directed to Teri Bloomingdale at 843-869-2505, ext. 201, or to:
tbloomingdale@townofedistobeach.com

FireSafe SC

The Edisto Beach Fire Department and its volunteer members will participate in a Community Risk Reduction program as part of FireSafe SC.

Mr. Cameron Andrews, Edisto resident and volunteer firefighter, presented information to Town Council on February 8 regarding this program. He noted FireSafe SC is a collaborative effort among a number of state fire organizations.

The mission of FireSafe SC is to unite fire service organizations to engage influential community stakeholders, and together they will support local fire departments to serve their citizens through strategic community risk reduction programs.

Mr. Andrews noted the goals for Community Risk Reduction (CRR) include (1) education for EBFD and EBVFD personnel; (2) National Fire Incident Reporting system data and analysis reports; (3) conduct risk assessment and establish priorities for specific risks; (4) engage community stakeholders; (5) develop outreach methods and track effectiveness; and (6) organize and deliver fire and life safety education for community members.

For the coming year, our Fire Department will focus on developing the Home Safety Visit program.

Casey Herring Promoted to Assistant Chief of Police

Casey Herring, Edisto Beach Police Department, has been promoted to Assistant Chief of Police.

Assistant Chief Herring has been with the Edisto Beach Police Department since July 2017, following her service with the Barnwell County Sheriff's Department. In April 2022, she was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Assistant Chief Herring is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.

Casey and her husband Bryan and daughter Isla live on Edisto Beach.

We offer congratulations to Casey on this promotion!



Casey Herring is pinned with the collar brass and the oak leaves pin by Mayor Moore and husband Bryan Herring, with daughter Isla looking on.

February Town Council Meeting Highlights

At the regular monthly Town Council meeting held on February 8, the following are a few of the items approved by Council:

- Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-01 to Amend Section 58-161 of Article VI-Noise. The change in the ordinance permits outdoor entertainment between March 1 to October 31 of each year.
- First reading of Ordinance 2024-02 to Amend the Business License Ordinance to Update the Class Schedule as required by Act 176 of 2020. This ordinance does **not** include fee increases; this amendment will only update the class schedule as required by state law. A Public Hearing for this ordinance amendment will be held on March 14, 2024, at 5:55 p.m.
- Resolution 2024-R03 adopting 2024-2025 Town Council goals.
- Approval of beach mats purchase from Deschamps Mats Systems, Inc., for 4 additional beach mats at a cost of \$8,890.
- Appointment of Lynne Grout to the TIDE Committee to fill an unexpired term to November 2024.

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



Service Pins

Town Council recognized a number of Town Hall employees with service pins at the February 8th meeting. The following were recognized for their years of service to the Town of Edisto Beach:

15-year Service Pin:
Julian Meggett, Public Works

10-year Service Pin:
Daniel Seyle, Police Department
Denney Conley, Fire Department
Patrick Zemp, Utilities/Public Works

5-year Service Pin:
Casey Herring, Police Department
Mark Aakhus, Town Administrator
Paul Otte, Utilities Department



Town Administrator Mark Aakhus receives 5-year pin from the Mayor.



Julian Meggett receives 15-year pin from Mr. Aakhus.



Denney Conley, Patrick Zemp, and Casey Herring receive service pins from Mr. Aakhus.



Paul Otte receives 5-year service pin from Mr. Aakhus.