

Town of Edisto Beach

Monthly Highlights

June 2024



IMPORTANT

Signup for
CodeRed Weather
Alerts by selecting
the button below.



And subscribe to
the Edisto Beach
Website [HERE](#).

South Carolina Golf Cart
Regulations may be found
here: [SC Golf Cart Regulations](#)

South Carolina Golf Cart
Registration Information may
be found here: [SC Golf Cart
Registration Information](#)

Some Reminders:

- Golf carts must be insured, permitted, and registered with SCDMV, and an Edisto Beach Golf Cart Permit must be obtained.
- To obtain an Edisto Beach Golf Cart permit, you must be an Edisto Beach homeowner.
- Do not drive golf carts on Palmetto Boulevard.

June Designated as Golf Cart Safety & Education Month

The Town Council of Edisto Beach approved Proclamation 2024-P10, Golf Cart Safety and Education Month, at its May Regular Council meeting (see page 4 for the Proclamation).

To encourage individuals to follow golf cart laws, the Edisto Beach Police Department has launched a Golf Cart Safety and Education Initiative for June 2024. As part of the enforcement and education program, gift cards and discount cards have been donated by our generous local businesses on Edisto Beach. Throughout the month of June, these will be distributed by our officers to those operating golf carts in a safe and lawful manner (while supplies last).

As a reminder, the Town of Edisto Beach follows all South Carolina golf cart laws. Please be aware, however, there are additional Edisto Beach ordinances that must be adhered to for the safety of our residents and visitors. The most common violations made by golf cart operators are too many people on the golf cart, operating a golf cart at night, and operating a golf cart on Palmetto Boulevard.

For a complete list of golf cart rules, please visit our website here: [Edisto Beach Golf Cart](#)



Edisto Beach Regulations (and Beach Etiquette Tips!)

The summer season is upon us, and we welcome all beachgoers to our beautiful Edisto Beach!

As we begin the season, we remind our visitors of the following activities which are **prohibited** on our beach:

- glass containers
- bonfires
- littering
- motorized vehicles
- motorized water craft
- sailboats on sand dunes or grassy areas of dunes
- parking on sand dunes
- unleashed dogs prohibited on the beach May 1 - October 31 (owners must cleanup pet excrement)
- leaving holes on the beach
- disturbing or hanging items on sand fencing
- disturbing, damaging, trampling, or removing vegetation that stabilizes dunes

As well, we offer some **Beach Etiquette Tips** to ensure a relaxing atmosphere for all:

- respect personal space
- pick-up and properly dispose of your trash
- do not feed birds or wildlife
- do not blast stereo, etc.
- be considerate and do not smoke near other beachgoers
- ensure umbrellas and large canopies/tents are properly and firmly set; cover up holes when dismantled.



Sea Turtle Season

Sea Turtle season is May 1 to October 31, and we remind all of the following in order to protect our loggerhead turtles:

- turn out all lights on beach at dusk from May 1 through October 31
- close all drapes if lights are visible on the beach
- never move turtle eggs
- turtles are protected by federal, state, and local laws
- pick-up all litter on the beach
- fill in holes or castle moats at dusk
- remove all sand toys, beach chairs, umbrellas, etc., at least 10 feet above high tide mark
- all tents must be taken down at dusk
- keep dogs on a leash from May 1 to October 31
- report turtle strandings or potential problems to Colleton County non-emergency dispatch at 843-549-2211
- stay away from nesting turtles, turtle nests, and turtle hatchlings

Female sea turtles leave the ocean only to lay eggs, and they may nest every two to three years. Nesting can take between one and three hours. After a female turtle drags herself up the beach, she hollows out a pit with her back flippers and deposits an average of 100 eggs the size of ping pong balls. When the last egg is laid, she covers the eggs with sand and flings more sand about with her flippers to erase any sign of the nest. After approximately two months, the hatchling turtles emerge at night where the light reflected off the water from the sky guides them to the sea. Sometimes, car headlights, street lights, lights on buildings, etc., near the beach cause some hatchlings to travel in the wrong direction, which is what we want to avoid.



State Accommodations Tax (ATAX)

The State Accommodations Tax (ATAX) applies to lodging, rooms or spaces in one's own home, condos, campgrounds, boarding houses, or sleeping accommodations of any kind which are rented to guests for less than 90 consecutive days. Two percent of this tax is distributed back to cities and counties using a formula based on point of sale.

When a municipality receives more than \$50,000 in Accommodations Tax, which is the case for the Town of Edisto Beach, an advisory committee must be appointed. The ATAX Committee then recommends to the Town Council how this money is spent. In turn, the Town Council can accept, reject, or modify the recommendations. The funds are to be used to promote tourism.

The distribution of the ATAX funds is also designated by the state as follows:

- the first \$25,000 of the tax distribution is deposited into the local municipality's general fund.
- of the balance, 30% must be allocated to a special fund and for the exclusive use of tourism advertising and promotion by an organization such as a chamber or commerce, visitors center, etc.; for the Town, this 30% is allocated to the Edisto Chamber of Commerce.
- the remaining balance must be used for tourism-related expenditures, and the ATAX Committee makes its recommendations for these remaining balance funds.

Over the years, the ATAX Board has recommended, and Council has approved, a great number of funding requests, including police & fire equipment, beach renourishment, public safety needs, Bell property annual bond debt, Town website design, pickleball court, and many events, to name a few.

The members of the ATAX Board are: Leslie Varner Hurley (chair), Mike Hobson (vice chair), Tyler Von Neida, Rick Moore, Matthew Kizer, Judith Blancett, and Brandon Jackson.

Upcoming Events

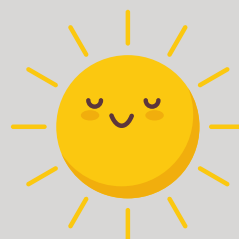
A number of fun events are planned by the Town of Edisto Beach, the Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations for the coming months, so please make plans to join us!

- June 1: Chamber of Commerce Turtle Tide Art Reveal
- June 2, July 14, August 11: Edisto Art Guild Summer Series 2024 Arts in the Park, Bay Creek Park, 7:00 p.m.
- June 12, July 10, August 14, September 18, and December 13: Chamber of Commerce 2024 Movies in the Park, Bay Creek Park, 5-10 p.m.
- July 4: Town of Edisto Beach Family Fun & Fireworks Show, Bay Creek Park, 6-9:30 p.m.
- July 17-20: SC Governor's Cup Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament
- August 30-September 1: Edisto Beach Shag Fest
- October 11-12: Town of Edisto Beach 2024 Cookin' on the Creek BBQ Festival, Bay Creek Park
- October 12: Chamber of Commerce 2024 Fall Festival & Turtle Tide Art Auction, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- October 15-19: Edisto Art Guild Plein Air Paint Out
- November 23: Chamber of Commerce 13th Annual Edisto Beach Road Race, 8-11 a.m.
- December 14: Edisto Christmas Parade, 2:00 p.m.

Bay Creek Park Market: Every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Bay Creek Park, until October 30.

Lions Club Bingo: Begins June 4, every Tuesday and Thursday, to August 8.

Please check the Edisto Chamber of Commerce [Calendar](#) for a complete list of events and additional information.



May Town Council Meeting Highlights

At the regular monthly Town Council meeting held on May 9, 2024, the following are a few of the items approved by Council:

- First Reading of Ordinance 2024-09 to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget. A Public Hearing regarding the budget will be held on June 13, 2024, at 5:55 p.m., at Town Hall.
- Resolution 2024-R08, which designated May 12-19, 2024, as Municipal Clerk's Week.
- Change in Use from Residential to Commercial for 132 Jungle Road, Lot 0, Block 2, located within the C-3 District.
- SCDNR Water Recreational Resources Fund Contract for the Bay Creek Park Fishing Pier repair project in the amount of \$253,799.
- ATAX Board recommendations for the Edisto Plein Air Paint Out, Summer Series 2024 Arts in the Park, 2024 Cookin' on the Creek BBQ Festival, and the July 4th Family Fun and Fireworks Show (see pg 3 for SC ATAX details).
- Special Event Applications for the Hackett Family 4th of July Parade; and the Town of Edisto Beach July 4th Family Fun and Fireworks to be held at Bay Creek Park from 6:00-9:30 p.m.

Also, Town Council presented Starfish Awards to Cameron Andrews, Rich Baretto, Thad Daise, Kate Hall, Cindy Lenz, Bess Watson, Denny Conley and Ken Sallenger for their work on the Fire Safe SC Community designation award.



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

Proclamation 2024-P10 Golf Cart Safety & Education Month

Town Council unanimously approved the following Proclamation recognizing June 2024 as Golf Cart Safety & Education Month:

WHEREAS, the Town of Edisto Beach recognizes that golf carts are woven into the landscape of the community; and

WHEREAS, approximately one-thousand golf carts are utilized continuously throughout the year by visitors and residents alike to traverse and admire the beautiful and tranquil community of Edisto Beach; and

WHEREAS, over the last several years there has been an observable increase in improper utilization of golf carts on Edisto Beach which in several cases have led to serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, proper operation of golf carts in alignment with state laws and town ordinances is imperative to ensuring all persons on Edisto Beach remain safe and free from injury; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Edisto Beach Police Department is committed to ensuring through education and enforcement activities that visitors and residents of Edisto Beach understand in order to properly comply with all laws and ordinances related to golf cart operations; and

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED on this 9th day of May 2024 that Edisto Beach Town Council designates the month of June 2024 as Golf Cart Safety & Education Month.

