

Town of Edisto Beach

Monthly Highlights

May 2026



IMPORTANT

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Town Council
Public Hearing
May 14, 2026
5:55 p.m.
at

Town Hall
for Public Comments
on Amendments to
Sign Ordinance
(See Page 2
for further
details.)

Upcoming Event:
Cookin' on the Creek
June 5-6
Bay Creek Park
(See Page 5
for additional
details.)

“LIGHTS OUT” Loggerhead Sea Turtle Nesting Season Begins May 1st

The loggerhead sea turtle nesting season begins May 1st and continues to October 31st. From May to mid-August, loggerheads come ashore to deposit their eggs in a nest cavity on the dry sand dune system. Sixty days later, hatchlings emerge from the nest at night and head back to the ocean. Nests hatch from July through the end of October.

During the nesting season, loggerheads may be disoriented by artificial lights, which leads turtles away from the ocean. Street lights, gas station canopy lights, city sky glow, exterior lights on commercial establishments, and light from beachfront homes are some sources which may disorient turtles. People on or near the beach with flashlights and lanterns can also disorient the hatchlings.

Please remember “lights out” from May 1st to October 31st. Loggerheads are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and are protected by federal and state laws. The Town’s Code of Ordinances, Sec. 10-61 to 10-67A, deals specifically with the protection of sea turtles; enforcement and penalties are noted in Sec. 10-67.

Dogs Must Be on Leash from May 1st - October 31st

As per the Town’s ordinance, dogs must be on leashes between May 1st through October 31st. This requirement is necessary in order to protect sea turtle hatchlings during the nesting season.



Hurricane Preparedness Week/May 3-9

Town Council approved Proclamation 2026-P06 at the April 9 Council Meeting, which declares May 3-9, 2026, as Hurricane Preparedness Week, as per declaration from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30.

Awareness and preparation are necessary in order to reduce devastating effects. Guidance from the South Carolina Emergency Management Office and NOAA are presented below. Review the [SC Hurricane Guide](#) website for additional information.

- Know Your Evacuation Zone. Edisto Beach is located in Zone A.
- Prepare Your Home. Check your home now to ensure it is ready for hurricane season and inspect your roof, clean your gutters, and review your insurance coverage; and make a list of your belongings for documentation if damage occurs.
- Make a Plan. Create a plan to help prepare you and your family for an emergency. Know where you will go in the event of an evacuation; make arrangements for pets; fuel up and service vehicles; turn off gas, electricity, and water; stay tuned to local television and radio stations for emergency information; charge your cell phone and mobile devices and have extra chargers.
- Know the Difference Between "Watches" and "Warnings." "Watches" are issued 48 hours in advance of possible onset of a hurricane. "Warnings" are issued 36 hours in advance of expected onset.

Be prepared and stay safe!




Amendments to Sign Ordinance

At the April 9 monthly meeting, Town Council approved the first reading of the Ordinance 2026-03 to amend Chapter 86, Article V, Section 214 of the Town's Code of Ordinances. The second reading is scheduled for the May 14 monthly meeting.

Amendments to this section include:

- Section 86-214(7) amended to replace "15 days" to "48 hours prior to the function and removed within 24 hours following the event conclusion" and
- Addition of paragraph 8 to Sec. 86-214, as follows: "No more than four (4) portable signs identifying the Bay Creek Park Market and not exceeding nine square feet in area and not erected for more than 48 hours prior to the function and removed within 24 hours following the event conclusion."

A public hearing will be held prior to the monthly meeting at 5:55 p.m. on May 14. Public comments regarding the proposed amendments will be received during the public hearing. Copies of the proposed amendments are available for public inspection at Town Hall and also electronically by request to Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk, drizer@townofedistobeach.com.



TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03 - AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 86, ARTICLE V,
SECTION 214 OF THE TOWN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES**

The Town Council of Edisto Beach will hold a Public Hearing on May 14, 2026, at 5:55 p.m. at Town Hall, 2414 Murray Street, Edisto Beach, SC, to receive public comment on proposed amendments to Chapter 86, Article V, Section 214 of the Town's Code of Ordinances, revising provisions related to the timing of sign removal for nonprofit organizations and the number and removal requirements of portable signs identifying Bay Creek Park Market. All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard.

Copies of the proposed amendments are available for public inspection at Town Hall and also electronically upon request to Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk, at drizer@townofedistobeach.com.

Beach Nourishment Project Update

The Town's beach nourishment project with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is progressing, and the appraisal documentation stage is continuing. Final approval for the appraisal process has been given by the USACE. The appraisal document will accompany the easement document which will be shared with 193 beachfront property owners.

Once the documentation is completed, the Town of Edisto Beach will hold an informational session to discuss with beachfront property owners the specifics regarding the documentation and the project.

For the time being, the Town continues its meetings and discussions with the USACE in order to prepare for an anticipated Fall 2027 construction period.

Causeway Resiliency Improvements

Town Council approved Resolution 2026-R04 on April 9, which supports the Lowcountry Council of Governments' (LCOG) efforts to include improvements to the SC-174 Causeway in regional long-range transportation plans and to advance SCDOT's efforts to implement causeway resiliency improvements.

LCOG's efforts with SCDOT will support advanced planning and funding, and will also support the raised causeway scenario identified in the vulnerability evaluation that raises the roadway to approximately +9.2 feet NAVD88 to improve reliability during tidal flooding and storm events.

The Town will keep residents updated as we hear more about these efforts.

SCIIP Grant Update/Lift Stations and Water Treatment Plant

The Town of Edisto Beach is nearing the completion of the wastewater system updates funded by the SCIIP Grant in the amount of \$10 million.

The grant included replacement of all 13 lift stations, a force main, and updates to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

All lift stations have been completed, with minor punch list items being finalized.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant updates should be completed this summer. All is functioning properly with the temporary plant. Once all treatment plant updates are finalized, the temporary plant will be dismantled.

Town Council appreciates the patience of our residents as we worked through these important updates.

EOC/Town Hall Update

The EOC/Town Hall is nearing completion. Various punch list items are currently being addressed by the contractor.

Once the building is complete and staff has moved in, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held for residents and other interested individuals. We will keep you updated on this project.



April 9, 2026 Council Meeting

At the regular monthly Town Council meeting held on April 9, 2026, the following items were approved by Council:

- Approved the First Reading of Ordinance 2026-03 to amend Chapter 86, Article V, Section 214 of the Code of Ordinances - Signs for which a permit is not required.
- Approved Resolution 2026-R04, supporting the Lowcountry Council of Governments' efforts to include improvements to the SC-174 causeway in regional long-range transportation plans and to advance SCDOT's efforts to implement causeway resiliency improvements.
- Approved Proclamation 2026-P05, which recognizes May 2026 as Building Safety Month.
- Approved Proclamation 2026-P06, which recognizes May 3-9, 2026, as Hurricane Preparedness Week. Awareness and preparation steps are necessary in order to reduce devastating effects.
- Approved Proclamation 2026-P07 recognizes Municipal Clerk Week for May 4-11; and recognizes Mrs. Donna Rizer for her significant and dedicated work as the Town's Municipal Clerk.
- Approved the third extension of the janitorial services contract with Phoenix Home Care LLC for cleaning at Bay Creek Park and the Civic Center.
- Approved an amended contract with DM's Cleaning Service for additional weekly cleaning for the new EOC/Town Hall building.
- Approved the third extension of the grounds maintenance services contract with Back Water Landscaping LLC, for mowing along Highway 174 causeway and servicing of sidewalks along Palmetto Blvd.
- Approved Planning Commission action for the proposed subdivision of 145 Jungle Road; subdivision requests require Town Council approval to be affixed to the approved plat prior to recording with the Colleton County Register of Deed.
- Postponed action on the recommended change order from Monteith Construction for the removal of the existing fence and installation of a new fence.
- Approved the proposal and scope of services from Davis & Floyd for the design of interior lagoon drainage improvements to Interior Lagoon Projects 1,3, and 4 in the amount of \$204,700.
- Approved the advertisement of vacancies for the following two Town committees:
 - Beachfront Management Committee (two vacancies)
 - Planning Commission (two vacancies)
- Approved the architectural and engineering services proposal from Caplea Coe Architects, Inc. in the amount of \$36,936 for the existing Town Hall and Fire Station. This includes the architectural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection engineering services, and AV/IT services. This will be paid from the Colleton County Penny Sales Tax fund.

Also during the Monthly Meeting, Town Administrator Mark Aakhus presented the draft 2026-2027 Town Budget. The budget ordinance will go through two readings to be held in May and June, with a public hearing on the budget for any comments, etc. in June.

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



NEW SUMMER DATE! JUNE 5 & 6, 2026



FREE ADMISSION AND LIVE MUSIC

June 5, 2026
Friday - 6 PM - 10 PM
Wing Night

June 6, 2026
Saturday - 11 AM - 3 PM
Boston Butt BBQ Day



You'll get a little of everything as the BIG RADIO hits keep you movin! Described as high energy, great harmonies, kinda funny, and always ready to bring the party!



A Bluegrass band from Western North Carolina who loves to play and have fun. The Jacktown Ramblers are always a hit here at Edisto!

COOKIN' ON THE CREEK BBQ FESTIVAL