

Town of Edisto Beach

Monthly Highlights

February 2025



IMPORTANT

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DID YOU KNOW?

The current Town Hall was built in 1985 at a time when there were approximately 300 full-time residents and 10 Town employees, which included fire and police personnel.

The Town has grown to over 1000 full-time residents and approximately 38 employees, which includes 8 fire department employees, 9 police officers, 6 Public Works/Utilities employees, and 3 Building Department staff.

Emergency Operations Center/Town Hall Project

Plans are progressing for the construction of the new Emergency Operations Center/Town Hall project. The groundbreaking for this project should occur this March. The Town Council, Town Administrator, project architect, and the project manager are finalizing details, and invitation for bids was released on January 16. The bid opening is scheduled for February 12 at 2:00 p.m. at Cumming Management Group offices at 4399 Corporate Road, North Charleston.

The new EOC/Town Hall is designed for approximately 9,800 square feet, which includes an emergency operations area, Council Chambers and expanded audience seating, conference rooms, record rooms, and staff offices. The Police Department will move into the current Town Hall, and the Fire Department will expand into the current Police Department. The new EOC/Town Hall project is being funded by the Colleton County Capital Project Sales Tax (Penny Tax), which was approved by voter referendum on November 8, 2022.

Town residents will be notified when a date for the formal groundbreaking is confirmed.



Beach Renourishment Update

The beach renourishment project with the US Army Corps of Engineers is progressing, with final real estate issues being dealt with by the Town.

Final documents and preparations are being reviewed by the Army Corps, and we should enter the easement stage of this project soon. As a reminder, the Town will require easement agreements from most of the beachfront homes within the project boundary.

On January 16th, an update on the project was mailed to those affected beachfront owners. In the coming weeks, an information session will be scheduled so that residents can receive additional information and ask questions to the Army Corps representatives and to Town Council.



Planning Commission Vacancy

At its January 9 Town Council meeting, Council approved the advertisement of a vacancy on the Planning Commission for an unexpired term to May 2026. If you are interested in applying for this vacancy, the link to the application is found [here](#).

Please forward your completed application, along with a copy of your driver's license, via email to: Municipal Clerk Donna Iskra at diskra@townofedistobeach.com or by dropping off the documents at Town Hall during normal business hours (M-F, 8:00 am-4:30 pm).

SC Beach Advocates Update

The annual meeting of the South Carolina Beach Advocates was held on the Isle of Palms on January 16-17. Mayor Crawford Moore and Councilman Jay Watts represented Edisto Beach.

At this annual meeting, Mayor Moore was elected as Vice-Chair, and Town Administrator Mark Aakhus serves as a board member.

A number of speeches, discussions, and presentations were held during the meeting, all centered on South Carolina beach preservation. The US Army Corps of Engineers, SCDES Bureau of Coastal Management, SC Sea Grant Consortium were a few of the organizations who participated and presented at this meeting. Mayor Moore was part of a panel discussion on Beach Management Approaches of SC Communities.

State legislators were also present and discussed the 2025 legislative session and outlook for SC beach funding, with Senator Campsen, who represents Edisto Beach as part of his district, offering insight.

The two-day meeting was capped off by presentations and discussion on Coastal Resilience with representatives from the SC Office of Resilience and other organizations.



2025 King Tides Schedule

The 2025 King Tides Schedule is as follows as per the NOAA Astronomical Tide Predictions:

- March 30
- April 26-29
- May 25-27
- October 7-11
- November 4-9
- December 3-6

As a reminder, “King Tide” is a non-scientific term often used to describe exceptionally high tides, which typically occur during a new or full moon and when the moon is at perigee, or during specific seasons around the country.

The effects of King Tides may result in coastal erosion, flooding, and other disruptive situations. Extreme tide events impact our beaches, coastal waterways, and private property.

Jungle Road Repaving

Town Administrator Mark Aakhus attend a pre-construction meeting with SC Department of Transportation regarding the repaving of Jungle Road, which is scheduled to take place in 2025.

The time for the repaving has not yet been finalized but SCDOT noted the project would not begin prior to spring break. Due to the tourist season, the Town would prefer for the repaving to occur after the summer months.

We will keep residents updated on DOT’s schedule for this project once confirmed.

Town Hall Closed - February 17

Town Hall will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of Presidents’ Day.



Winter Storm January 2025

During the week of January 20, 2025, the Town of Edisto Beach experienced snow, ice, and bitterly cold temperatures.

While differing amounts were recorded, Edisto Beach received some ice and then snow during the winter storm.

Some homes on Edisto Beach did experience burst pipes during the cold temperatures, but thankfully, no one was harmed during the weather, and Town properties were not affected by conditions.

Many residents enjoyed the rare snow event here on Edisto Beach! (More photos on Page 5)



January 9, 2025 Council Meeting

At the regular monthly Town Council meeting held on January 9 2025, the following are items approved by Council:

- Town Council approved unanimously Resolution #2025-R01, honoring Dr. Joe Flowers for a lifetime of service and dedication.
- Approval of Bid Award: SCIIP Grant No. A-23-C065, Wastewater Pump Stations Bid. Council approved the bid from J.S. Haren Company in the amount of \$2,910,000.
- Approval of Contract for Deer Management Services. Council approved to award a contract for deer management services to Lowcountry Wildlife Specialists, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$13,600. Town Council also agreed to the use of Town funds to pay for deer processing in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.
- Approval of Budget Calendar for 2025-2026. Council approved the Budget Calendar for 2025-2026 as presented.
- Approval of Special Event Application: Whaley's Chili Cook-off, January 18, 2025. Council approved the special event application for Whaley's annual Chili Cook-off scheduled for January 18 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Live music will be played from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Whaley's parking lot.

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

Resolution Honoring Dr. Joe Flowers

WHEREAS, Dr. Joe Flowers, having served on Colleton County Council from 1999 through 2024, continues to embody a lifetime of unwavering commitment to his community, profession, and country; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joe Flowers, having served on Colleton County Council from 1999 through 2024, continues to embody a lifetime of unwavering commitment to his community, profession, and country; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Flowers has been a devoted physician for over 60 years, providing compassionate care to the people of Colleton County as part of the Walterboro Family Practice; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Flowers is a distinguished graduate of The Citadel and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Medical School, and a proud veteran who served his country honorably during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Flowers has tirelessly served in leadership roles across numerous organizations, including the Colleton County Council, American Medical Association, S.C. Physicians Association, Colleton Medical Center Board, MUSC Alumni Association, Lowcountry Council of Governments, and the S.C. Regional Development Alliance, contributing to the betterment of his community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Colleton County Council, Dr. Flowers has played a pivotal role in advancing economic development, securing millions in grants, and fostering critical partnerships throughout the County, including strengthening its relationship with and support of the Town of Edisto Beach; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Flowers has championed projects to enhance the quality of life in Colleton County and the Town of Edisto Beach, notably by supporting funding for the Town's new Emergency Operations Center and Town Hall, beach nourishment projects, general operations, and the Town's ongoing and unmatched emergency management partnership with Colleton County; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Flowers is a respected voice and visionary leader dedicated to ensuring a prosperous and sustainable future for Colleton County and its municipalities;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Edisto Beach Town Council, on behalf of the citizens of Edisto Beach, does hereby recognize and commend Dr. Joe Flowers for his exemplary service, enduring dedication, and significant contributions to the welfare of this community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Edisto Beach extends its deepest gratitude to Dr. Joe Flowers for his invaluable efforts to improve the lives of the citizens of Colleton County and wishes him continued success in all his future endeavors, as approved by Town Council on the 9th of January, 2025.

WINTER WONDERLAND ON THE BEACH

January 22, 2025

