



# TOWN NOTES

The Newsletter of the Town of Kiawah Island

Town of Kiawah Island • 21 Beachwalker Drive Kiawah Island, SC 29455 • 843-768-9166 • [www.kiawahisland.org](http://www.kiawahisland.org)

## MUNICIPAL CENTER GROUNDBREAKING



The Town of Kiawah Island held the Municipal Center Groundbreaking Ceremony on Tuesday, May 3, 2016. It was a memorable event complete with a christening from Mother Nature. Thank you to everyone in the community that attended. The Municipal Center Construction site work has begun. Thus far, two retention ponds have been completed, earthquake drains are in place, and the water tap for potable water has been established.

The Town has completed several drone flyovers of the site that were featured in the Town's e-blast. If you missed the flyovers you may view the footage by visiting [www.kiawahisland.org](http://www.kiawahisland.org) | Popular links | Municipal Center Project.

The Town is in the process of developing a Municipal Center brochure including specifics on the project that will be published and mailed to the community in early fall.



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Photo: Sylvia W. Bacon, Kiawah Island Photography Club

## Town Office Closings

Monday, September 5th – Labor Day

## Town Notices

The Town's Permit Clerk, Sharon Johnson was re-elected as vice president for the 2016 South Carolina Permit Technician Association (SCPTA) during their annual conference in North Myrtle Beach, SC on April 30, 2016.

## Solid Waste Change Notices

### July

Yearly changes to trash service requested in May, became effective July 1st. Solid Waste Bills were mailed July 1st.

### August

No Change in Service

### September

Labor Day Service Change: Monday's trash will be collected on Tuesday, September 6th. All other collections will move forward to the next day.

### Brown Trash and Hazardous Waste:

Friday, September 2nd.

## Biweekly E-Blasts

SUBSCRIBE

Are you subscribed to the Town's e-mail notifications?  
To be added send your name and e-mail address to  
[sbraswell@kiawahisland.org](mailto:sbraswell@kiawahisland.org)



## SpotLight ON

## Sherry Fortson, Finance Clerk

In April, the Town hired Sherry Fortson as the new Finance Clerk and Clerk of Court. She graduated from Lander University in 2009 with a Bachelor's of Science in Management/Marketing. She has worked in Accounting and Finance for close to 35 years. She recently moved from Greenwood, S.C. to Edisto Island, S.C. to be closer to her two children who live in the Charleston area. She was formally an accountant for ten years at Greenwood Communities & Resorts, in Greenwood, S.C. She replaces Kathryn McLerren who retired in March.

### DO YOU HAVE A PRAISE REPORT FOR TOWN STAFF?

If so, email Town Administrator  
Stephanie Monroe Tillerson at  
[stilterson@kiawahisland.org](mailto:stilterson@kiawahisland.org)

# MAYOR'S CORNER –

Charles R. Lipuma

The Town's Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget represents a new beginning thanks to our new Administrator and Treasurer and Ways and Means Committee Chairman. This budget was crafted in a clear and concise manner providing detailed financial information on a department-cost center basis. This approach provides not only a precise delineation of expenditures, but also where it's spent.

The Town is fiscally sound. The projected ending fund balance for FY 2015-2016 closed on June 30, 2016 is \$16 million.

Overall, accounting for all expenditures, the consolidated fund balance on June 30, 2017 is projected at \$15 million. This includes \$6 million for general fund operations and \$7.4 million capital improvement project for the new Municipal Center.

More importantly, the Town remains financially strong even given the \$9.25 million Municipal Center Project. That project will be funded with \$4.6 million from current reserves, \$1.575 million from the sale of the current Municipal Center to KICA and a \$3 million low interest loan from Wells Fargo.



As we look ahead in time the Town's Fund Balance (Reserves) are forecast to grow to \$20M in 2020. Be assured, Town Council remains fiscally prudent.

Contributing to the Town's strong balance sheet is due in part to the experience and competency of both elected officials and appointed committee members. To view the budget, please visit [www.kiawahisland.org/finance](http://www.kiawahisland.org/finance)

*Charles R. Lipuma*

## ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER – Stephanie Monroe Tillerson



Summer is here! It's that wonderful time of year where the island is drawing visitors and everyone is relaxing and enjoying themselves. We all love our summer lazy days, but let us not be complacent as we are in the midst of hurricane season. With Tropical Depression Bonnie and Tropical Storm Colin behind us, they serve as a reminder the need to be prepared and have a personal family plan in place.

On June 16, the Town co-hosted with the Town of Seabrook Island the 19th Annual Disaster Awareness Day. The event was wonderful, thanks to Stephanie Braswell, Town of Kiawah Island Communication Specialist and to Randy Pierce, Town Administrator of Seabrook Island. I would like to thank the many County officials and vendors that participated in this year's Disaster Awareness Day.

If you missed Disaster Awareness Day, please stop by Town Hall for your 2016 Hurricane and Emergency Preparedness packet. The Town encourages residents and guests to sign up for CodeRED, this is yet another tool to stay up-to-date on emergency alerts that may impact the Town. CodeRED alerts those signed up of emergency situations ranging from evacuation notices to boil water advisories. Notifications are sent via voice, text and/or email. You may also sign up for the CodeRED severe weather warning system which alerts of severe weather patterns. To sign up visit [www.kiawahisland.org](http://www.kiawahisland.org) scroll down until you see Popular Links on the home page, and then look for CodeRED and click it. Once on the site, please follow the instructions to setup your account. If you need assistance, please contact Stephanie Braswell-Edgerton at [sbraswell@kiawahisland.org](mailto:sbraswell@kiawahisland.org).

*Stephanie Monroe Tillerson*



## TOWN SIGNS AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE MEDUCARE AIR MEMBERSHIP

Did you know that air medical transport rides costs the patient on average \$25,000? Even with medical insurance, an air medical transport may leave patients and their families with unexpected out-of-pocket expenses. The Town is pleased to announce they have entered into an agreement with Meducare Air, giving each Kiawah Island resident peace of mind with county-wide membership coverage. Meducare Air is a participating provider in the AirMedCare Network, the largest air ambulance membership network in the United States. AirMedCare Network participating providers have more than 245 air medical bases across 32 states, providing air

ambulance services for residents who suffer a life-threatening illness or injury.

"The Town has been working closely with our emergency medical providers over the past year, with good success, to improve their response capabilities to the island. Because of our distance from area hospitals, helicopter transit is sometimes the most appropriate means, but the cost can be substantial. This agreement with AirMedCare, one of the two providers to Kiawah, will in many instances substantially reduce the potential financial burden on any of our residents that they might transport" stated Public Safety Committee Chairman/Council Member Craig Weaver.

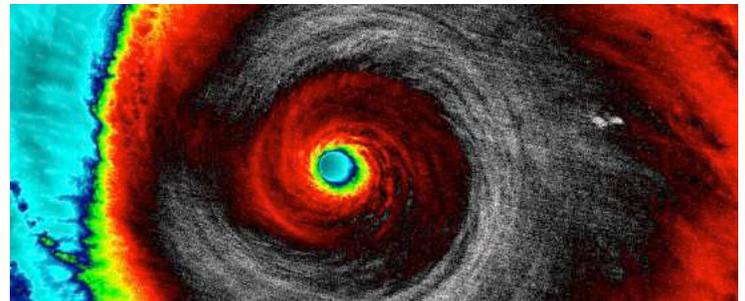
**So what does this mean for residents?** If an insured Kiawah Island resident is flown by Meducare Air, or any AirMedCare Network participating provider, for a life-threatening emergency from within Charleston County the cost of the transport not covered by their insurance provider will be covered under the Town Agreement. If the resident transported is uninsured at the time of transport, Med-Trans Corporation will bill the uninsured person at the "Medicare Allowable Rate" for the transport. As an optional benefit of the Town's agreement, Kiawah Island residents may take advantage of upgrading to a full AirMedCare Network Membership to gain full coverage with no pickup location or insurance coverage restrictions at a discounted rate of \$35 annually. Residents should have received literature regarding the services and an application for upgrade. For questions about membership in the AirMedCare Network program, please call 800-793-0010 or visit [www.airmedcarenetwork.com](http://www.airmedcarenetwork.com). Locally, AirMedCare Network Membership Manager Wes McAden can be reached at 843-708-6192 or [Wes.McAden@amgh.us](mailto:Wes.McAden@amgh.us).



## KIAWAH'S DISASTER PLAN

In 2013 the Town of Kiawah Island developed a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to enable the Town to respond effectively to any future disaster. Through discussions with fourteen agencies, contractors, and organizations within the Town, the planning process was comprehensive in soliciting input and participation from all entities that have a stake in the Town's plan. The plan guides the Town in coordinating response and recovery efforts with these various entities. This plan addresses all threats that could impact our community.

One of the main focuses of the plan is the coordination of emergency response and recovery activities between the Town, KICA, Kiawah Island Golf Resort, Kiawah Partners, Freshfields, St. John's Fire Department, and other entities. The Town has executed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with many of the private entities operating on Kiawah to further delineate roles and responsibilities during emergency or disaster events. The Town has conducted training and exercise activities to practice implementing the plan so that the Town's staff, officials, and other Kiawah entities are ready to implement the plan when needed. Last year the Town conducted three training sessions on the Town's plan. This year the Town has completed two training sessions. As the Town plans and prepares for emergencies and disasters, all residents are encouraged to make their personal preparations as well.



## 2016 HURRICANE SEASON

The Town of Kiawah Island would like to remind residents that the hurricane season began June 1 and continues through Nov. 30. The Town has prepared updated 2016 Disaster Preparedness Packets that are available at Town Hall. They contain Hurricane and Earthquake guides, Flooding information, Animal Friendly Hotel Lists, Emergency Numbers magnet and more. Stop by and get yours today!

## CODERED

CodeRED is a high-speed emergency and mass notification system used by the Town in emergency and evacuation situations. If you are not signed up for CodeRED please visit

[www.kiawahisland.org](http://www.kiawahisland.org) | Disaster Awareness | CodeRED

## EVACUATION ROUTE

Evacuees from Kiawah/Seabrook Islands will take Road S-20 (Bohicket/Main Rd.) to US 17. Then take US 17 south to SC 64 to Walterboro, then to North Augusta.



Kiawah Island Beach Patrol (KIBP) is gearing up for another busy season for the summer of 2016. As the Town has expanded to accommodate the island's ever increasing popularity, KIBP has also made strides to insure that both residents and visitors continue to have safe and enjoyable beach experiences. Over the past two years, KIBP has transformed into a nationally accredited agency of expertly trained personnel whose skill and talent rival that of any agency in the country.

KIBP is the Town's extension of code enforcement for all ordinances related to the beach. Some of the most common ordinance violations include the overnight storage of items on the beach, glass restriction, and the restraint of pets on the beach. All leash law violations are now resulting in written warnings, and repeat offenders are being issued tickets at the Town's request. KIBP also assists Town Biologists with any wildlife events on the beach, including live and dead standings of reptiles, fish, birds, and marine mammals.

In addition to their traditional responsibilities, KIBP has, with the Town's support, pursued certification through the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) agency which is the authority on open water lifeguarding. USLA sets national standards for open water rescuers that promote safe beach habits and reduce the risk of death and drowning in open water environments. In November 2015, KIBP completed a yearlong evaluation process and was officially recognized as a USLA certified agency.

Last summer, KIBP began incorporating the use of Rescue Watercraft (RWC's) in response to an increase in local water incidents. Specially equipped for ocean rescue, each RWC is staffed with an operator and rescue swimmer who rides on a rescue sled attached to the stern. This year, KIBP has used the RWC's nearly twenty times for rescues, disabled vessel assists, missing person searches and other distress calls. KIBP played a crucial role in searching for two missing kayakers this past April as part of a large scale effort incorporating assets from more than a dozen different agencies. While jet skis are traditionally synonymous with recreation, they have asserted their prominence as a crucial rescue tool in the lifeguarding world, as well as here on Kiawah Island.

Along with the RWC's, KIBP added two additional patrol shifts, increasing from three officers each day to five. The additional staffing provides more uniform coverage on the beach and ensures adequate manpower to launch the RWC's at a moment's notice. In years past, due to the size of the patrol area, daily trainings were nearly impossible, but the additional staffing has afforded KIBP the ability to practice skills without compromising its service to the Town.



**Every Kiawah Island Beach Patrol employee receives:**

- **40 hours of USLA preseason lifeguard training**
- **16 hours of annual training**
- **44 hours of Emergency Medical Responder and CPR training** (Several employees have advanced certifications as EMT's and Paramedics)
- **4 hours of Beach Vehicle Operations class**
- **8 hours of RWC class focusing on victim rescues and vessel maneuvers**

In order to preserve their training and maintain USLA certification, each employee is given daily physical, medical, and skills training exercises that encompass all aspects of the job. Currently, the Beach Patrol model that is employed on Kiawah Island is designed to promote safety, enhance the quality of medical care available, skilled rescues without interrupting routine patrols, wildlife responses, and ordinance enforcement. Kiawah Island Beach Patrol is proud to be recognized as a USLA agency and is privileged to serve the residents and visitors of the Town of Kiawah Island.



**Summer Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Phone: 843-518-2880**  
**Website: [www.BeachPatrolSC.org](http://www.BeachPatrolSC.org)**  
**Email: [info@BeachPatrolSC.org](mailto:info@BeachPatrolSC.org)**

# BEACH PATROL



## BOBCAT DEN REPORT

2016 has been a great year for bobcats on Kiawah Island. Town Biologists collared 3 adult female bobcats this winter as part of the Bobcat GPS Project and all 3 have produced kittens this spring. The first den was found on March 30th in the woods east of Beachwalker County Park. This den contained two 10-day old female kittens. The second den was located on April 12th in a small, wooded lot on Ruddy Duck Court. There were two 10-day old male kittens in the den. The third and final



den was discovered on May 12th in the dunes along Flyway Drive. This den contained three 3-week old female kittens. Social media posts sharing all of this denning activity have been extremely popular. In fact, more than 138,000 people were reached with the announcement of the 3rd bobcat den on May 12th.

## TURTLE PATROL

The 2016 Loggerhead sea turtle nesting season is in full swing on the Kiawah beachfront and 183 nests have been laid as of June 29th this year. The current nest count is 14 higher than last year at this same time. Last year's final nest count was 321, the second highest total on

record, so this year's season is off to a great start. Female turtles will continue coming ashore to nest until August and the first nests will begin hatching in July and finish by October.



## ALLIGATOR PROJECTS

The Town of Kiawah Island has been a strong supporter of wildlife research, conservation and education

programs on the island for many years. Many of these efforts have been conducted in partnership with the Kiawah Conservancy. At the June Town Council meeting, the Town approved a contribution of \$20,000 to the Conservancy to support the two important projects detailed below:

**Alligator Documentary (\$10,000)** – a documentary film on alligators that will educate visitors and property owners about alligators on Kiawah Island and their importance to the island's ecosystem. The film will be completed and released at the Conservancy's Alligator Symposium on October 27, 2016.

**Alligator Research Project (\$10,000)** – The Kiawah Conservancy, in partnership with TOKI, KICA, MUSC, and Clemson University began an alligator study in 2015, focusing primarily on alligator health and physiology. This study will continue during 2016 and approximately 40 alligators will be captured, sampled, and released.



## PAINTED BUNTING BANDING PROJECT



The Painted Bunting is undoubtedly one of Kiawah Island's most beautiful birds. The male's plumage consists of a gaudy palette of blue, red, lime green, pink, and purple; a memorable sight and one that is not easily forgotten. The female is more moderately dressed in hues of green and yellow. Young males in the first year of life look very similar to females and don't get their brilliantly colored plumage until after their second summer.

For the past 7 years, biologists from the Town of Kiawah Island have been studying Painted Buntings on the Island. Buntings are easily captured because of their affinity to bird feeders. A bird feeder filled with millet is placed inside a wire cage with a small opening on each side. Once the birds enter the cage, they are unable to get out and are easily captured. Once they are removed from the cage, a small, lightweight aluminum band is placed on their leg. The band has a unique number that will identify each individual bird for the rest of its life. Measurements (wing length and weight) are taken, and an assessment of the health and breeding condition of each bird is noted. The bird is then released after only a minute or two of handling. Since 2009, 404 Painted Buntings have been captured in the backyards of Kiawah Island residents. Of those, 171 had been previously banded. The adults have remarkable site fidelity and in subsequent years are usually recaptured in the very same yard in which they were banded. Juveniles are recaptured less often, but if they are, it is usually in a different yard than in the previous year. There are two main reasons for this: (1) juvenile birds experience high mortality; and (2) juveniles that return are looking for their own territory and don't usually come back to their natal territory (and if they do they are run off by the dominant adults).

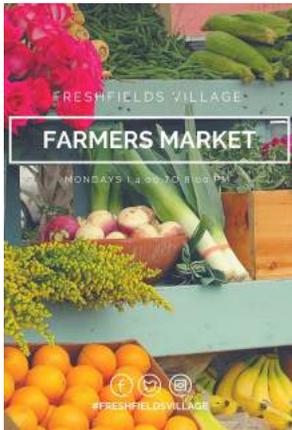
### Interested in attracting Painted Buntings?

Simply place a tube feeder filled with white millet in your yard. To keep the squirrels and other larger birds from raiding your seed, make sure the feeder has a cage around it that allows the smaller birds to come and go as they please. It may take a little while for the Painted Buntings to find it, but once they do, they will be with you all summer long. Some Painted Buntings are now spending the winter in our area and if you leave your feeder up after October, you may be lucky enough to host Painted Buntings all year long.

The Painted Bunting banding project started up in June and will continue through mid-August. Currently, 12-15 home sites are visited twice a season. We are looking to add a few more sites this year, especially along the beach where we do not have any banding sites. If you are currently feeding Painted Buntings in your yard and would allow us to capture and band the birds coming to your bird feeder, please contact Aaron Given at [agiven@kiawahisland.org](mailto:agiven@kiawahisland.org) or (843) 768-9166.



For more information call 843-768-6491 or visit [www.freshfieldsvillage.com/events](http://www.freshfieldsvillage.com/events)



## Farmer's Market

Mondays (4-8pm)

Our summer Farmers Market features fresh and certified organic produce, local seafood, Lowcountry crafts, and prepared foods like pickles, jams, and homemade breads. Come hungry and snack on treats like Italian Ice, Kettle Korn, and handmade popsicles. Vendors will sell take-away dinners including ribs, BBQ, tomato pies, lobster rolls, and more.



## Starlight Cinema Movie Series

Wednesdays (8:30 pm)

Join us each Wednesday night at 8:30 pm for a free movie under the stars. Guests are encouraged to bring a beach chair or blanket.

- July 6: Minions (PG)
- July 13: Goosebumps (PG)
- July 20: Inside Out (PG)
- July 27: Star Wars Awakens (PG-13)
- August 3: Cool Runnings (PG)
- August 10: Pan (PG)
- August 17: The Good Dinosaur (PG)
- August 24: Shaun the Sheep (PG)
- August 31: Zootopia (PG)

## Sea Islands Cars & Coffee

July 16; August 20; & September 17 (9-11 am)

Sea Islands Cars & Coffee features antiques, classics, exotics, concepts and other cool cars. This is a free event with coffee and other refreshments available for purchase at Java Java. This monthly event is held the 3rd Saturday of each month.



## Music on the Green Concert Series

Fridays (6-9 pm)

Join us for our free summer concert series featuring a variety of bands from around the region. Guests are encouraged to bring beach chairs and blankets. Food and beverage will be available for purchase by FortyEight - A Wine Bar and Vincent's Soda Fountain.

- July 8: Hot Sauce
- July 15: Three Sheets Island Band
- July 22: Palmetto Soul
- July 29: Innocent Bystanders
- August 5: Hot Pepper
- August 12: Gracious Day
- August 19: Travis Allison Band
- August 26: Shrimp City Slim
- September 2: The Counts

## Business Spotlight

### New Store Openings

SCOUT & MOLLY'S  
BOUTIQUE

**Scout & Molly's** is a destination for today's transcending woman to find that special little something that'll fit just right. Located at 458 Freshfields Drive. Now Open!

Dolittle's  
a new breed of pet store

**Dolittle's** – Offering high quality pet foods, toys, treats, collars, beds, and so much more. The shop will also offer a self-service bathing room to help keep your dog clean! Located at 352 Freshfields Drive. Opening Soon!



**Kiawah Nail Studio** will provide a full service nail salon with manicures and pedicures. The relaxing and refreshing environment will offer an elegant and professional treatment tailored to meet the customer's needs. Located at 205 Gardeners Circle. Opening Soon!

# Enjoy the *King Tides*

## 2016 Predicted King Tides

July 2-4 • September 15-21 • October 15-20  
November 13-18 • December 12-16

DHEC is leading the South Carolina King Tides initiative to document the effect that extreme tide events have on our state's beaches, coastal waterways, private property and public infrastructure. The term "King Tide" is a non-scientific term used to describe the highest seasonal tides that occur each year. For example, in Charleston, the average high tide range is about 5.5 ft., whereas during a King Tide event the high tide range may reach 7 ft. or higher. These tides occur naturally and are typically caused when a spring tide (when the sun, moon, and earth align during a new and full moon, increasing tide ranges) takes place when the moon is closest to Earth during the 28-day elliptical orbit (known as perigee). The effect of individual King Tides may vary considerably. In some cases, they may barely even be noticed. In other cases, a King Tide may cause coastal erosion, flooding of low-lying areas and disruption to normal daily routines. This is particularly true when a King Tide event coincides with significant precipitation because water drainage and runoff is impeded. Over time, the frequency and effect of King Tide events may increase due to gradual mean sea level rise. For more information visit [www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Water/CoastalManagement/KingTidesHelp](http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Water/CoastalManagement/KingTidesHelp)



## 2016/2017 ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS SEASON

The 2016/2017 Arts and Cultural Events Season has been finalized. Please look for the season planner coming in August and in the next edition of Town Notes. The season kickoff event will be

***Charleston Jazz Orchestra's Latin Jazz Celebration***  
***Sunday, August 7, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.***  
***East Beach Conference Center***  
***Ticket Cost: \$15.00***

Tickets available now by calling (843) 641-0011 and on Jazz Artists of Charleston website <http://jazzartistsofcharleston.org/boxoffice>

Maestro Charlton Singleton and the Charleston Jazz Orchestra present ***Celebrating Latin Jazz***, a program that will set the stage on fire! Featuring special guest artists, Quiana Parler and Gino Castillo, your CJO will transform the Kiawah stage with the fiery rhythms of your favorite salsa, cha-cha, samba, and bossa nova tunes. So...Tap your toes, wiggle in your seat and snap your fingers to an exciting Latin beat with the Charleston Jazz Orchestra's Latin Jazz Celebration.

