The base flood elevation, what is it? The base flood elevation refers to the elevation associated with the “100-year flood”, or a flood with a 1% chance of occurrence in any given year. All of Kiawah Island is in what FEMA terms as a special flood hazard area. The Town of Kiawah Island is a participating member of National Flood Insurance Program and the Community Rating System. Participation in this program ensures that residents receive the most affordable flood insurance rates possible. Flood Insurance Rate Maps produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency depict the base flood elevations for all properties on Kiawah Island. The Town will be issued new flood maps in the fall of 2015.

How can I find out what my current base flood elevation is? Floodplain managers, insurance professionals, contractors, inspectors, and land surveyors all use base flood elevations as the basis for determining your home’s elevation. Insurance agents use your the base flood elevation and the elevation of your home to determine your risk factor as it applies to your flood insurance rates. Those of you with secondary homes may have already seen a rate increase on your flood insurance policy. If your home is determined by your insurance provider to be below base flood elevation you could see significant increases in your flood insurance rates. The Biggert and Waters Reform Act requires changes to all major components of the program, including flood insurance, flood hazard mapping, grants, and the management of floodplains. For more information visit the FEMA website at www.fema.gov. If you are considering remodeling your home, then your floodplain manager will perform a substantial improvement determination and review base flood elevations.

How can I find out what my current base flood elevation is? Flood Insurance Rate Maps are accessible on the Town’s website at www.kiawahisland.org. These maps can be slightly confusing so, if you have questions about your base flood elevation for your property, please contact the Town’s floodplain manager at 843-768-9166.

## 2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Town of Kiawah Island operates under a Mayor-Council form of government as allowed in the South Carolina Code of Laws; Section 5-9-20. The Board of Elections and Voter Registration of Charleston County will conduct a General Election for the Town of Kiawah Island on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 to fill (1) one seat for the Office of Mayor, (4) four seats for the Office of Town Council. This is a nonpartisan, at large municipal election. Election results will be determined by the plurality method. Term of office will expire December 2016.

A detailed description of the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and Town Council are outlined below:

- The Mayor shall be the chief administrative officer of the municipality. He shall be responsible to the council for the administration of all city affairs placed in his charge.
- The Mayor shall have the following powers and duties:
  1. to appoint and, when he deems it necessary for the good of the municipality, suspend or remove all municipal employees and appointive administrative officers provided for by or under. He may authorize any administrative officer who is subject to his direction and supervision to exercise these powers with respect to subordinates in that officer’s department, office or agency;
  2. to direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices and agencies of the municipality except as otherwise provided;
  3. to preside at meetings of the council and vote as other councilmen;
  4. to act to insure that all laws, and ordinances of the council, subject to enforcement by him or by officers subject to his direction and supervision, are faithfully executed;
  5. to prepare and submit the annual budget and capital program to the council;
  6. to submit to the council and make available to the public a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the municipality as of the end of each fiscal year; and
  7. to make such other reports as the council may require concerning the operations of municipal departments, offices and agencies subject to his direction and supervision.

The Town Council may establish municipal departments, offices and agencies. Further, the Mayor and Council may employ an administrator to assist the mayor in his office; all departments, offices and agencies under the direction and supervision of the mayor shall be administered by an officer appointed by and subject to the direction and supervision of the mayor; the council shall adopt an annual budget for the operation of the municipality and capital improvements.

Those seeking to fill these seats and perform the duties outlined above have until October 2nd at noon to file for candidacy. Please look for a special Election Edition of the Town Notes which will feature the name and bio of each candidate that will be on the December 2nd ballot.

The last day that persons may register to be eligible to vote in this election is November 1, 2014. If submitting a registration by fax or mail application, it must be post marked no later than November 1, 2014. Applications may be obtained at www.scvotes.org.

Registered voters who cannot vote in person may be eligible to vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots may be obtained from the Board of Elections and Voter Registration of Charleston County. You may call 744-8683 or send an email to absentee@charlestoncounty.org to inquire about the availability of absentee ballots.
Covers events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, and acts of violence.

1st Reading of Ordinance 2014-08 – An Amendment to Article 16, Dog Restraint – Adopted
Amended the dog restraint ordinance (see page 3 for details).

Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2013/2014 Status Report - Approved
Published annually and shows completed activity through the current year. The report was forwarded to the County for inclusion in the overall County plan.

Resolution 2014-02 - Project Impact Action Plan – Adopted
Outlines the Town’s ongoing participation in the Project Impact Outreach Program.

Emergency Services Study Update
PSSi emergency consultants provided a presentation detailing the process and schedule to complete the evaluation of emergency services provided to Kiawah including fire, emergency medical services and police protection.

Fiscal Year 2015 Police Coverage Contract
Approved the contract with Charleston County Sheriff's Department (CCSD) for police protection for the Town and Freshfields.

2nd Reading of Ordinance 2014-08 – An Amendment to Article 16, Dog Restraint – Adopted
CARTA Fiscal Year 2015 Budget
Approved the FY2015 Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) budget as presented by CARTA’s Executive Director Mr. Jeffrey Burns.

1st Reading of Ordinance 2014-09 - Amend Building Codes-Board Construction – Adopted
Increased the membership of the Construction Board of Appeals from 6 to 7 members representing the various construction trades.

Mayor’s Corner – Charles R. Lipuma
The Town of Kiawah Island continues to be on a solid financial footing. For the current fiscal year (2014-2015) our projected expenses of $94.6 million and revenues of $87.5 million, adding about $11.1 million to our cash reserves. Presently, our reserves total over $17 million, which is unprecedented for a municipality our size. Unlike most South Carolina municipalities and counties, Kiawah does not impose a property tax. The majority of the Town’s revenues are from business licenses, building permits, local option sales tax, franchise fees and accommodations taxes. Recent Council initiatives have served to improve the Town’s financial health. These include the annexation of Freshfields Village and taking over building permitting from Charleston County. Combined these initiatives total about $3 million in additional revenue. Town Council will continue to manage expenditures, build reserves and maintain the outstanding quality of the Kiawah community.

Town Council and the Town’s Emergency Committee, comprised of key personnel from the Kiawah Island Community Association, Kiawah Island Gold Resort, Kiawah Partners, Kiawah Island Utility, CERT, Berkeley Electric Cooperative, and Charleston County Sheriff’s Department all participated in a full day training and exercise in late July. The exercise was facilitated by Scott Cave of Atlantic Business Continuity, and focused on the major components of the plan. The first component was clarification that the Town would serve in the lead agency as the local government; second was explaining the roles that each entity would play in an emergency situation; and third, practicing the applications of the plan during a mock scenario. The group was presented with a scenario 3 Hurricane with a severe hit to Kiawah. Officials utilized the Incident Command structure to manage the scenario.

In September, the Town staff participated in a hands-on training exercise that focused on notifying the community, managing the Emergency Operations Center and working through the three phases of emergency management; prepare, respond and recover. The Town officials and staff will undergo quarterly and annual training and testing of the plan to ensure compliance and readiness for any emergency that may threaten the Kiawah community.

AMENDED PET RESTRAINT ORDINANCE - EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER
The Town of Kiawah Island, on August 5th amended the pet restraint ordinance. Please familiarize yourself with the ordinance and pay special attention to the beaches which reflect the changes. To view the Pet Restraint map visit www.kiawahisland.org/municipal-library. Contact the Code Enforcement Office at 843-768-9166 with any questions. This ordinance goes into effect on November 1, 2014 and is listed below.

Owners may unleash their pets yard round (in those areas of the beach designated as “Dog Use Areas” on the map of Kiawah Island showing proposed locations of critical habitat areas and pet restraint requirements which is a map made thereto). This provision applies only during daylight hours, i.e. from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Dogs are prohibited in the areas designated “Critical Habitat Areas” and those areas posted as critical habitat areas located on the eastern and western ends of Kiawah Island. The Dog Use Area on the map is amended to reflect that the western end of the beach “known as Beachwalker County Park” to a Dog Leash Area Effective November 1, 2014.

Owners may unleash their pets from November 1st through March 15th in all areas of the beach except those areas designated as “Critical Habitat Areas” and those areas posted as critical habitat areas located on the eastern and western ends of Kiawah Island. The owner must remain with their pet, have their pet under control and have in their possession a leash in the event that there is a need to leash their pet, or if requested by other beachgoers.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

TALLOW TREE CONTROL PROGRAM
The Town of Kiawah Island, working in cooperation with other island entities, initiated a program to treat and control infestations of the invasive Chinese Tallow Tree on the island in 2013. The Chinese Tallow Tree is a severe threat to freshwater wetland areas on Kiawah Island. It quickly colonizes these areas, virtually eliminating the existing native vegetation. The Chinese Tallow Tree (Trichilia sebifera) is a deciduous tree that is native to China. It was introduced to the southeast in the 1700's. It has a very rapid growth rate and quickly colonizes shallow, freshwater wetlands, moist soil areas, ditches, and even upland areas. Infestations can spread rapidly via root sprouts and seeds. Seeds can be dispersed long distances by water and birds. Mature Tallow Trees can produce as many as 100,000 seeds each year. The Tallow Tree can grow up to 60 feet high and reach a diameter of 3 feet or more. It has heart-shaped leaves that turn yellow to red in the fall before dropping off in winter. The fruits are produced in groups of 3 and resemble popcorns.

TREATMENT PLAN
- 2013 - Tallow Trees were treated with a selective herbicide on 130 acres of common property located throughout the island. In addition, tallow trees were treated along all KICA roads and leisure trails. Treatments were very effective and more than 95% of the trees in these areas were killed.
- 2014 – Treatments are scheduled for October and will target Tallow Trees on all 4 resort golf courses, Little Bear Island, and a few additional areas.

FUTURE TREATMENT AREAS
Town Staff are working on a plan to control and treat Tallow Trees on undeveloped and developed lots. The protocol and time frame for these treatments has not been determined at this time. In addition, an education program will be necessary in the Year 1 treatment areas, likely beginning in 2015. For questions on this program and to find out how you can help control Tallow Trees in your own yard, please contact Town Hall.

TURTLE SEASON REPORT
Kiawah Island, blessed with a beach that is long and wide and relatively level, is an important nesting beach for the turtles of the north subpopulation Loggerheads, who make their nests from North Carolina to the Florida border. The Kiawah Island Turtle Patrol, numbering approximately 200 volunteers, is the largest volunteer group in the state involved in this conservation effort. The Town of Kiawah Island also has supported this effort since its inception. Turtle Patrol has reported that they have uncovered 142 nests and 95 false crawls (track, but no nests) this season. Thank you to all the volunteers!