

# **Beach Monitoring and Hotspots**

At a February special meeting, Coastal Science and Engineering (CSE) summarized the post-project beach monitoring results to date. The 2008 project was deemed successful, with a few "hot spot" areas of concern due to an attaching shoal. Contingent upon concurrence by all parties, in April, City Council approved a contract amendment with CSE to engineer and obtain permits for a project to address erosion hot spots. In June, the City received signed amendments to the agreement from all parties. Work on another post-project monitoring was completed in July. After attending a feedback meeting with local, state and federal agencies, the City submitted the permit application in October, and public notice for the permit was issued in December.

Sandfencing installed by volunteers on the beach in 2010



#### CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS



# **Hurricane Drill in Public Safety Building**

On Tuesday, March 2, the City staged a hurricane drill to ensure operational efficiency in the new Public Safety Building during a disaster event. All departments moved essential operations to the training room for "Hurricane Linda" and spent a day functioning under mockemergency conditions, including working with the Charleston County Web-EOC, providing information to the public, assessing and addressing mock safety hazards on the island and functioning under the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Charleston County emergency personnel observed the exercise and participated in a debriefing of strengths and lessons learned.

Incident Commander Tucker and Department Heads in the Municipal Emergency Operations Center (MEOC)

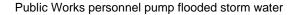


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# **52nd to 57th Avenue Drainage**

This drainage infrastructure improvement project, which has been in the planning and construction phases for multiple years, took a major step toward execution in 2010. After fully accumulating the funding contemplated in the project budget via County transportation funds and City set-asides, the City initiated the design, engineering and permitting by soliciting proposals for this work and awarding a contract to Civil Site Environmental. Simultaneously, easements were reviewed and negotiated with appropriate property owners. Construction is expected on this project in 2011.





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## **Radio Communications**

All City departments use two-way radios to communicate, which is particularly crucial in incidents regarding public safety, such as fire scenes, crimes-in-progress and special events. City elected officials and staff spent significant time in 2010 documenting and addressing concerns related to the Charleston County digital radio communications system that the City uses. Fire Chief Graham served as a member of the "user's group," which was established to document concerns and develop criteria for an acceptable level of functionality. Extensive conversations regarding a possible radio tower on the Isle of Palms occurred at the staff, committee and Council levels. Discussion of this as-yet unresolved issued will continue.

The Public Safety Building houses the Police and Fire departments



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# **City Hall Renovation**

Staff served as construction administration for this project, which began with an assessment of existing conditions in the building. Issues such as the presence of mold and the structural integrity of the ceiling of Council Chambers were determined to be worthy of continued attention, but not imminent safety concerns. After soliciting input from those who will use the building, staff developed a Request for Proposals for engineering and architectural services. City Council awarded the contract to Liollio in September. Staff then worked with Liollio to prepare the construction bid package, and City Council awarded the construction contract to Wilson and Associates. At yearend, construction is well in progress.

City Hall was originally constructed in 1991 after Hurricane Hugo



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### **41st Avenue Intersection**

The City worked with contractors to develop engineering design, to obtain South Carolina Department of Transportation permitting and to execute construction making the demonstration project, creating an all-way stop at the intersection at 41st Avenue and Palm Boulevard, into a permanent change. The demonstration project was initiated because of concerns of traffic congestion and was evaluated for a complete visitor season. Communications ensured that residents were updated with the progress steps of the project, which was completed with a final walk-through and acceptance in the spring.

Completed intersection at 41st Avenue and Palm Boulevard



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# Ben Sawyer Bridge Closure

The Ben Sawyer Bridge was closed on February 7, 2010 to be replaced with a new bridge that was floated on a barge down the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The ten-day closure significantly impacted the Isle of Palms because the only means of vehicular access to and from Sullivan's Island was the Connector. Yet, through extensive planning, coordination and communication with the construction contractor, Sullivan's Island, the South Carolina Department of Transportation and the Mount Pleasant Police Department, the effect on Isle of Palms citizens was minimal.

Police personnel directed traffic during the closure



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## **Marina Dredging**

The Isle of Palms Marina, a five-acre site at the terminus of 41st Avenue, is one of the City's crown jewels. In 2010, the City put significant effort towards the project of marina dredging, which must be done periodically to maintain safe boating at the site. City staff and Real Property Committee members engaged in dialogue with island parties who may participate in the project. By December, a Request for Proposals for engineering and permitting the marina dredging had been developed and issued. A contract award for this first-stage work is anticipated early in 2011.





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## **Parking**

Traffic counts indicate that over one million vehicles traveled on and off the island in July 2010 alone. The sheer volume of vehicles in the peak tourist season led to discussions among the Planning Commission of management of on-street beach access parking. After numerous meetings among the Commission, City Council held two joint special meetings in 2010 to discuss possible alternatives for consideration. The next steps, expected to be taken in 2011, are public hearings on the issue for citizen input.

Palm Boulevard serves as prime beach-access in peak season



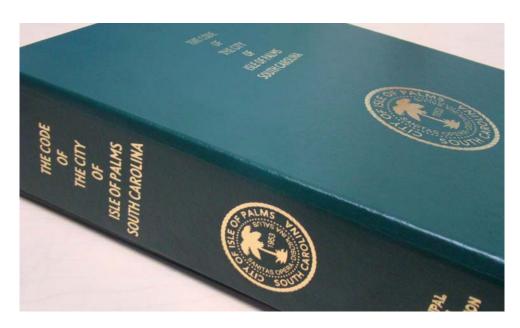
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# Legislation

City Council analyzed, debated and ratified several important pieces of legislation in 2010, including: allowing more than one home business occupation, establishing a cumulative penalty for late payment of Hospitality Tax, consenting to the franchise agreement with Comcast Cable, revising maximum occupancies for short-term rentals, adopting a budget, establishing smoking fines consistent with state law, leasing a garbage truck, preventing abandoned vessels on the right-of-way, and allowing commercial photographers to take photographs on the beach under certain conditions.

Citizens can access the City code in print or online



#### **CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS**

**City Council** 

General Government Building, Planning and Zoning Fire Police Public Works Recreation

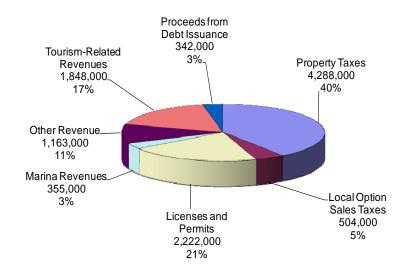
IOP Marina



### **Finance and Revenues**

The City maintained its history of sound financial planning and management in 2010 as evidenced by: the millage rate remaining the same as the prior year, 22.2 mills, in a recession economy; an increase over 2009 in tourism-related revenues; maintenance of a favorable bond rating; an audit review that concluded with an "unqualified" opinion; and a favorable fiscal year-end position with an improved general fund balance.

#### Graph of Revenue Sources



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## **Communications**

Increased communications efforts in 2010 kept citizens and visitors aware of City initiatives and exciting events. For the first time, videos of City Council meetings were posted on the City's website to allow immediate review. Monthly departmental reports, minutes archives and weekly crime statistic reports were all added. The award-winning e-newsletter, including the Recreation edition, was published regularly with subscribership up to 3,700. And the City received positive press in national magazines including *Southern Living*, *Maxim* and *Parenting*.

The Isle of Palms Beach speaks for itself



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# **Department Highlights**

The Building Department issued approximately 500 building permits.

City Hall processed 2,675 checks and 2,253 court cases.

The Fire Department responded to over 900 alarms and over 490 emergency medical calls.

The Police Department received over 30,000 calls for service.

The Public Works Department collected over 7,100 tons of debris.

The Recreation Department welcomed over 10,000 visitors.

Full departmental reports available at: www.iop.net/Government/AgendasMinutes.aspx.



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## **Theater and Rec Programs**

The sold-out theater performances of *Charlotte's Web* and *Miracle on 34th Street*, in addition to the well-attended summer theater camp, were highlights of the Recreation Department's continual innovations. In 2010, the "school's out" programs were expanded, giving island children and their parents, fun and educational options for non-school days. And, new classes are frequently offered to stimulate the community, such as Kensington Etiquette, Tap Dance, Inch Loss Class, Fit Smarts Brain Games and Writing Your Memoirs.





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### **Grants and Awards**

The City's 2010 Grants and Awards include: \$100,000 in County Transportation funds; \$50,000 in Transportation Sales Tax funds; \$27,998 in federal funding for energy efficient lighting on Front Beach; 156 smoke detectors from Lowe's; \$2,000 in fire equipment from the Municipal Association of South Carolina; a 10th consecutive Blue Wave Beach designation; the Proudly We Hail Award from the IOP Exchange Club for flying the American Flag and plaques of appreciation from the Army's 360th Civil Affairs Brigade for training assistance.

Mayor Dick Cronin accepts an Appreciation Award for the City from Lieutenant Colonel David Schimsa



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## **City Council Committees**

Dick Cronin, Mayor

Marty Bettelli, Mayor Pro-Tem
Barbara Bergwerf
Ryan Buckhannon

Brian Duffy

Cha

Mike Loftus Ralph Piening Doug Thomas Sandy Stone

All Members

Chair of Ways and Means and Real Property Chair of Public Safety and Personnel

Public Safety and Recreation

Chair of Recreation

Chair of Public Works and Recreation Chair of Real Property and Public Safety

Chair of Personnel

Personnel and Public Works Public Works and Real Property

Ways and Means and City Council













Fire







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City Council
General Government
Building, Planning and Zoning

Police Public Works Recreation

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