

March, 2008  
Submitted to the Island Review

The face of Indian Beach changes almost on a daily basis these days. Just across the street from Town Hall, an eight story condominium project is about three quarters finished. Named, "The Grand Villas at the Reserve", the project workers have become like family members to the town and have made every effort to preserve the integrity of the adjoining areas to the construction site.

Just down the road at the old "Arrowhead Campsite" another high rise condo project, "The Nautical Club", is also about three quarters complete and sits directly on the sound. Upon completion, this project will also have units on the oceanfront.

Indian Beach is very excited to have both these very prestigious projects within its city limits and looks forward to welcoming new homeowners and their guests.

Beginning yesterday, I can look from my office window and see a sidewalk being constructed on the north side of Salter Path Road. The Town received a grant from the state for construction of the sidewalk and is very pleased to see the project come to fruition. The first phase begins at Town Hall and goes to the entrance to Trade Winds Marina. The second phase will continue up to the Ocean Club property. The Town feels this is a huge asset to pedestrian traffic.

As of July 01, 2008, Indian Beach will welcome another new addition. Indian Beach-Salter Path Fire and EMS will be added under management and ownership of the town. A short time ago, Salter Path Fire and Rescue found it necessary to become a mostly paid staff with continuing support of volunteers. Under town management, the paid staff will remain the same and so will the volunteers. Fire insurance ratings will remain the same. Indian Beach promises to maintain or make better the level of service of which the citizens of Indian Beach and the surrounding area have become accustomed.

Saving the "best for last", I am pleased to report the beach nourishment loan has been **paid in full!** Up to this point, taxpayers on the ocean-side of Highway 58 were charged an additional tax of twenty-two cents and sound-side property owners were charged an additional two cents. **These additional taxes are paid in full.** The loan was financed for 20 years but with your perseverance the loan is paid off in 8 years. Now let's consider the next few years and be prepared.

Budget time is approaching quickly and although the Board of Commissioners has not held a budget workshop as of the writing of this article, I believe they will consider collecting one to two-cents in "Special Revenue" to be held in reserve in the event of future beach erosion. In addition to this reserve, the Bogue Banks Beach Commission administers funds collected by Carteret County from occupancy taxes. These funds can be requested by the various island towns in the event of beach erosion. Also Indian Beach has met the requirements of FEMA's 933 Project by providing the designated number of public beach accesses along our stretch of beach. This entitles Indian Beach to

request funds from FEMA in the event of future beach erosion. This gives Indian Beach three resources from which to draw in the event of future beach erosion.

Our beaches were hit by Hurricane Bonnie in 1998, Dennis twice in 1999 and Floyd in 1999. We were not prepared to finance a beach restoration project and were forced to sell bonds to restore our beach. We now feel we are, at least, one step ahead of any future storms that may erode our beaches.

The Town of Indian Beach has planned, worked hard, and made every effort to protect the citizens of Indian Beach and their property.

Our Town Board of Commissioners meets the second Wednesday of every month at 5:00pm at the Town Hall and we welcome all comments and suggestions.

HAPPY SPRING!

Beverly Bigley  
Town Administrator