



NORTH TOPSAIL TIMES

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Town of North Topsail Beach
North Carolina

Newsletter
Fall 2011
Volume 4

Important Numbers

Town Hall.....(910) 328-1349
(800) 687-7092
Inspections.....(910) 328-3186
Public Works.....(910) 328-5297

Non-Emergency

Police Department...(910) 328-0042
Fire Department.....(910) 328-2200

TOWN HALL WILL BE CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Veteran's Day	November 11, 2011
Thanksgiving	November 24 & 25, 2011
Christmas	December 23, 26, & 27, 2011
New Year's Day	January 1, 2012
Martin Luther King Birthday	January 16, 2012
Good Friday	April 6, 2012
Memorial Day	May 28, 2012
Independence Day	July 4, 2012
Labor Day	September 3, 2012

Town Hall is open 8:00 - 5:00 Monday through Friday



HURRICANE IRENE VISITS NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH

Hurricane Irene arrived as a Category One hurricane on August 27, 2011. The main portion of the storm veered east of the town, but the town still experienced heavy rain, storm surge, and significant sustained winds of 40 to 50 miles per hour.

Prior to Irene's arrival, the Town put its "Hurricane and Storm Preparedness Plan" into action, Mayor Tuman declared a State of Emergency and ordered a mandatory evacuation of the town.



Satellite image of Hurricane Irene on August 27, 2011 at 10:10 a.m. EDT after it made landfall at 8 a.m. in Cape Lookout, North Carolina. (Credit: NASA/NOAA GOES Project)

The evacuation went smoothly with the cooperation of our residents, visitors, and local rental agencies.

Town Staff did an excellent job of executing the plan for the evacuation, re-entry, and recovery.

Residents were informed about the approaching storm, evacuation, and re-entry procedures via the Town's reverse-911 system (Connect-CTY) and the Town's website. Rental agencies were cooperative in notifying vacationers about the approaching storm and helped prevent hazardous debris by securing or removing signs.

The total estimated damage to private property was approximately \$329,000. Most of the damage was limited to shingles and

siding. For the first time, Town Staff posted pre-storm and post-storm video footage of the Town on the Town's website (ntbnc.org) so that out-of-town property owners and others could view the conditions before and after the storm.

The debris removal portion of the event also went smoothly. The Town activated its contract with Debris Removal Corporation (DRC) who quickly responded and removed the debris that was left throughout the Town. The Town is currently applying for reimbursement from FEMA to assist in covering the cost of the storm.

The Town is re-evaluating the hurricane re-entry pass policy and the policy will go to the Board of Aldermen for approval in the next few months. Please stay tuned for an update on the policy which will appear on the website and the Spring edition of the Town newsletter.

The Town was very fortunate to have had very little damage, a professional and prepared Staff, and cooperative community. Hurricane season ends on November 30th. Stay prepared!

STAY CONNECTED - SIGN UP FOR CONNECT-CTY



The Town of North Topsail Beach has a reverse-911 phone/text/email notification system which distributes important messages to citizens throughout the year. You can sign up to receive messages from the Town by calling Town Hall at 910-328-1349 or visiting the Town website (ntbnc.org). You will see a logo like the one above.

Important flood information inside



A Message from the Mayor



There are several items that I want to bring to your attention. First of all, our Town Clerk and Town Staff have devoted themselves to the continued improvement of our Town's communications. If you are signed up, you will automatically receive notification of major news and events

by CTY telephone messaging (email and text options are also available). The Town website, <http://ntbnc.org> is continuously updated and has information to answer most any question. The website is your best source for information before, during, and after a storm event. Our newest procedure is to have camcorder postings of all residences, streets and the beach immediately after a major storm. This practice was initiated for our recent storm, Hurricane Irene.

The Town Manager and I have had numerous meetings with the State Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding the conditions of the State Roads within our Town. Happily, I can report that the outlook for making major improvements is very good. Last year, New River Inlet Road (SR1568) was repaved. Next year, the DOT has plans to repave the length of Island Drive (NC 210). The Town has also discussed the condition of Topsail Road with the DOT, which has been in an abandoned condition since the Town incorporated in 1990. The DOT has expressed willingness to have the road paved by the State under an arrange-

ment whereby it would then be dedicated to the Town once the work is completed. Work continues by the DOT to improve the drainage problems in flood prone places along Island Drive. With Board approval, the Town is acquiring a large multi-purpose pump that can be used to remove large ponds of water. This will prevent the closing of Island Drive during heavy rainfalls as has occurred in the past. The Town has requested that the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) make plans to move the dunes along Topsail Road and Ocean Drive seaward as part of the beach design for our proposed shoreline management program at the south-end of Town.

Finally, the Town has a responsibility to be alert to the nuisances and inconveniences that affect our lives and to make improvements. One such nuisance is the problem with loose dogs that threaten and menace people on the beach and elsewhere. The Town ordinances require that pet owners must have their dog leashed at all times and have them under control. The dog ordinance also requires that pet owners must remove any wastes left by their pets. I'm bringing this to your attention because there have been a number of recent complaints concerning problems with dogs on the loose. This problem has the attention of the Police and the Board of Alderman. Be aware that some members of the Board are seriously considering significant increases in the fines for violations and the Police are on the alert for offenders. If you encounter a loose dog, call the Town Police at 910-328-0042.

Dan Tuman
Mayor of North Topsail Beach

COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES ACT NEWS

Public Forum on CBRA

On Tuesday, July 19, 2011 Mayor Tuman hosted a public forum as a follow-up to the Town's communication with Representative Walter B. Jones and his staff. The purpose of the meeting was to gather comments from those most affected by the CBRA designation. The Town invited local builders, real estate agents, insurance agents, a representative of BASE (Business Alliance for a Sound Economy) and the public to solicit input regarding the hardships that the CBRA designation has had on them.

This information, along with the Town's input, was compiled and given to Representative Jones who will be introducing legislation on the Town's behalf to have the residential portion of NTB removed from the CBRA zone.

Draft Bill

Citizen volunteer Gene Graziosi, the Mayor Tuman, and Town Manager Steve Foster have been in contact with Daniel Sheehan of Marlowe & Company and Josh Bowlin, Congressman Jones' Chief Aid in order to track the progress of the introduction of our legislation. A draft bill has been prepared and a final revised map has been prepared and transmitted to Mr. Sheehan reflecting the Town's recommended changes for the final bill.

Action on the bill has been delayed since Congress has been busy with FEMA. Daniel Sheehan has been working with staff members of Senator Hagan's office and Senator Burr's Office to jointly introduce the bill into the Senate in order to gain bipartisan support. Legislation now looks to be introduced in October.

**TALKING TRASH
with Barry Burke
Code Enforcement**



This summer the Town made great strides in improving compliance of the Town's ordinance concerning the roll out and roll back of trash and recycling carts. I would like to thank homeowners and real estate agencies for their concentrated effort to abide by the Town Ordinance. It made for a cleaner and safer town for our residents and guests.

We realize that it is sometimes very difficult to get renters to work with us on recycling, but by continuously reminding them of the importance of recycling and providing them with information, we can improve their performance.

Please place trash or recycling carts at the roadside the night before pick-up and roll them back by 10 a.m. the day after pick-up as required by Town Ordinance #13-7. Trash placed in carts other than the ones provided by Waste Industries will not be picked up.

North Topsail Beach Town Ordinance #13-7—Solid Waste Management states that there will be a \$50.00 fine for violations of this ordinance. This will be enforced as we have done this past summer. Please ask your neighbors or rental agents to assist you in following the ordinance. There is a company on the island that provides a pull-back service. Please call Town Hall at (910) 328-1349 if for the contact information.

Dumpsters are available at Town Hall and the Public Works Building on Grey Street for your convenience. There are recycling carts at Town Hall. Please make sure that your carts are labeled with your street number in large numerals. If you are not going to be in town for an extended period of time, please secure the pails in your garage or another safe place where they cannot be stolen or inadvertently taken by nearby residents and not returned to your property. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

**Barry Burke
Code Enforcement
(910) 328-1349**

A Message from the Building Codes Administrator

We would like to thank all of the citizens, property owners, contractors, engineers and work force of North Topsail Beach for helping us provide the services necessary in achieving their goals in the construction or maintenance of their homes and projects in a safe and code compliant manner during the past year.

We will continue to update our website with information relating to the permitting process (<http://ntbnc.org/bldg.aspx>). Please let us know if there is information that is not currently on the website that can be added to assist you. Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns as to what is lawfully required prior to commencing any work.

Did You Know: All electrical work on rental property must be performed by a NC licensed electrician. All window and door replacement requires a building permit regardless of cost; these elements are considered structural components of the building envelope and must meet design pressure requirements and Impact glazing standards in our windborne debris region.

ALL work exceeding \$5,000.00 in cost must be permitted; this includes siding, roofing and deck repairs. The repair or replacement of any load bearing members requires a permit as well as sheathing replacement designed for uplift. The **addition** or **change** in any plumbing lines and heating and cooling systems also require permits. Please contact us if you have any questions.

All personnel doing work in North Topsail beach are required to have a Privilege License issued by the Town. The fee is established by State Statute and varies in cost. Please contact Terrie Woodle for more information (910-328-1349).

What's New?

We will be utilizing the new 2012 North Carolina Codes for Building, Fire, Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas beginning March 1st, 2012. We are still awaiting final approval and release of the 2011 National Electrical Code as well as the 2012 North Carolina Residential Code and Energy Conservation Code for adoption and anticipate its availability in early 2012.

This past year we have completed 8 new Homes and have 12 more under construction with 2 on New River Inlet Road, 3 on Ashe Island, and 7 on Island Drive.

We made it through the 2011 Hurricane Season with minimal damage consisting primarily of roof, shingle, and siding damage. If you are an absentee owner, please ensure that someone is looking out for your home and any potential problems that may not be noticeable from this past season. Water damage is the main culprit in coastal homes. Do not allow exterior coverings to remain unrepaired without compliant weather resistant coverings installed.

**David Stoudt
Building Codes Administrator
(910) 328-1349**

A Message from the Town Manager



It was a great summer season this year at North Topsail Beach. Fall is here and there are many who feel that fall at the beach is the best time of the year. Fishing is very good, oysters come into season, and the weather is perfect. The Staff looks forward to the fall when the tourist population of the Town falls off, and it gives us time to start planning for the next year, and coming up with better ways to serve the residents and visitors.

Hurricane Irene

One of the things that we don't especially care for is the seasonal tropical storm activity. This year the Town had to deal with Hurricane Irene. We were very fortunate in that the main portion of the storm veered east of the town, but the town still had significant sustained winds of 40 to 50 Mph. I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation in dealing with this storm, including all of our residents, visitors, Mayor, Town Board, Emergency Operating Team, Staff, and rental agents. It takes this type of team work to successfully handle this type of adversity.

Highway 210 Resurfacing

According to Mr. Robert Vause, NCDOT District Engineer, the State has taken bids on the resurfacing of Highway 210, the North Topsail Beach portion, and hopes to start the resurfacing efforts in 2012. Portions of the road will be removed and repaired. The road will include the existing bicycle path on both side of the road.

Park Improvements

The Town Board approved two park improvements for this year. The first is the resurfacing of the Town's tennis courts, and the second was the installation of a new

irrigation well to provide enough water to keep the park nice and green, even in the warmest part of the summer. The well is 300' deep and is expected to provide about 60 gallons a minute. With the water bills at the Park approaching \$1,800 a month this should significantly cut the Town's expenses.

Additionally, the Town has acquired a new parking area at 3623 Island Drive. This is to meet the parking requirement for the Federal Beach Nourishment Project which requires the Town to provide a prescribed number of public parking spaces. The Town is applying for two grants. The first grant is to assist in paying for the property, and the second is to assist in the installation of a wooden boardwalk for beach access, and a kayak launch on the estuarine side of the property. There may be a public restroom included in the plan.

ONWASA Water Pressure Testing

The Town held a joint meeting with ONWASA representatives in August to discuss the issue of low water pressure, particularly on the south side of the Town. Mr. Billy Jo Farmer, Director of ONWASA addressed the attendees at the meeting about the problem. ONWASA as a result of the meeting have placed pressure meters on selected fire hydrants throughout the Town in order to identify the problem and are expected to make a report back to the Town sometime this fall, and make the necessary corrections to improve water pressure.

Best Fall Wishes

The Town wishes you the best in your fall endeavors, and hopes that you will make it back to the beach as part of your plans.

Steve Foster
Town Manager

NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 One Stop Voting Ends 1:00 p.m.
6	7 Deadline to receive absentee ballots 5:00 p.m.	8 Election Day	9	10	11 Veteran's Day - Town Hall Closed	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	Thanksgiving Day - Town Hall Closed		

DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Town Hall Closed	27 Town Hall Closed	28	29	30	31

Key: Beautification & Recreation Committee 6:00 p.m. Board of Aldermen 6:30 p.m. Planning Board 6:30 p.m. Board of Adjustment 6:30 p.m.

A Message From Our Public Works Director

Information for homeowners at North Topsail Beach:

Bulk pickup is done on Tuesdays only. You must contact Town Hall (910) 328-1349 for your items to be picked up. Please note what will not be picked up.

- **No** vegetation will be picked up until the month of September (once a year, next pick-up will be September 2012).
- **No construction debris** of any type will be picked up and **no mattresses and furniture** will be picked up. These items can be taken to the Onslow County site on Old Folkstone Road.
- **No electronics** will be picked up; a new law prohibits them from the landfill. This includes microwaves, TVs, stereo equipment, computers, printers, copiers and monitors. You must take them to the Old Folkstone Road site.
- **Items that will be picked up shall consist of:**
 - White Goods** – refrigerators, dishwashers, water heaters, washers, dryers, and stoves.

Remember you are responsible for your trash containers. **Do not** put vegetation or lumber of any type in your cart. There is a fee for replacement of trash carts; there is no charge for replacing damaged carts. If your cart is damaged (repairable) call Town Hall **(910-328-1349)** and submit your request. A work order will be generated and Public Works Staff will supply you with a replacement cart.

Water problems contact: ONWASA (910) 455-0722

Sewer problems contact: Pluris (888) 758-7471

Mosquitoes – After a rain shower or storm, please help out by making sure that anything that holds water is emptied out. These small pools of water are breeding areas for mosquitoes to lay eggs. If you would like a free inspection around your home give us a call (910-328-5297).

Hurricane season does not end until November 30th, keep in mind your preparations list in case an evacuation is called. Secure all items outside your structure and shut off your water meters and power if possible. Do not wait until it is too late, start preparing your updated lists!

If you have any questions feel free to call.

**Thomas Best Public Works Director/Fire Marshal
(910) 328-5297**

2011 MUNICIPAL ELECTION INFORMATION

North Topsail Beach voters will be choosing a Mayor and two Board of Alderman this election season.

Below is a list of important dates related to the election:

October 20 at 8:00 a.m. (Thursday)
One-Stop Voting begins

November 5 at 1:00 p.m. (Saturday)
One-Stop Voting ends

November 7 at 5:00 p.m. (Monday)
Deadline to receive absentee ballots

November 8 from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Election Day

The polling site on election day for NTB voters is:

Folkstone Freewill Baptist Church
133 Old Folkstone Road
Holly Ridge, NC



Any questions about voting should be directed to the Onslow County Board of Elections at (910) 455-4484.

NTB LOGO T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS, AND HATS FOR SALE AT TOWN HALL

North Topsail Beach logo t-shirts, sweatshirts (new!) and hats are for sale at Town Hall for only \$20 each. There are several colors to choose from.

The proceeds will benefit the Beautification Fund which goes to purchase plants and other items for beautification projects for the Town.



NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH RECYCLES

The Town of North Topsail Beach added recycling service to its solid waste pick up services in July 2009.

Below is a list of items that can be recycled:

PLEASE DO NOT BAG OR SEPARATE THESE ITEMS

Paper: Newspapers, brochures, magazines, catalogues (2 inches or less), white paper, junk mail, colored paper, phone books, computer paper, paper bags, file folders, soft cover books, cardboard boxes, cereal boxes. **NO** napkins, paper towels, tissue, paper plates or waxed material. Please keep clean and dry if possible.

Plastic: #1 plastic containers and #2 plastic containers (look on bottom to identify). **NO** grocery or sandwich bags, 5 gallon buckets, caps or lids.



Glass: Clear, brown, and green glass containers. **NO** ceramic or porcelain cups and plates, drinking glasses or stemware, heat resistant ovenware, light bulbs, mirrors, or window panes.

Metals: Aluminum and steel cans. **NO** pie pans or foil or cans that have contained hazardous waste (oil, insecticide, paint, etc.).

**GO TO NTBNC.ORG FOR A PRINTABLE
2011 SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING CALENDAR
OR PICK ONE UP AT TOWN HALL.**

IMPORTANT FLOOD INFORMATION

LOCAL FLOOD HAZARD

The greatest flood threats come from hurricanes, seasonal storms, and seasonal high tides. The Town of North Topsail Beach is located on a barrier island bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, thus making it vulnerable to flooding. Previous hurricane forces have reached category 4 levels, (*Hazel – 1954 and Fran 1996*). Fran's 12 foot storm surge created a 100-foot wide inlet through Topsail Island and eroded the beach by as much as 40 feet. This led to most of the ocean-front homes being destroyed. North Topsail Beach was particularly hard hit, with up to 90% of the homes receiving at least some damage.

FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

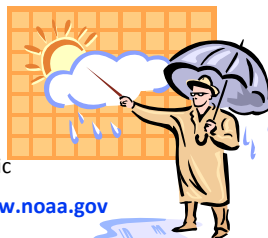
Joint action is required between all town departments and with Onslow County Emergency Operations Center in order to maximize resources and support for the safety of the citizens of the Town of North Topsail Beach. To help protect its citizens, the Town has developed and continues to update its Flood Warning System. Through this system, our Police and Fire Departments will attempt to give as much warning time as possible. Citizens are alerted through a multimodal Connect-CTY service, via voice and text messages—quickly and efficiently. This system is a significant enhancement to existing means of communication and is supplemental to, not a replacement for, the systems we have used in the past. TV, radio and our Town web site will continue to broadcast important announcements.

Flood warnings are forecasts of impending storms and are broadcast to the public by the NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio and TV stations, and through local emergency agencies. These warnings are intended to provide individuals with properties in threatened areas with opportunities to prepare, protect, and lessen their exposures to damages from flooding by establishing time frames and levels of flooding expected. The following stations service the local area:

- RADIO:** NOAA Weather Radio Frequency 162.550 MHz
 WGNI 102.7 WJNC 1240 AM *WKOI 98.7 FM
 *WXQR Rock 105.5 WJCV 1290 AM

TELEVISION:

Ch	Station	local
3	WWAY - ABC	Wilmington
6	WECT - NBC	Wilmington
7	WITN - NBC	Greenville
8	WSFX - FOX	Wilmington
9	WNCT - CBS	Greenville
10	WILM-LP - CBS	Wilmington
12	WCTI - ABC	New Bern
19	The Weather Channel	Basic



INTERNET: ntbnc.org www.noaa.gov

You may sign up for notification through the town's Connect-Cty service online at the Town's website ntbnc.org or contact Town Hall at 910 328 1349 for assistance.

FLOOD SAFETY

If public safety personnel deem it necessary, notification to evacuate will be given. Residents will be advised to move to a

safe area before access is cut off by floodwaters. State Road 1568 and Highway 210 will serve as the primary evacuation routes out of North Topsail Beach, as posted on DOT Highway signs. Highway 210 on the western side connects with Highway 17 to Jacksonville or Wilmington, Highway 210 on the southern side intersects with Highway 50 (Surf City) and then westward to Highway 17 at Holly Ridge.

Please remember, we have limited resources and during inclement weather we are being summoned to assist in numerous other areas of the Town. We strongly suggest you take the time to formulate a family evacuation plan. In a flood emergency, the following precautions should be taken only if time permits:

1. Turn on battery operated radio to get the latest emergency information.
2. Fill containers with an adequate source of drinking water.
3. Turn off all utilities.
4. Move valuable papers and objects to higher elevations (shelves, attics, etc.).
5. Bring outdoor items into the garage so that they don't become floating debris.
6. Take necessary medications with you.
7. Do not walk through flowing water.
8. Do not drive through flooded areas.
9. Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.
10. Review evacuation plan and have your Re-entry pass in your car.

The Town will be conducting two public awareness seminars annually covering the topics of flood warnings and flood safety and hurricane preparedness. **For further information concerning seminar times and dates, contact NTB Fire Chief at 910 328 2200.**

FLOOD INSURANCE

Properties located within the corporate limits of the town of North Topsail Beach, N.C. and subject to federally supported mortgages are required to be protected with flood insurance. Flood insurance is particularly important and may be required as a condition of your mortgage if you live in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The (SFHA) is the area that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has determined will be flooded during a storm that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year, also known as the 100-year flood. The average home has a 26% chance of experiencing a flood during the life of a 30-year mortgage. Maps showing the flood areas, as well as elevation certificates, are available from NTB Planning Department.

It is important to note that your homeowners insurance may not cover damage caused by flooding. There is normally a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance goes into effect. Federal flood insurance is available in a CBRS areas of the town, if the subject building was constructed (or permitted and under construction) before the CBRS area's effective date. Property owners considering flood insurance should consult their local insurance agents or brokers for details regarding qualification requirements, coverage and cost.

The following chart lists the amounts of maximum coverage available to property owners within the corporate limits of the

(Continued on page 7)

If you own property within the corporate limits of North Topsail Beach...

(Continued from page 6)

town of North Topsail Beach, N.C.

BUILDING COVERAGE

Single Family Dwelling	\$250,000.00
Other Residential	\$250,000.00
Non-residential	\$500,000.00
Small Business	\$500,000.00

CONTENTS COVERAGE

Residential	\$100,000.00
Non-residential	\$500,000.00
Small Business	\$500,000.00

PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES

Every year, flooding causes more property damage in the United States than any other type of natural disaster. While recent construction practices and regulations have made new homes less prone to flooding, many existing structures remain susceptible. Throughout the country there is a growing interest from property owners to develop practical and cost effective methods for reducing or eliminating exposures to flooding. Several effective ways include retrofitting, grading a yard, correcting local drainage problems and such emergency measures as moving furniture and sandbagging. Measures to protect against high winds are installing storm shutters and reinforcing garage doors.

Retrofitting is a different approach from the other ways because the property itself remains subject to flooding while the building is modified to prevent or minimize flooding of habitable space. There are six ways to retrofit. Whichever way you choose, the goal is to provide the best protection so your residence will be spared or suffer only minimal damage the next time a flood or other disaster strikes, say the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) .

Whatever you decide to do, check with NTB Planning Department before you start any work rebuilding. Local ordinances and codes determine in large part what you can and cannot do - and what you should do.

Evaluating your own situation will help you decide which works best for you. Here are the six ways to retrofit:

1. Elevation - Raising your house so the lowest floor is above the base flood level.
2. Wet flood proofing - Allowing floodwater to enter the uninhabited parts of the house. This equalizes the water pressure inside and outside the house and greatly reduces the chance of structural damage.
3. Relocating - Moving your house out of the floodplain to higher ground.
4. Dry floodproofing - Sealing your house to keep floodwaters from entering.
5. Levees and floodwalls - Building a floodwall or levee around your house to keep out floodwaters.
6. Demolition - Tearing down your house and either rebuilding - with appropriate floodproofing - on the same property, or building a house somewhere else.

In the event of pending flood threats it is always advisable to take the following emergency actions:

- Sand bagging to reduce erosion and scouring.

- Elevate furniture above flood protection levels.
- Create floodway openings in non-habitable areas such as garage doors.
- Seal off or backflow valve on sewer lines to the dwelling to prevent the backflow of sewer waters.

Publications and assistance in the areas mentioned are available from the NTB Planning Dept located at 2008 Loggerhead Ct. or phone 910-328-1349.

NATURAL & BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS

NTB floodplain areas that are in a relatively undisturbed state such as marshlands, well vegetated sand dunes, restricted shore zones and federally renourished beach strands provide a wide range of benefits. These benefits take many forms:

- **Natural flood and erosion control:** Providing flood storage and conveyance, reduce flood velocity, controls erosion of beach front structures.
- **Water quality:** Filters nutrients and impurities from runoff.
- **Ground water recharge:** Reduces frequency and duration of surface flow.
- **Biological resources:** Supports high rate of plant growth, provides breeding and feeding grounds and enhances water fowl habitat.
- **Societal resources:** Provides open space and aesthetic pleasures and in areas of scientific study, provides opportunities for environmental research.

If unauthorized activities are observed please contact NTB Planning Dept located at 2008 Loggerhead Ct. or phone 910-328-1349.Your cooperation and assistance in code enforcement activities is appreciated in the helping the Town protect the natural and beneficial functions of our floodplains.

FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

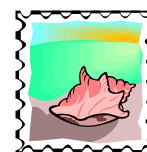
All properties located within the corporate limits of the town of North Topsail Beach, N.C. are located in the floodplain on the community's flood insurance rate map and are subject to state and local regulations. A Floodplain Development Permit is required prior to the commencement of any development activities. Contact NTB Planning Department before you build, fill or otherwise develop your property.

NTB Planning Dept (upon request by calling 910-328-1349) will make site visits to meet with property owners regarding flood protection assistance. This assistance includes information on historical flood data, floodproofing/retrofitting techniques, etc. Before undertaking development, a builder must secure the necessary permits from the town's Planning Dept specifically covering the activity.

Development activities include but are not limited to the following: Man made changes to improved or unimproved real estate not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation, or drilling operations.

If unauthorized activities are observed please contact NTB Planning Dept located at 2008 Loggerhead Ct. or phone 910-328-1349.

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Substantial improvement shall mean any repair from damage or destruction, reconstruction, improvement, or additions of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the assessed tax value of the structure as is listed by the Onslow County Tax Office or by a certified appraisal. The assessed value of the structure shall be determined before the improvement is started, or if the structure has been damaged and is being restored, before the damage or destruction occurred.



The percentage of substantial improvement shall be counted cumulatively for a period of not less than five years for improvements, modifications, additions and reconstruction. Storm damage caused by acts of God or other natural causes is based on a per event cost of repair.

This requirement does not include either: (1) any project or improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions; or, (2) any alteration of a historic structure, provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure.

For more information on the Town's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, contact NTB Planning Department at 2008 Loggerhead Ct. or phone 910-328-1349.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Dumping in the streams, ponds, and the drainage system in North Topsail Beach is strictly prohibited according to Section Sec. 7-266 of the NTB Town Code. Trash, leaves, dirt, and any liquid other than water should under no circumstances be

dumped in sewers, streams or the estuary. Improper dumping can be harmful because all of the storm water drains and streams eventually run together into streams and the estuary. Any pollutants or other items dumped into the systems will contaminate the system and may plug up the storm sewer systems which could result in flooding. Additionally, improper dumping can result in reductions in water quality, fish, and other animal populations in our sensitive environment. **Protect our natural resources and protect yourself from flooding due to drain blockage by reporting illegal activities to NTB Planning Dept located at 2008 Loggerhead Ct. or phone 910-328-1349.**

FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION & MAP INFORMATION SERVICE

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a voluntary program based on a mutual agreement between the Federal government and the local community. The Town of North Topsail Beach participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) as one of its efforts to reduce the potential losses due to flooding for its citizens. This program, created by the NFIP, encourages communities to become proactive in their flood management planning activities.

FEMA will make available federally backed flood insurance and Federal Disaster Assistance providing the Town agrees to adopt, implement and enforce a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance that meets or exceeds FEMA regulations. A floodplain development permit is required for all development within FEMA mapped regulated floodplains.

The FEMA Elevation Certificate is an administrative tool of the National Flood Insurance Program. It is used for rating flood insurance policies, certifying building elevations and ensures compliance with the local flood ordinance. It is also used in support of Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) revisions and amendments. All elevation certificates should have an original surveyor or engineer's signature and seal.

If you would like any additional information on floodplain issues or map information service, please contact the NTB Planning & Zoning Department at (910) 328 1349.