



NORTH TOPSAIL TIMES

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Town of North Topsail Beach
North Carolina

Newsletter
Spring 2011
Volume 3

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:

Memorial Day	May 30, 2011
Independence Day	July 4, 2011
Labor Day	September 5, 2011
Veteran's Day	November 11, 2011
Thanksgiving	November 24 & 26, 2011
Christmas	December 23, 26, & 27, 2011
New Year's Day	January 1, 2012
Martin Luther King Birthday	January 16, 2012

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



North Topsail Beach Officials Visit Washington to Initiate a Legislative Approach to Correct CBRA Designation

Officials from the Town of North Topsail Beach traveled to Washington, D.C. the week of April 25th to continue the Town's efforts to have the boundary lines of the Federal Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) zone corrected. Mayor Daniel Tuman, Town Manager Steve Foster, and citizen volunteer Gene Graziosi met with key staff members from the offices of U.S. Representative Walter Jones and U.S. Senators Kay Hagan and Richard Burr. Town officials also met with Mr. Harry Burroughs, Majority Staff director for the House Committee on Natural Resources (Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife) and Mr. Jason Albritton, Senior Policy Advisor for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

This trip follows a similar visit made in August of 2009 when Town officials had the opportunity to address U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff to comment on the Service's digital mapping project. At that point it was requested that the Service use the historical records provided by the Town and recommend that Congress correct the bound-

ary lines. Approximately seventy percent of the Town's land area is within the CBRA zone. The Town's records clearly show that when the CBRA designation was made that the Town had the required infrastructure in place to facilitate full



Pictured above: Mayor Tuman (left), Gene Graziosi (right) and Josh Bowlen, Legislative Director for the Office of Representative Walter B. Jones, Jr.

residential development of the area and did not qualify to be designated CBRA.

After waiting almost two years for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make recommendations to Congress, and because the Service doesn't have the resources to address the Town's needs, the Town has taken the initiative to urge its representatives in Washington to correct the errors on the CBRA map through legislation.

The purpose of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act was to discourage new development of coastal barriers and encourage the conservation of coastal barriers by restricting Federal expenditures that encourage development, such as Federal flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. The Act was found to be effective by a 2006 Government Accounting Office study in all but a few areas, including North Topsail Beach.

Mayor Tuman stated, "the meetings last week were cordial and Town representatives had ample opportunity to explain the purpose for their visit and to show how well they were prepared in support of the Town's request," he added, "the next step is to follow-up with North Topsail Beach's U.S. House and Senate representatives to move ahead with the preparation of the necessary legislation and its coordination."

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



The water and air temperatures are rising and summer is on its way. Again this year, we expect that large crowds will be coming to enjoy our town's beautiful shoreline beach. Before you go swimming, there are some basic safety tips to keep in mind to have a safe and enjoyable beach day.

First of all, the best defense against drowning is to learn how to swim. If you are a non-swimmer, beware that you don't take an inflatable raft or other flotation device into deep water where you are at risk should you fall off. Secondly, many drownings involve single swimmers. Therefore always swim with others who could help should you need assistance. Finally, familiarize yourself with the dangers of rip currents and what you should do if caught in one. Instructions for dealing with rip currents can be found at many beach accesses, online, and elsewhere. Enjoy yourself but take all necessary precautions when swimming.

Changing subjects, I've been in Raleigh and Washington D.C. to lend my hand in trying to influence State and Federal Officials to pass legislation important to our Town. NC Senate Bill 110, introduced by our State Senator Harry Brown, would permit the construction of a terminal groin at inlets. This bill is likely to pass the State Legislature. It is not known if it will get Governor Perdue's signature.

A terminal groin is a low elevation structure, the height of the adjacent beach, which extends into the ocean at an inlet. This structure entraps the sand that would normally

move into the inlet and prevents the extensive erosion on the adjacent beach. The amount of sand that is entrapped is controlled to only beach height and is designed not to interfere with the large volumes of sand that moves along-shore normally. The potential use of this kind of structure in our Town at the New River Inlet is very important because of accelerated beach erosion and the associated threat to residential structures there.

Elsewhere, this newsletter covers my trip to Washington D.C. as it relates to passing legislation to remove the CBRA designation from the residentially zoned areas within our town. I want to bring to your attention the importance of this action as it applies to our Town. Of the 11.1 shoreline miles that comprise the Town of North Topsail Beach, 7.25 miles lies within CBRA. The presence of the CBRA zone divides the town into two unequal parts. Its presence is a stigma and a hardship for affected property owners and for our town. The penalty for being within a CBRA zone is that individual property owners are penalized by being denied the access to Federally-backed loans (VA, FHA, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac) and FFIP (Federal Flood Insurance Program). The Town has an even larger stake in this matter. By eliminating CBRA, the entire Town could now qualify for Federal funds that might be available for infrastructure (such as beach restoration), disaster relief and flood insurance needs. North Topsail Beach could then enjoy the same status as the other towns on Topsail Island.

Working on legislation that has an important impact on our Town will always be one of my priorities.

Dan Tuman
Mayor of North Topsail Beach

SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECT NEWS

COASTAL STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT (NTB/Surf City - Federal Project)

Project initiated: 2002

Estimated Total Cost: \$138,493,000

NTB Share: \$50,000,000

Location (NTB): South end of North Topsail Beach from CBRA line (approx. 3834 Island Dr.) to Surf City Line.

Coverage Area: 9.9 miles (including Surf City portion)

Amount of Sand: 11.9 million cubic yards (initial construction)

Expected Results: 15' dune 25' wide + 7' berm 50' wide

Renourishment Cycle: Every 6 years (2.6 million cubic yards)

Status of Project: The NTB Board of Aldermen approved the design agreement for this project at their May 5, 2011 regular meeting and the Surf City Council also approved the agreement. This project continues to move forward.

The Town website includes several documents on shoreline protection (including the BEST team report). This information is located on the NTB Shoreline Protection Committee page (under Boards & Committees) . Please call Carin Faulkner, Town Clerk at 910-328-1349 if you have any questions.

NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECT (CBRA/CP&E Project)

Project initiated: 2004 (revised to current phased plan 2006)

Estimated Total Cost: \$78,000,000 (high estimate)

This project is divided into five phases. (map is at ntbnc.org)

Estimated Costs (high estimates)

Phase 1: \$10,000,000 (adjusted from \$9,536,000 figure)

Phase 2: \$16,672,000

Phase 3: \$15,847,000

Phase 4: \$13,270,000

Phase 5: \$22,654,000

Status of Project: The Board of Aldermen sent a survey to Phase 1 property owners in October 2010. They also met with Onslow County Commissioners that month to address their participation and financial assistance with beach projects. The Board accepted the Army Corps of Engineers' permit conditions at their May 5, 2011 regular meeting and submitted a signed copy of the permit to the ACOE for Colonel Rascavage's signature. This permit expires on December 31, 2041.

BEAUTIFICATION & RECREATION NEWS

FIRST ANNUAL SUMMER KICK-OFF RACE A SUCCESS

The first annual Summer Kick-Off Race was a fantastic success. Being its first year, there was a small group of runners. Those who ran enjoyed the route which had runners travel the roadway and the beach. Those who chose not to run the race, but still participate, were able to walk a mile-long route which took them from the Town Park to Town Hall and back. The weather was great for running with temperatures slowly warming as the morning went on. The Rhodestown Duo, Kim Dicso and Holly Fucili were there to provide music and there were plenty of refreshments for the participants provided by the committee.

A big thank you goes to Brunswick Timing Services for their professionalism. They made the race run smoothly. Another thank you goes to the volunteers who helped make the first annual Summer Kick-off Race a big success. It promises to be a highly anticipated annual event to get locals and visitors alike to North Topsail Beach. Expect more fun and excitement from the North Topsail Beach Beautification and Recreation Committee.

Robert Swantek, Chairman
NTB Recreation and Beautification Committee

Here are the results of the race:

Male Overall:

- 1) Kevin Weintraub (34)
- 2) Mike Yawn (51)
- 3) Luke Farley (25)

Female Overall:

- 1) Sara Dalton (29)
- 2) Brittany Quinn (23)
- 3) Jennifer Reneau (34)



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 SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING CALENDAR OR PICK ONE UP AT TOWN HALL.

Solid Waste Schedule

In Season

(Memorial Day week through Labor Day week)

Tuesday & Saturday Mornings

Off Season

Tuesday Mornings Only

Recycling Schedule

In Season

(Memorial Day week through Labor Day week)

Friday Mornings

Off Season

Every other Friday

SPRING LITTER SWEEP

The B&R committee also participated in North Carolina's Litter Sweep program for the month of April. On Saturday, April 16th several locals, including a girl scout daisy troop from Snead's Ferry, collected trash from the sides of the roadway on New River Inlet Road. The B&R committee provided the volunteers with hot dogs and drinks.

T-SHIRTS AND HATS FOR SALE

North Topsail Beach logo hats and t-shirts 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.

ANY DONATIONS TO THE BEAUTIFICATION AND RECREATION COMMITTEE ARE APPRECIATED AND WILL BE USED FOR SEVERAL PROJECTS THE COMMITTEE HAS PLANNED TO HELP ENHANCE THE TOWN OF NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH

**THE NEW BANNERS THROUGHOUT TOWN WERE PURCHASED WITH THE HELP OF OUR CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION AND DONATIONS—THANK YOU!
(See Page 5 for a picture of our new banners!)**

A Message from the Town Manager - It's Budget Time



It is a great time of the year to be at North Topsail Beach. The weather is in the mid 70's to the lower 80's, homeowners and tourists are starting to pop up on our beaches, and the fish are biting. It is also that time of the year that the Town Board, Mayor, and Staff tackle the task of preparing the budget for the upcoming fiscal year that begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th of next year.

As many of you know, by watching the news, and reading the newspapers, government at all levels are "tightening their belts" and cutting back wherever they can in order to provide the best level of service at the lowest possible cost, and that is exactly what Town officials are currently doing with our budget preparations for Fiscal Year 2011-12.

We have some great news for our Town's taxpayers in that there will be no projected increase in property taxes for this coming year. Even though our projected revenue is down for the upcoming year, and our expenses are rising at a normal level, the Town has managed to generate enough cost-savings for the coming year that an increase in ad valorem taxes will not be necessary in the new fiscal year.

The Town has suffered some setbacks in the revenue department over the past few years with the decrease in sales tax revenues, and other State shared revenues that the Town depends on to balance the budget. Sales tax receipts have been reduced from approximately \$1.2 million in 2009 to just \$650,000 projected for FY 2011-12. This was largely due to the way that sales tax is distributed which is based on population and ad valorem tax levy. State shared revenues have

been disappearing for a number of years, but this year the State has a \$3.8 Billion budget shortfall, and this is decelerating the amount of funding that they share with local governments. On a positive note, the Town has a good collection rate for ad valorem taxes at 96.82% for this year.

As for expenses, the Town has been able to identify over \$158,000 in reduced costs by evaluating all programs and departmental expenditures that were necessitated by our loss of revenue. The Town evaluated staffing needs and identified two positions that were eliminated.

There was a bright area in the budget this year, and that is the production of revenue from occupancy taxes from vacation rental properties. The projected revenue from this source is expected to increase by 11% for the coming year. This indicates that the Town had a successful rental season and bodes well for the Town's Beach Fund which is used for beach related maintenance and renourishment activities. Occupancy taxes are restricted to be used only for beach nourishment projects, and "enhanced access" activities by the public. Also, this year the Town is requesting funds from Onslow County to assist in beach maintenance activities.

So all in all it is a challenging budget year, but the Mayor, Board of Aldermen, and Staff have done an admirable job in being good stewards of the taxpayer's money.

Have a wonderful and memorable summer here at the beach, and if the Town can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to call.

Steve Foster
Town Manager

NTB GIVES CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO ROGERS BAY POA FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO TOYS FOR TOTS

Mayor Tuman presented Ed Cramer, President of Rogers Bay POA with a certificate of appreciation from the Town of North Topsail Beach for the generous donations the Town received during last year's Toys for Tots Campaign.

The property owners of Rogers Bay have been contributing truckloads of toys to the program for several years.



Ed Cramer receiving Certificate of Rogers Bay POA at the January 6th Board of Aldermen Meeting

HURRICANE RE-ENTRY PASSES

The Town of North Topsail Beach began issuing car decals in 2010. The Town is going to use the decals on a two-year cycle, possibly longer (those issued in 2010 are good for 2011). Please place them on the bottom left side of your windshield. You will receive two passes per home only, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. If you sell your car, scrape your old decal off and bring proof of sale to Town Hall and the Town will issue a new decal. You must have current proof of residency (light bill, tax bill, etc.) to obtain a pass.

Please visit the Town's website at ntbnc.org (Living Here—Hurricane Preparedness) for instructions on how to obtain a pass and other information about hurricane preparation.

Change of Address

If you have a change of address please contact Onslow County's Tax Office at (910) 989-2200 or please write them at: 39 Tallman Street, Jacksonville, NC 28540.

We ask that you notify Town Hall with any changes in mailing address.



The season is upon us once again and we are looking forward to welcoming you back for the summer. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that while summer is a time to enjoy the beach and outdoor activities with friends and family, it also presents added dangers that require all of us to remain cautious and alert. Please be aware of Rip-Currents when enjoying the ocean. We also recommend that you do not swim in the New River Inlet due to the extreme currents. Parents please watch out for children playing on the beach. It has been our experience that it is easy for these little ones to wander off quickly when they are not being monitored even if only for a few moments. We have had a number of complaints about holes being dug on the beach and left uncovered. This presents a problem especially as night falls. Please ensure that you fill in any holes on the beach strand before you or your children leave it unattended, to prevent someone from being injured. Remember that all dogs must remain on leashes and it is the responsibility of the owner to pick up any waste left by the animal. Please deposit all trash in the proper receptacles located at each beach accesses, and refrain from taking glass and other potentially sharp items to the beach strand.

As with the beach strand, our streets and highways become crowded as well. We ask that you drive defensively and exercise patience and good judgment. Please obey all speed limits and be on the lookout for pedestrians and those on bicycles. We ask that our citizens and guests take advantage of the pedestrian/bike path that runs from the parking lot of Town Hall to the Town Park located at 465 New River Inlet Road. This path allows for greater safety measures to be taken when utilized properly. Golf Carts are not allowed to be operated on Public Streets and Highways. Nor is their operation permissible on the pedestrian/bike path. They may only be operated on areas of private property. I know that parking can be problematic, especially on weekends. However, we ask that you please park in designated parking areas only. The right of ways, vacant private lots, and the pedestrian/bike path cannot be utilized for parking. Officers will be actively addressing these issues so please make the necessary adjustments to avoid any potential problems.

It is our sincere wish that each of you have a safe and happy summer. If you have any questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or stop by. We will be happy to assist you in whatever way possible. Police Department administrative office hours are M-F 8-5 and you can reach us at (910) 328-0042. Officers are on duty 24/7 however, and can be reached through this number as well. In case of an emergency dial 911.

C. J. Fillinger
Chief of Police

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.
- **No construction debris** of any type will be picked up and **no mattresses and furniture** will be picked up.
- **Items that will be picked up shall consist of:**

White Goods – refrigerators, dishwashers, water heaters, washers, dryers, stoves, and microwaves.

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 starts June 1st, keep in mind your preparations lists 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**



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 oceanfront 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

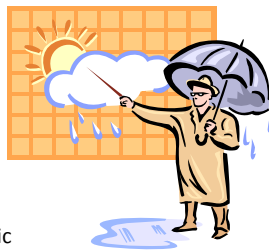
Joint action is required between all town departments and with Onslow County Emergency Operations Center in order to maximize resources and support for the safety of the citizens of the Town of North Topsail Beach. To help protect its citizens, the Town has developed and continues to update its Flood 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 GNI*WJNC 1240 AM *WKOO 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: ntbc.org www.noaa.gov

You may sign up for notification through the town's Connect-Cty service online at the Town's website ntbc.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

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

(Continued from page 6)

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 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 floodproofing - 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

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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.

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.