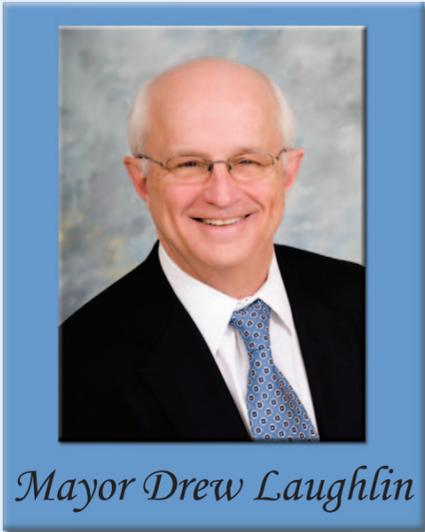


Our Town

A Newsletter of the Town of Hilton Head Island
 Brought to you by the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov (843)341-4600

Mayor's Note



Mayor Drew Laughlin

daily litter patrol, and family-friendly regulations.

Council recently voted to create a citizens' advisory task force charged with the responsibility to make recommendations to council regarding the formation of an economic entity that would, among other things, identify development and redevelopment opportunities. We need to explore how such an entity would be structured, what level of authority it would enjoy, and how it might fit into regional economic development efforts. In the event we create such an entity, we need to start out on the right foot because I believe its success will depend on how it is originally defined.

Redevelopment plans at the Mall at Shelter Cove have passed the Town Planning Commission, and the Town is working to finalize an agreement with the developer that will lay out all proposed land-use changes necessary for redevelopment and council's approval. A year ago, the real estate arm of the Kroger Company bought the 42-acre Mall site for \$17.3 million dollars. We've had the plans on the Town's website for months, so please take a look. Two of the benefits from

redevelopment here include a new waterfront park with a pier and an energized retail center that has shopping and dining. The plans won't please everyone. I hope all keep in mind that after investing \$17.3 million dollars to buy the property and the millions it will take to demolish (all but Belk's) and redevelop the property, Kroger has the right to develop the property within Town regulations. Some would have you believe that the Town has the authority to do whatever it wishes at the Mall site, and that is simply not true. We have and will work with the developer to ensure what is best for residents and visitors.

Town Council has asked Beaufort County officials to do what it can to minimize potential noise from the upcoming runway expansion. The goal is to create a noise buffer between the runway and properties such as Palmetto Hall, Baygall and the St. James Baptist Church. The County has agreed to consider our request and will study the issue.

In this Edition

<i>Hurricane Preparedness</i>	2
<i>Disaster Debris Removal</i>	3
<i>Mayor's Youth Volunteer Service Award</i>	3
<i>Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget</i>	4

Let's start this column with yet another positive accolade for our beautiful Island, namely, we came in second place in the 10Besties Readers' Choice Travel Awards for 2012. We received 2,660 of 18,504 votes and beat out destinations like Maui, HI; Sanibel Island, FL; and Coronado Beach, CA. Our 12 miles of "wide, flat beaches" was noted as well as the fact that "Hilton Head Island is a great combination of fun and relaxation." This beach accolade, among many, does not happen by accident. The Town has worked very hard at maintaining our beach by regular renourishment projects,

Town Manager's Note



Steve Riley

and soccer fields, pathways, roads and intersections must all be maintained to reflect our residents' high expectations. Over the years, we borrowed millions of dollars to pay for new parks, purchase land, build pathways and renourish the beach, and this and other budgets going forward are going to reflect the fact that we are paying off the debt associated with these projects. We also refinanced debt at lower rates for major savings. We took a risk when borrowing to provide amenities for residents and visitors, and we are gratified that we have balanced our dollars wisely and will soon retire some of our debt. This will free up dollars and council will consider what this means in future budgets.

We are adding to our 56 miles of pathways with additional pathways along William Hilton Parkway near Long Cove, Wexford and Town Hall. This will improve safety by adding pathways on this side of William Hilton Parkway and will surely bring more persons to commercial centers like the Village at Wexford. We're adding new crosswalks at Wexford and Shipyard Drives and at the Village

at Wexford and New Orleans Road. We're also adding a right-turn lane at William Hilton Parkway and New Orleans Road. Future plans include adding pathways at Fresh Market Shoppes and finally to Shelter Cove. We completed pathways along Gardner Drive to Mathews Drive to meet the pedestrian demands there. One day, we hope to have pathways pretty much the length of both sides of William Hilton Parkway.

Chaplin Linear Park is a concept plan council is considering. We have Tax Increment Financing (TIF) dollars to spend in three areas of the Island and depending upon what we do or don't do in Coligny, we may end up spending some TIF money for the Chaplin Linear Park plan. We're scaling down original conceptual plans here (Chaplin) so that council can select doable projects that will link new pathways along Broad Creek through Chaplin Community Park, over the marsh and to Collier Beach. Look for some movement here in the near future.

We just adopted our 2012-2013 fiscal year budget, and we are confident that despite a sluggish national economy and slowly improving local tourism economy, we will maintain our level of service and enhance amenities for residents and visitors. In the past few years, while we have reduced 16 positions, reduced our budget, and added greater levels of service, we know well that our parks, ball

Hurricane Preparedness

We are now officially back into the six month hurricane season. We should all be prepared to take action to lessen a storm's impact. The Town has worked with county and state officials to develop comprehensive plans to respond effectively and to ease the evacuation and re-entry processes. In addition, we have also developed strategies to expedite and ease our recovery efforts by establishing an emergency reserve account to fund these activities and by amending our Land Management Ordinance to facilitate a rapid reestablishment of our community following a hurricane or other disaster. In the event of a potential or actual storm strike, you play a key role in a successful pre- and post-disaster scenario. Your Town wants you to be prepared for whatever comes our way this year.

Prepare Your Home

- Consider covering all of your home's windows with pre-cut plywood or hurricane shutters to protect your windows from high winds.
- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage/recycling cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- Keep all trees and shrubs well-trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.
- Document, photograph or videotape possessions for insurance purposes.
- Close interior doors.

Prepare Your Business

- Carefully assess how your company functions, both internally and externally, to determine essential personnel, materials, procedures and equipment that are absolutely necessary to keep the business operating.
- Identify operations critical to survival and recovery.
- Plan what you will do if your building or store is not accessible.
- Consider if you are able to run the business from a different location or from your home.
- Develop relationships with other companies to use their facilities in case a disaster makes your location unusable.
- Document, photograph or videotape possessions for insurance purposes.

Listen to Local Officials

Learn about the emergency plans that have been established. Listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials. **Know your local radio stations and other media outlets.**

Evacuation

The Governor of South Carolina may issue a mandatory evacuation. You are encouraged to evacuate when instructed. Evacuations of specific areas may occur because authorities determine that there is an immediate threat to your life and safety. **PREPARE NOW.** Know where you will go if evacuated. Anticipate that roads on and off the Island will be congested and difficult to maneuver. **Leave early if possible.**

If you don't have reliable transportation of your own, you need to determine in advance what other options are available from your family, neighbors or local government. Please contact Hilton Head Island's Emergency Management Office in advance at (843) 682-5156 if you do not have transportation off the Island so we can assist you. For major evacuations, a shuttle will be provided from various locations on the Island to the Hilton Head Island Airport where residents and visitors will be transported to a mainland public shelter.

The following are pick-up points to be transported to the Hilton Head Island Airport where residents and visitors will be transported to a public shelter on the mainland via Palmetto Breeze buses:

- 151 Gumtree Road (in front of the Boys and Girls Club)
- 173 Marshland Road (in front of the Elks Club)
- 430 William Hilton Parkway (in front of Pineland Station)
- 450 Spanish Wells Road (in front of Grace Community Church)
- 24 Pope Avenue (in front of Holy Family Catholic Church)
- 663 William Hilton Parkway (in front of Hilton Head Resort)

If you have a medical condition that requires special attention or care, please contact the Hilton Head Island Emergency Management Office at (843) 682-5156, preferably before an event, in order to provide you assistance.

Sign-up for the Town's free e-subscription service which enables residents to subscribe to emergency alerts via email or text.

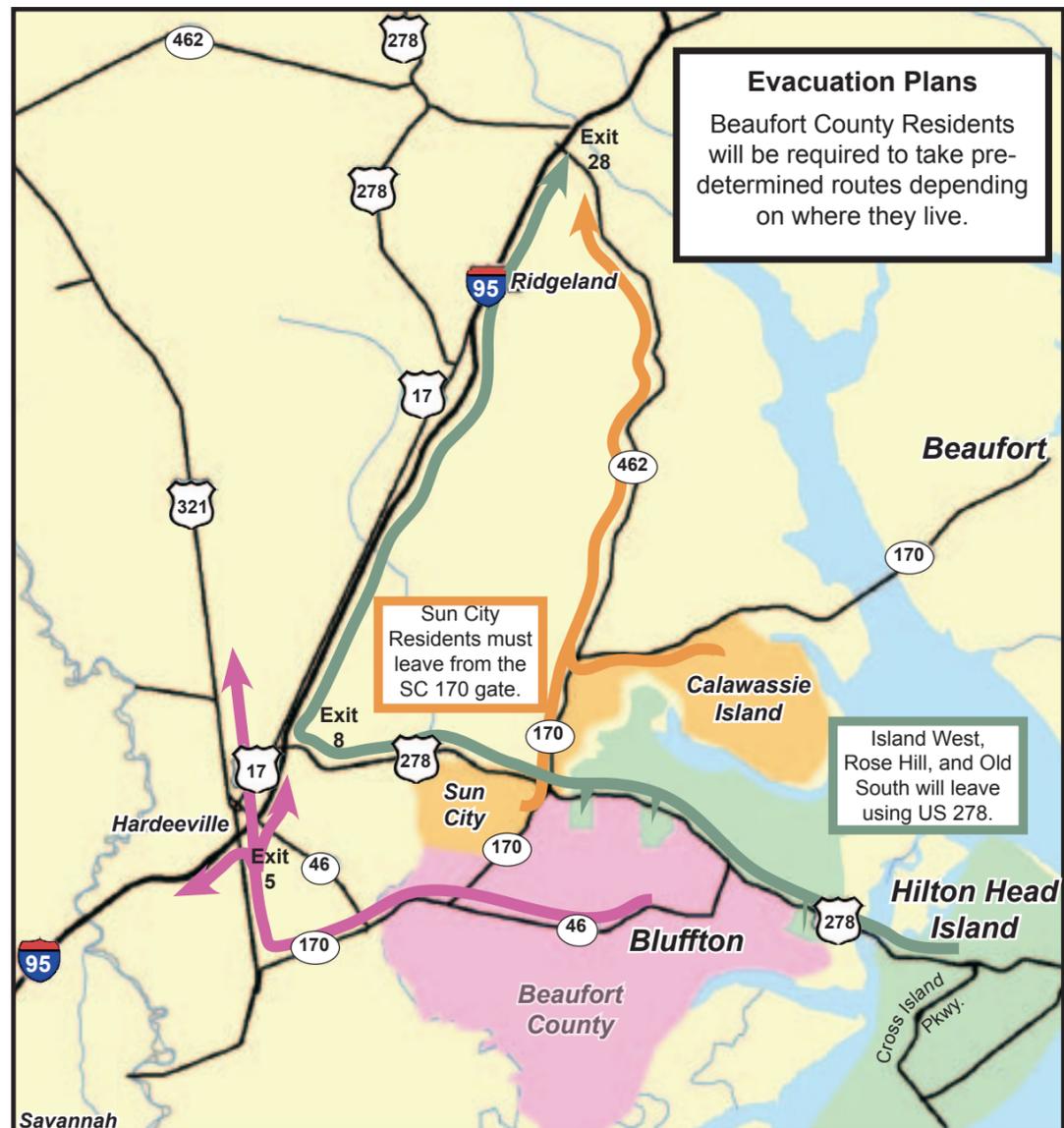


This e-subscription service will be used in conjunction with our existing website and Citizen Hotline (**1-800-963-5023**) to provide emergency information. The Town of Hilton Head Island will only utilize the "Emergency Alerts" Topic of our e-subscription service during an emergency or disaster, particularly in an evacuation or during the recovery from an event which has caused significant damage.

The Town encourages residents to sign-up for the e-subscription service and link it to their cell phone so that the messages will be received in a timely manner (standard text messaging rates will apply).

Visit our Website to sign-up today!

www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov



After-the-Storm Contact Information

While out of town, you can obtain updated information regarding Hilton Head Island by calling this toll free number: **1-800-963-5023**. Recorded messages will advise of road conditions, damage estimates, utility restoration, shelter information, re-entry times, and other pertinent information. You may also access this information on the following websites:

www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov and www.bcgov.net

Disaster Debris Removal

If a natural disaster strikes the Island and generates all sorts of debris ranging from building materials and tree limbs to electronics, the Town has a plan to deal with it. Our debris management plan helps prepare for and guide the Town's debris operations during our response and recovery efforts after a natural disaster. The Town has established contracts with CrowderGulf to remove, reduce, and dispose of disaster-generated debris and with Science Applications International Corporation to help monitor the debris operations.

Although the majority of the streets on the Island are maintained by others, the Town has agreements with the county, state and most of the private road owners to allow our contractors access to remove disaster-generated debris. In the event of a major storm, our first priority will be to clear debris from the roads for emergency personnel (fire/rescue and police) and to provide access to critical sites such as the hospital, government facilities, and the utility companies. After that, we will clear key routes based on priority of use, from major thoroughfares to the local streets.

Residents should be aware that it may take some time before residential streets are cleared of debris and standing water. Debris collection efforts will begin after the initial road clearance efforts are complete.

- Residents may expect that all debris will not be collected at once. Collection efforts will continue until it is determined that all storm-related debris has been satisfactorily removed.
- The Town will pick up disaster-related storm debris placed along the edge of the road on all publicly-maintained roads and private roads where right-of-entry has been granted.

Tips for Debris Removal

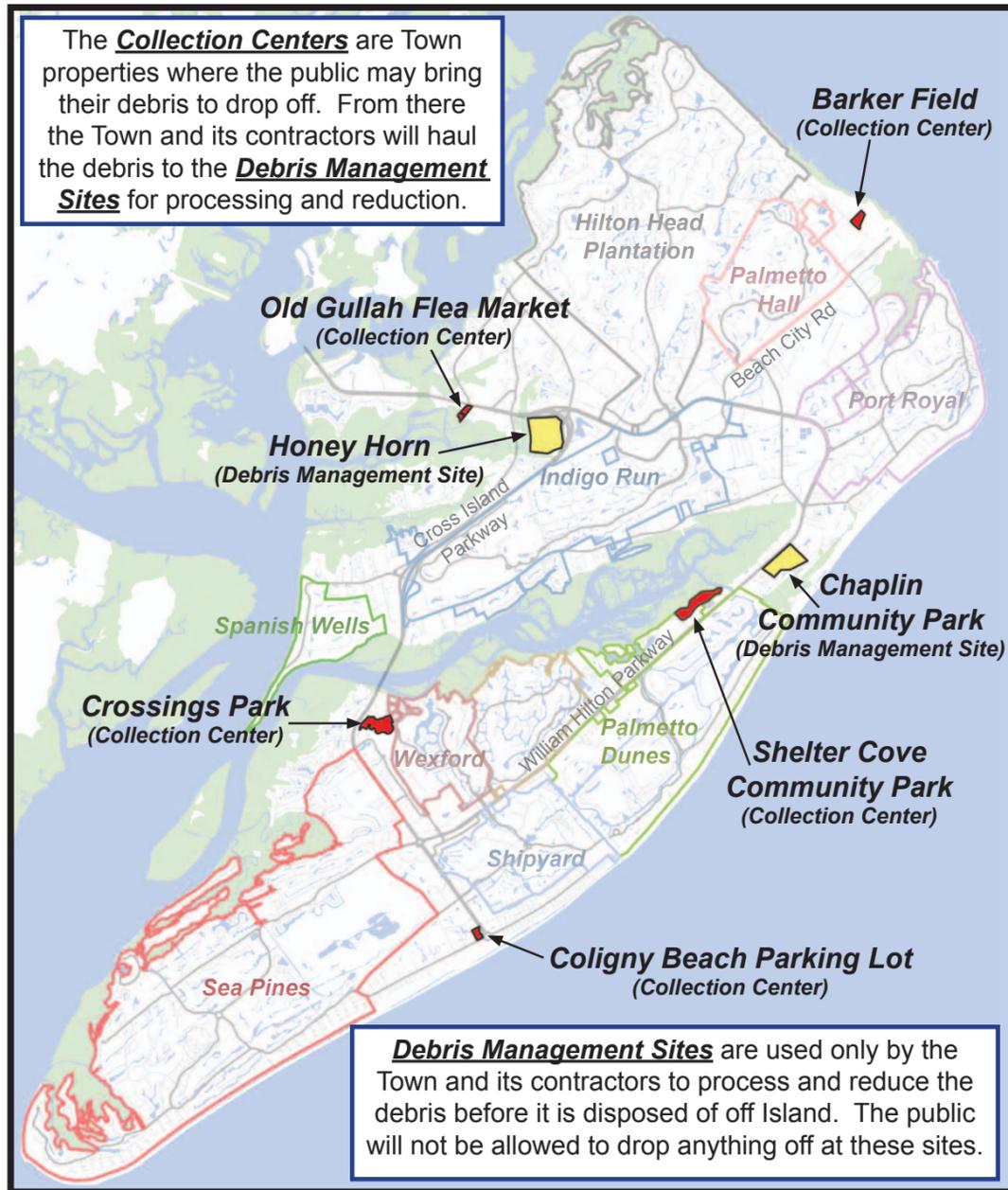
- DO NOT attempt to handle debris near downed power lines. Contact Palmetto Electric at (843) 208-5551 if you have questions about the status of lines near your home.
- Separate different types of debris to facilitate faster collection: loose vegetative debris; hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, etc.); appliances or "white goods" (refrigerators, air-conditioning units, etc.); and construction/demolition debris.
- Place debris along the curb or edge of the pavement as soon as possible after the storm in anticipation of collection.
- Keep debris away from utilities such as fire hydrants, cable or telephone boxes to avoid damage during pick up.
- Residents of multi-family developments may bring their debris to the nearest road right-of-way and ask their POA to coordinate rights-of-entry if the road is privately maintained.

- The Town may enter onto private property to remove storm-generated debris in accordance with Town Code, Title 9, Chapter 1, (Public Nuisances and abatement thereof) and Section 9-5-211 (Post-disaster Debris Collection).
- Follow the Town's web site after a storm to find out more details about debris removal: www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov.

The following temporary collection centers will be activated following a major storm where residents may drop off their debris for disposal:

- Coligny Beach Parking Lot (1 South Forest Beach Drive)
- Crossings Park (6 Haig Point Circle)
- Shelter Cove Community Park (2 Shelter Cove Lane)
- Barker Field (160 Mitchellville Road)
- Old Gullah Flea Market Site (120 William Hilton Parkway)

Once debris is collected on the road, road-side, or collection center, it will be transported to one of two debris management sites on the Island or the ultimate disposal site off Island. The two debris management sites identified are at Honey Horn and Chaplin Community Park. The debris will be segregated, processed, and vegetative debris will be reduced at the management sites prior to going to the ultimate disposal site or landfill. Residents will only be able to take storm-generated debris to the collection centers listed above and not to the debris management sites.



Mayor's Youth Volunteer Service Award

Mayor Drew Laughlin presented 47 Hilton Head Island middle school and high school students with the Mayor's Youth Volunteer Service Award at a special ceremony at Town Hall on Monday, May 14, 2012 to thank and honor these students who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspired others to engage in volunteer service and who have given their valuable time and effort into making a difference in our community.

Silver Level (51 to 100 hours):

Jillian Angner, Emily Blackshire, Jessica Bonilla, Hannah Brink, Dan Chambers, Marc Halseth, Kaeleigh Judge, Shane Judge, Peyton Leitner, Abigail Marlin, Darby O'Donnell, Kensley Phillips, Collins Richardson, Kayla Schauss, William Scheifele, Hannah Simpson, Emily Tedesco, Brad Tigges, Mark Tigges, Kaley VanEenaam, Ben Warner, Sydnee Wheeler, and Spencer Woolfolk.

Gold Level (101 to 150 hours):

Marielle Alexander, Adrian Austin, Conner Hollifield, Maya Nelander, and Justin Shaw.

Mayor's Call to Service Award (More than 150 hours):

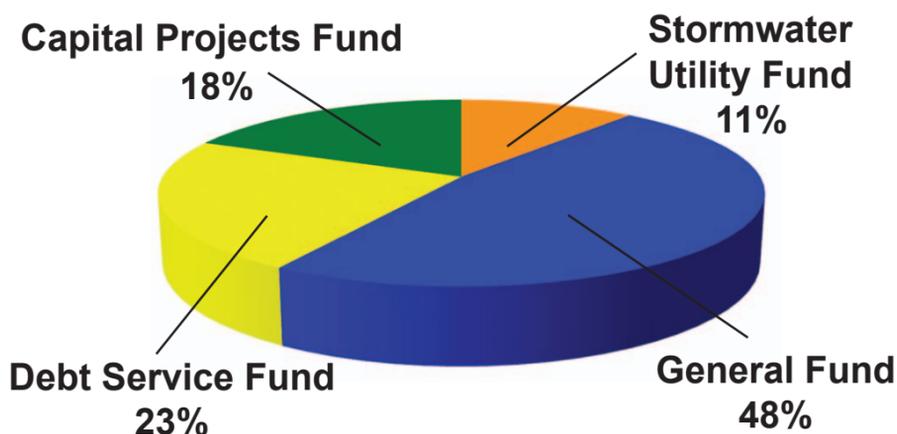
Erin Andersen, Tara Bianco, Austin Borasky, Caitlin Buckalew, Mary Hannah Carroll, Caroline Cauthen, Kaylee Ehlers, Nick Evangelista, Jasmyn Howell, Emma McGoldrick, Jean-Luc McMurtry, Kevin Palacio, Forest Richardson, Jane Whaley Rogers, Julia Swidzinski, Toere Taalib-din, Tommy Vater, Nicholas Wheeler, and Jean White.

Fiscal Year 2012/2013

Budget

The Town's annual budget allocates the resources to achieve Town goals and objectives established by both long-term and short-term priorities set by Town Council. The combined fiscal year 2012/2013 budgeted expenditures for the General Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Debt Service Fund and Stormwater Utility Fund (Enterprise Fund) is \$69,946,917. This represents a decrease of \$13.6 million or 16% less than the fiscal year 2011/2012 amended budget.

Expenditures by Fund Fiscal Year 2012/2013

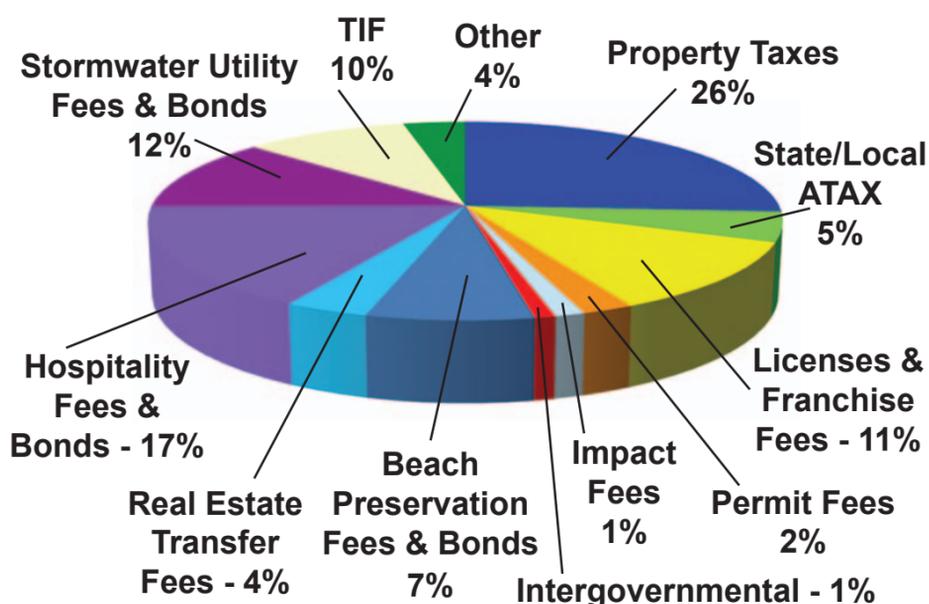


Where the Money Comes From

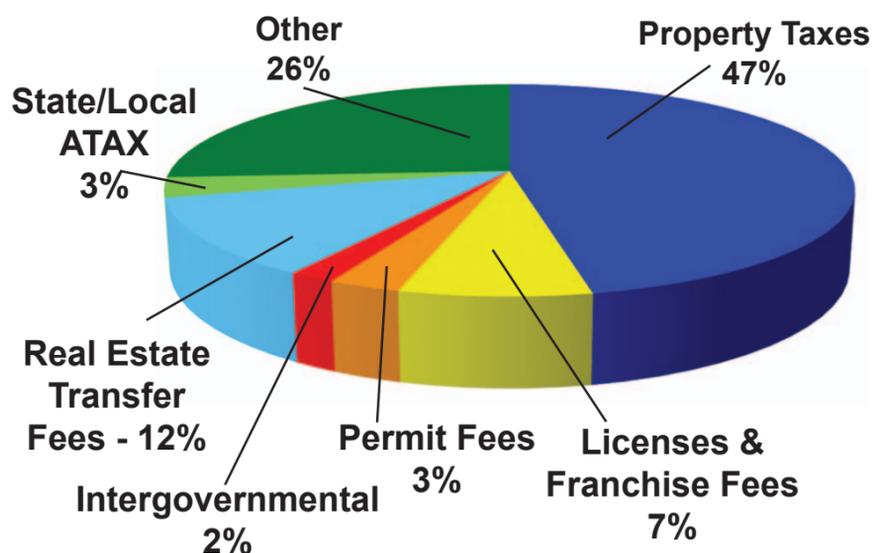
Consolidated Budget Revenue Sources

The pie charts below highlight the Town's progress in decreasing the reliance on a high percentage of property tax revenue from 47% in Fiscal Year 1994 as compared to 26% in Fiscal Year 2013. The increase in funding provided through other sources demonstrates the Town's ability to expand the diversity of its funding sources through the years.

Fiscal Year 2012/2013



Fiscal Year 1993/1994



The Town revenue sources are provided from taxes on real, personal, and vehicle property; business licenses; permits; fees; charges for services; and other miscellaneous revenue collections. Major categories of revenue are described below.

Taxes which are ad valorem property taxes collected during the fiscal year on real estate, personal property, and vehicles. This revenue is 26% of the consolidated budget at \$18.3 million.

Licenses and Franchise Fees which are business licenses, and cable, recycling and beach franchise fees raise \$8.2 million for the General Fund and will provide 11% of the consolidated budget.

Accommodations Taxes (ATAX) / Beach Preservation Fees and Bonds which are funds derived from taxes on short-term rental, hotels, and motel accommodations. The State mandates 2% tax, and the Town has a 2% Beach Fee and a 1% Local Accommodations Tax. These fees will provide \$8.7 million and represent 12% of the consolidated budget.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) in which funds derive from increased value above the baseline assessment when the TIF District was established. These taxes will provide \$6.9 million and represent 10% of the consolidated budget.

Hospitality Tax (HTAX) Bonds / Fees are proceeds from HTAX Bond and fees collected from a 2% tax imposed on the gross sales price of prepared meals and beverages. These fees will provide \$11.9 million and represent 17% of the total budget.

Stormwater Utility Fees and Bonds are proceeds from a stormwater utility bond and a fee charged by Beaufort County for management of the stormwater system within the Town. These fees will provide \$8.2 million and represent 12% of the total budget.

Other revenue includes impact fees, permit fees, real estate transfer fees, and miscellaneous revenue (contributions, municipal fines and fees, intergovernmental funds, emergency medical services, and interest income). Total revenue from these sources is \$8.4 million or 12% of the total budget.

Where the Money Goes by Program Fiscal Year 2012/2013

