

Dear Residents and Property Owners of Surf City:

Welcome to the Surf City Beach Project Funding Webpage.

This webpage is your instant access to all things related to the future funding for construction of the Surf City Federal Beach Project. While the construction start date is not yet set, the Corps of Engineers and the Town are wrapping up the beach project design process and it is time to get ready for eventual construction of the project, expected in 2014 or 2015. Just like buying a car or adding on to your home or business, it is best to save in advance when you know you're going to face a new expense. Well, as a community we need to begin saving for construction of our beach project and we would like your help in deciding how best to do that.

Whether you are a year-round resident or an out-of town property owner, we all know the City's beautiful beaches are critical to the town's future. Over the next six months, the Town will be hosting a series of open public workshops on how to begin saving for beach restoration project. We encourage all residents and property owners to join in the process, even those owners who live out-of-town. This webpage will be used to announce the public workshops, let you know how you can join the discussion whether you are in-town or in Ohio, update you on emerging funding ideas as they emerge, and seek you input as we decide what funding options we, as a community, should consider and which one is best for us.

The Town has retained Peter Ravella and his firm, PAR Consulting, LLC (PARC), to help the Town find the best funding plan, one that is fair and tailored to the needs of our community. Mr. Ravella has successfully worked with many beach towns on this issue and has the experience to help us. You are invited to contact Mr. Ravella at any time during the financial planning process to share your ideas, concerns, questions or comments. He can be reached by phone at 512-784-3565 or by email at peter@ravellaconsulting.com. If you're not sure where things stand as we move along, feel free to pick up the phone and call Peter. His job is to help us keep you informed.

As you all know, Surf City has a long and successful history of planning ahead for the major capitol needs for our community, whether it is water and sewer projects or the maintenance of the beach. Fiscal responsibility and prudent decisions have helped us keep the Town's debt burden and tax rate low. Local residents and property owners rightfully expect the Town to plan future capitol projects in an open way that allows citizens the full opportunity to participate in these major community decisions. Surf City leaders and its citizens take great pride in the careful and prudent use of public funds. We want that tradition to continue as we face this next challenge together.

More than a decade ago, the Town established a dedicated Beach Fund, supported by local occupancy taxes, a portion of the town's property tax revenues, and contributions from Pender County. In this planning process, we have also had the financial support of the State of North Carolina and the federal government. Our Beach Fund has paid for the Town's share of the planning, design and permitting of the Federal Beach Project. By careful management, the Town is running a positive balance in Beach Fund today. But, moving from the planning process to actual construction and restoration of the beach is a big step. As you know, to successfully restore the beach we all love, the town needs to be financially prepared when the dredge company comes to pump sand on the beach and we get that first bill from the contractor.

Beginning next month, Mr. Ravella and PARC will be hosting a series of public workshops to explore the potential options to save money for the Town's share of the Federal Beach Project. The workshop schedule is below.

Each workshop will be repeated to allow you two opportunities to participate. For example, the materials presented at Workshop 1A will be identical to those presented and Workshop 1B and so on. Workshop presentation materials will be made available on this webpage so you can download the presentations to your computer and all workshops will be recorded so you can listen to them at any time. For those of you out of town, you will be able to attend and participate in the workshops on-line and in real time. While this will be an audio, not a video feed (as we do not have that broadcast capability), you will be able to see the presentation materials, listen to presentations and discussion, and send in your own questions and comments during the workshop. So, check back to this webpage for details on how you can participate on-line.

Before each workshop, every property owner in town will receive a postcard in the mail confirming the date, time and place for the next workshop. Email reminders will also be sent out in advance.

Please plan to attend as many of the workshops as you would like. We need your input and help to develop a beach project-funding plan that is right for our community. The financial planning workshops are intended to provide all of Town's residents and property owners with a direct and meaningful opportunity to learn about the federal beach project, the likely costs, options to fund our local share, how much financial support we can expect from the federal government and the state, and possible ways for the community to pay its share in a manner that is fair and equitable for the residents and property owners.

Please plan to attend the Opening Beach Project Financing Workshop coming up November 3. PARC will be updating you on the federal beach project, outlining the funding options used in other communities, discussing various funding approaches we may wish to consider, and asking for your initial comments and help to expand our dedicated beach savings account. We want and need your input in this process.

Over the course of the financial planning process, PARC will be adding to this webpage, including:

- **Project Documents** – here we'll post copies of PowerPoint presentations, documents, and other materials used in the workshops to keep you up to date;
- **Project Calendar** -- the calendar will include public workshops, events, project schedule, and opportunities for public participation; and
- **Frequently Asked Questions** -- where we'll try to compile in a single place answers to the most common questions we encounter.

Thanks for dropping in to the Surf City Beach Project Funding Webpage. Add this to your "Web Favorites" and make it a regular stop when you surf the web.

We look forward to working with the community to restore and maintain our beautiful beaches.

A.D. (Zander) Guy, Jr.
Mayor, Surf City

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