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The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) newly revised preliminary digital flood insurance rate maps for Horry County, SC are available for public viewing. Flood maps show the extent of areas at risk for flooding and are used to determine flood insurance rates, building requirements, and inform future development patterns. The County's flood maps were last updated in 1999. Over time, flood risks change due to construction and development, environmental changes, floodplain widening or shifting, and other factors. Flood maps are updated periodically to reflect these changes and as better technology, flood hazard, and risk data come available. The ultimate goal of updating the maps is to better inform developers, engineers, property owners and the community of flood risks so they can design more resilient neighborhoods and structures or retrofit existing buildings. FEMA has been in the process of updating Horry County's flood maps for many years, and the map changes are not associated with recent flood events.

More than 18,000 properties are being added to the flood zone, including portions of Bucksport, Loris, Myrtle Beach, and Socastee that were never in the flood zone in the past. The County has sent over 65,000 postcards to those property owners who are currently in a flood zone, may be added to a flood zone, or deleted from a flood zone to inform them of these preliminary map updates. Additionally, the County and neighboring jurisdictions have held two public open houses to inform property owners of the changes, learn about their risk of flooding, and talk to specialists about what the new maps will mean for their property.

The preliminary flood zone maps can be viewed at www.horrycounty.org. Property owners can compare these maps with the current flood zone maps to see if they will be impacted by the changes. Property owners should be aware of these changes, as federally regulated or insured mortgage lenders require flood insurance on properties located in the flood zone. Know that homes and businesses that do not have mortgages can also obtain flood insurance, in addition to renters and even properties outside of the designated flood zone. Flood insurance policies can be purchased from any state licensed property and casualty insurance agent. Visit www.floodsmart.gov for more information about flood insurance and to locate a local agent. The [Horry County Emergency Management](http://www.horrycounty.org/emergency) website also provides information on how to protect your family and assets before, during, and after a flood.

Highways and Byways...

THE ANNUAL LITTER INDEX REPORT THE STATE OF OUR ROADS REGARDING LITTER

On February 23rd of this year, 8 cars loaded with 16 volunteers were driven by Planning employees around the County on pre-determined routes as they assessed the amount of litter they saw. The locations to assess may have been an intersection, a highway interchange, a section of roadway, a boat landing or a public park. Any illegal dump sites found are also noted on this assessment. This drive through the County is known as the Litter Index and is a yearly requirement for Keep Horry County Beautiful (KHCB) as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. This visual assessment helps the County to determine the state of the communities appearance, in regards to both litter and illegal signs. Litter Indexes have been conducted annually since March

Date	Number of Locations	Number of Volunteers
March 2011	77	9
December 2012	56	11
June 2013	84	15
June 2014	106	18
March 2015	113	10
February 2016	107	16

2011 as shown in the chart to the left. Since June of 2013 the trend has been to add sites to the assessment list. This year however several of the boat landings on the routes could not be assessed due to the flooding. In reality assessment sites are

continuing to grow. Locations are added to the list as we get complaints about areas, as areas are “adopted” by clean up groups or at the request of a County Council member.

Cumulative Litter Index Results	2016		2015		2014		2013		2012	
	Litter	Sign								
	2.07	1.45	2.14	1.23	1.80	1.32	1.99	1.40	2.05	1.15

Participants use a grading system developed by Keep America Beautiful. If a site had minimal or no litter, it would score a 1; if a site was slightly littered, it would score a 2; if a site was littered, it would score a 3; and if a site was extremely littered, it would score a 4. The scoring system for illegal signs is similar with a 1 meaning no illegal signs, a 2 meaning the site was slightly cluttered, a 3 meaning the site was cluttered and a 4 meaning the site was extremely cluttered.

The overall Litter Index Score was slightly better this year over last years score. This improvement could be the result of the litter crews who work full time to clean the major roadways in the County. The road crews cleaned 3,500 miles of roadway, totaling 15,032 bags of litter, 423 tires, 59 mattress/couch/refrigerators/large items and 138 illegal dump sites. On Hwy 501 between the city limits of Conway and Myrtle Beach 1,753 bags of litter have been cleaned up. This amounts to

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FEMA FLOOD MAPS CONTINUED

Horry County’s preliminary maps have not yet been officially adopted. There is a public comment and appeal period, which will end on June 1st of this year. The appeal period allows the public to submit comments and appeals if they can show that any part of the maps is in error, using an approved engineering study. Once the public comment and appeal period is completed and input considered, there will be a six month compliance period before Horry County may adopt the maps. The map adoption process is expected to minimally take one year, but could take longer depending on a variety of factors. Only after the maps are officially adopted, should property owners see possible changes in their insurance. And if you are interested in measures to minimize flood impacts on your property, contact Ashley Carroll, Horry County Natural Hazard Program Manager at 843-915-5150.

If you have questions regarding the flood map updates or have questions regarding the appeal process, contact the Flood Plain personnel for your area

- Horry County - Mike O’Dea, 843-915-5090
- Conway—Billy Sawyer, 843-488-9888
- Loris—Mike Haggie, 843-756-4004
- Myrtle Beach—Emily Hardee, 843-918-1111
- North Myrtle Beach—John Hill, 843-280-5555
- Surfside—Sabrina Morris, 843-913-6111

Under the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, You Could Save More than \$90,000 over 10 Years if You Build 3 Feet above Base Flood Elevation

PREMIUM AT 4 FEET BELOW
BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

\$9,500/year

\$95,000/10 years



BFE

PREMIUM AT
BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

\$1,410/year

\$14,100/10 years



BFE

PREMIUM AT 3 FEET ABOVE
BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

\$427/year

\$4,270/10 years



BFE

*\$250,000 building coverage only (does not include contents), AE (high to moderate risk) zone, single-family, one-story structure without a basement at: 4 feet below Base Flood Elevation (BFE); at BFE; and at 3 feet above BFE. (Rating per FEMA flood insurance manual, (October 1, 2012). The illustration above is based on a standard National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) deductible.

Source: Build Back Safer and Stronger—What You need to Know, F-777 <http://fema.gov/media library/assets/documents/29837>

The Annual Litter Index Report

Continued from page 2

one bag of trash for every nine steps! Or the improved index could be the result of 14 adoption groups working diligently to pick up litter on adopted roadways, boat landings and parks.

The time of year the Litter Index is conducted makes a difference in the assessment also. During the winter months, the grass dies and the litter is more easily seen. During the spring and summer months when the grass is growing, it hides the litter so the Litter Index has been moved to February.

No matter what the cause for the improvement in the Litter Index, one thing remains and that is litter is still a big problem in Horry County. Not only is litter unsightly, it also increases flooding. Litter on the side of the road can end up in the ditches. Then the rainfall carries litter to the tiles and drains and clogs them. The waters rise and Stormwater and Public Works employees have to clear the tiles and drains. In addition, illegal dumpsites have to be investigated by HC Police Department. Property taxes pay for all these services. So what is to be done about it? With all this in mind Horry County Council has signed Resolution R-17-16 establishing a “NO BREAK FOR LITTERING ZONE” in Horry County. Anyone caught littering or illegally dumping in Horry County will be ticketed. This resolution states violators “should be penalized to the maximum extent under law and shall be given no break.”



Trash blown into a ditch has the potential to cause flooding!



Cleanups are only one piece to the puzzle in keeping Horry County litter free.

In addition to the new resolution, Keep Horry County Beautiful representatives Bo Ives and Betty Gause along with Planning Assistant Nancy Tindall went to the SC Litter Control & Keep South Carolina Beautiful Conference. Although they learned a lot of new information, what stuck out most to them were the findings that 4% of the population is responsible for litter and the intentional violators are males from ages 17 to 34.

The main message they heard while at the conference is that it is not enough to keep America beautiful with cleanup efforts, but that they have to emphasize the importance of changing behavior. This is now the focus for KHCB this year, “Changing Behavior.”



KHCB will focus on education this year

The month of April has many events planned which provides many opportunities to get involved. Stop by the KHCB educational booth at Baby Animal Day Playcard—April 8th from 8 am till about 1:30 pm, Earth Day @ the Bay—April 16th from 11 am till 2 pm, or the Earth Fair at CCU—April 20th from 11 am to 2 pm. Visit us on facebook or call Nancy Tindall at 843-915-7893 for a complete list of events during April and how you can get involved.



The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board will meet on April 26th at 12:30 pm at the Horry County Government and Justice Building in Conway. The Board will be considering the update to the Horry County Parks and Open Space Plan for approval. Additionally, the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge will be presenting on its role in natural resource protection and the outdoor recreation opportunities it provides.

There are multiple positions available or coming available on the Board, including County Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 10. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on this board, please contact Leigh Kane for more information at 915-7034 or kanel@HorryCounty.org. For more information on this board, visit <http://www.horrycounty.org/Boards/ParksandOpenSpace.aspx>



Keep Horry County Beautiful completed the annual Litter Index in February—see article starting on page 2. The Great America Cleanup started on March 20th and runs through May 31st. KHCB and other local groups have many events scheduled for the month of April; 4/8 - Baby Animal Day at Playcard Environmental Education Center, 4/8 to 4/10—Carolina Forest Blvd, River Oaks & International Dr. Cleanup, 4/16—Intracoastal Waterway Riversweep, Market Common Great American Cleanup, & Earth Day at the Bay, 4/17—West Cox Ferry Road Cleanup, 4/20— 2016 Earth Fair at CCU, 4/22— Palmetto Pointe Blvd. Cleanup, 4/23—Enterprise Boat Landing Cleanup, & The Boat Landing Cleanup. For information to join in with one of these groups or to get your own cleanup going in your neighborhood contact Nancy Tindall as shown below.

The Keep Horry County Beautiful Committee meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 11:30 am in the Horry County Government and Justice Building in Conway. The next meeting is April 26th and the public is invited to attend. KHCB is always seeking community cleanup partners. If you would like to adopt a road or park in your community, or for more information, please contact Nancy Tindall at (843)915-7893 or tindalln@horrycounty.org.



The Horry County Board of Architectural Review

The Horry County Board of Architectural Review (BAR) & Historic Preservation will be holding their next meeting on April 19th, 2016. May is National Historic Preservation Month, and Horry County Board of Architectural Review celebrates this month every year by hosting the Historic Preservation Awards. This year it will be held on May 17th at 2:30 pm at the McCown Auditorium at the Horry County Museum in Conway. The ceremony includes a welcome, a recount of historic preservation efforts within Horry County, the presentation of certificates to those properties that were added to the Horry County Historic Register in the last year, the presentation of High School Video Contest winners, and the presentation of the Historic Preservation Awards. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

The BAR is currently working on the Legacy Business Recognition Program by acknowledging the Bower, Duffy's and Gay Dolphin in Myrtle Beach this June. Final dates have not yet been set but check the BAR's Facebook page for updates. For more information about these projects or to contribute to them please contact Mary Catherine Hyman at 843-915-7891 or email at hymanm@horrycounty.org.

2016 Meeting Calendar

April

- 5 County Council; 6:00 PM
- 7 Planning Commission; 5:30 PM
- 11 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30 PM
- 19 County Council; 6:00 PM
- 19 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30 PM
- 26 Keep Horry County Beautiful; 11:30 PM
- 26 Parks and Open Space Board; 12:30 PM
- 28 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00 PM



May

- 3 County Council; 6:00 PM
- 5 Planning Commission; 5:30 PM
- 9 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30 PM
- 17 County Council; 6:00 PM
- 17 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30 PM
- 24 Keep Horry County Beautiful; 11:30 PM
- 26 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00 PM
- 30 Memorial Day—Offices Closed



June

- 2 Planning Commission; 5:30 PM
- 7 County Council; 6:00 PM
- 13 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30 PM
- 21 County Council; 6:00 PM
- 21 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30 PM
- 30 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00 PM



One last note:

Winners of the High School Video Contest

In August of 2015, Planning staff contacted high schools in the County regarding the Horry County Local Historical Sites and Structures High School Video Contest. Staff received 14 awesome videos this year! The BAR reviewed and judged the submitted videos at the January 2016 meeting. Cash prizes are awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, \$250, \$150 and \$100. In the past, the winners were contacted immediately after judging, and a check was sent to them in the mail. This year, the BAR decided to present the awards at the annual BAR Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony on May 17th. Staff contacted the winners and only told them that they are in the top 3, and the checks would be presented at the ceremony. The top three videos, in no particular order, are : “The Cherry Grove Pier” by Mackenzie Miller, Evangelia Lawrence, and Lilly Gann; “Nye’s Pharmacy” by Alyssa Hodges, Jessica Gaydos, and Grace Johnson; and “One Day on Carver Street” by Azure Allen.

The Horry County Video Contest was created in 2012. The objective is for high school students to create local history related videos, telling the story of a building or a site and thereby increasing their awareness of local history and enhancing the public’s knowledge of local historical structures or sites. All high school students in the County are challenged to create a 3 minute or less video about any site or structure that is more than 50 years old and is located within Horry County. Videos are reviewed based upon the following criteria: incorporation of local history; creativity, originality, and impact; informational content; entertainment value/interest level; accuracy of information; and production quality.



To view all 14 videos go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcNmOjok4UorbepTEf6737Q>