

**City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina**  
**Accomplishments**  
January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

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**Mayor**  
F. Michael Sottile

**Mayor Pro Tem**  
Carol M. Rice

**City Council**  
Marty Bettelli  
Ryan Buckhannon  
Dick Cronin  
Brian Duffy  
Michael Loftus  
Ralph Piening  
Dee Taylor

**City Administrator**  
Linda Lovvorn Tucker

### **2008 Projects**

**Bulkhead Replacement:** Prior to Council's approval of the project, the Real Property Committee worked extensively over a series of months with consulting engineers Jon-Guerry Taylor, the Marina tenants and City staff regarding project considerations. After approval, a Request For Proposals was developed for Marina Bulkhead Replacement. Staff and engineers held a mandatory pre-bid conference, issued a formal response to questions, held a bid opening, reviewed received bids, made a recommendation and executed a contract after Council had passed a motion to award the contract. Construction began in the fall and continues through the end of the year with an expected completion in the Spring. City staff has posted a photo gallery of the project and has worked with reporters to create good community report. The goal is to improve the safety and functionality of the marina while creating the least amount of disruption possible.



**Administrator Tucker Shakes Hands at the Start of Construction on the Marina Bulkhead**

**Beach Restoration:** The beach restoration project was not part of the original work plan for the year, but the acute nature of the erosion necessitated that the City take immediate action. The project required extensive coordination between nineteen entities, including regulatory agencies, stakeholders and contractors, and staff kept in regular communication with all affected parties. The City secured permits from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Ocean & Coastal Resource Management (SCDHEC OCRM) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the project. The initial permit was issued on March 18, 2008 and the Certificate of Substantial Completion was issued on June 25, 2008. A webpage and signage were developed to keep visitors and residents informed about the status of the project. The City lobbied in at the State Level for legislation favorable to the project and secured a contribution from Charleston County for \$900,000 as well as a grant from SCDHEC OCRM for \$1,000,000. A contract was awarded to a marine monitoring company to ensure protect of endangered species during the project. The City closed a bond to finance its portion of the project via the pledge of Municipal Accommodations Fees. Completion of the construction portion of the project happened well before anticipated, and no significant problems were encountered. The City also created a fund to be proactive in accumulating funds to address future erosion problems before they become extreme.



**Isle of Palms Beach after Restoration**

**Demonstration Project at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue:** Staff coordinated between Police, Fire, and the South Carolina Department of Transportation regarding the implementation of demonstration project at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Direct mail, the website and the e-newsletter were used as communications conduits for the change. This project continues to be monitored on a regular basis.

**Public Safety Building Construction:** Other than the Beach Restoration project, the Public Safety Building project represents the largest building project undertaken by the City since Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Demolition of Station 1 was completed early in the year and the site was prepared for construction. The City hosted a groundbreaking on May and executed the contract with Mashburn Construction. Construction began onsite in June. City staff attends regular meetings with the contractor to monitor the progress of construction, which is expected to be complete in 2009.



**Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Public Safety Building**

**Court Administration:** The City held twenty-two (22) successful sessions of Municipal Court as well as nine (9) sessions of Livability Court. A total of 3,320 cases, including civil, criminal and traffic, were processed by the court, which regularly liaised with SLED, the Charleston County Solicitor's Office, the Department of Motor Vehicles in Columbia and Charleston County Court.

**Communications:** The e-newsletter completed its first full year of publication, and more than 1,000 people are subscribers. Staff developed two specialized editions of the electronic newsletter, the "Recreation Edition" to highlight events in the Recreation Department and the "Visitors Edition" to inform island visitors of rules and resources during the season.

**Hurricane Hanna/Disaster Preparedness:** During the busy hurricane season, the City was in the projected path of at least one major storm, Hurricane Hanna, which at one point forced the region to function in Operating Condition One. In response to the conditions, the City coordinated with all departments to ensure maximum response available in the event of a hurricane. The website was updated frequently to encourage residents to make their personal preparations. The Public Works department removed as much debris from the island as possible and swept the beach for debris. All fuel tanks were filled and small generators, chain saws and pumps were stocked and tuned. Sand bags were filled and stocked for rapid deployment. An emergency disaster debris removal contract was executed. City Hall staff handled an inundation of requests for information, hurricane stickers, evacuation maps and disaster plans. Fire Department personnel assisted several elderly and special needs residents with preparations. The Police department ensured that all available equipment and personnel was prepared for duty. The City worked with Charleston County on their computer-based Emergency Management Center. While the City was lucky to only be minimally affected by storm damage, the intensity of our preparations demonstrated that the City is capable of making the best response possible in a disaster event. A damage assessment was prepared and submitted after the event.

**Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission held a series of workshops with commercial district stakeholders to discuss the future of the district. Work on this project was not conclusive, but valuable input was received that will aid the Commission in their future work in this area. The City's Comprehensive Plan was reviewed and updated with the intention of presenting a finished product to Council in 2009. The Planning Commission also began work on analyzing the effectiveness of recently adopted short term rental regulations and the allowable size of new structures in the City.

**Digitization of Files:** The Building Department executed the digitization of all existing property files, which will allow more efficient storage and document retrieval.

## 2008 Legislation

**Beach Debris and Holes Ordinance:** The City worked in committee for several months to develop draft of ordinance, receiving input from various community members. The Ordinance 2008-03 was ratified and began being enforced in June. The City executed contract with vendor to fill-in beach holes. After review of the process for collection, staff developed tagging system to indicate debris eligible for removal.

**Recodification:** Staff worked with Council, the City Attorney and the vendor Municode to progress towards a recodification of the City's municipal code of laws as required every ten years by state law. This process required extensive research and review by all involved. The goal is to improve the code by eliminating errors and ensuring that it is consistency with current state law. The recodification is expected to be implemented in calendar year 2009.

**Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan:** Revisions on the plan were completed and brought before Council for approval. A public hearing was held to allow citizens to make public comment on the plan. Subsequently, the plan was submitted to SCDHEC OCRM and won agency approval on April 7, 2008, giving the City its first plan since the state law was passed in 1988.

**Smoking Ordinance:** Council worked with staff and the City Attorney to develop Ordinance 2008-08, which prohibits smoking in places of employment. Extensive research was performed regarding smoking ordinances passed by other municipalities. In addition, a work session and several public meetings were held during the process.

### 2008 Awards

**Municipal Association of South Carolina Achievement Award:** On July 18, 2008, Council Members and City staff attended the annual MASC awards breakfast to accept an Achievement Award for the Bark Park. The MASC recognized the City's innovative use of fencing remaining from the construction of the Recreation Center Expansion to create a dog park which has become a social gathering ground for four-legged and two-legged residents. The award considered entries from all over the state.



**MASC Award Ceremony**

**Programming Award:** The Recreation Department won an Innovative Programming award from South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association for Doggie Day at the Rec.

**CALEA Re-Accreditation:** In March of 2008, the Isle of Palms Police Department was officially Re-Accredited for the second time by CALEA, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Key staff and the Public Safety Committee traveled to Atlanta to receive the official award, which signifies that the Isle of Palms Police Department has been successfully operating under CALEA approved policies for nine consecutive years.

The Accreditation Manager has begun the process to provide necessary proofs in preparation for the next three-year cycle to be Re-Accredited for the third time. The Accreditation Manager and the Assistant Accreditation Manager attended Assessor Training in 2008 and recently performed a Mock Inspection at the Sumter Police Department. The Police Chief and the Accreditation Manager also performed a Mock Inspection at the Goose Creek Police Department.



**CALEA Re-Accreditation Award**

**Traffic Safety Award:** The AAA Carolina Foundation named the Isle of Palms the Outstanding Traffic Safe Community for 2008 for traffic safety. The department was named in the category of less than 10,000 in population, and specifically recognized for the innovative use of a new traffic survey device used to follow-up traffic complaints and if needed set up selective traffic enforcement in trouble area. The department's proactive approach to traffic enforcement was also recognized.

**Silver Award for Fire Station 2 Design:** Isle of Palms Fire Station 2, which was completed in 2007, was awarded the Silver Award for Design by *Fire Chief Magazine*. The award recognizes the accomplishment of designing a facility that meets several unique challenges, including cost effectiveness. IOP Fire Station 2 was featured in the November issue of the magazine and in a promotional calendar.



**Fire Station 2 Design**

**Honorable Mention:** Fire Station 2 received an honorable mention from FIERO, Fire Industry Equipment Research Organization.

**Business Week Highlight:** *Business Week* magazine included the Isle of Palms on a short list of American cities. The article featured towns that retain both property values and the desirable features of small town life.



## 2008 Grants

**Handicapped Accessibility for 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue Walkover:** The City reviewed bids and awarded contract to replace and widen beach walkover at 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue to allow for greater elderly and handicapped accessibility. Building Department staff oversaw project construction. This project was funded in part by a grant from the Charleston County Community Development Board, which includes strict grant and reporting guidelines. Staff successfully administered and adhered to these guidelines to ensure complete reimbursement.



**Grant Award for Gym Ceiling:** The Recreation Department won a Parks and Recreational Development Fund (PARD) Grant in the amount of \$17,482.50 for gym ceiling.

**Grant Award for Playground Equipment:** The Recreation Department won a Parks and Recreational Development Fund (PARD) Grant in the amount of \$2,800 that will be used for outdoor furnishings and playground equipment.

**Grants for Beach Restoration:** As mentioned earlier in this report, the City successfully applied for and was awarded a total of \$1,900,000 from the State and County for the beach restoration project.

**Ways and Means Committee**  
Dee Taylor, Chair  
Members of City Council

**Restructuring of Marina Bond:** In early 2008, the City consulted with bond attorneys and determined that the best interests of the City would be served by refinancing the tax-exempt Marina bond as a taxable issue. Staff conducted an extensive analysis of the current Marina bond as well as multiple options for refinancing to determine which option would allow the City the greatest strength and flexibility in its relationship with Marina tenants. On Council's recommendation, the marina bond was restructured. The City worked with the bondholder, The Bank of America, to facilitate this change and an Amending Bond Ordinance was ratified on April 22, 2008. It should be noted that the only term of the original bond agreement that changed was the interest rate; the repayment schedule was not extended and the bond will be paid off as originally planned.

**Beach Restoration Financing:** As Council considered actions related to the erosion situation, numerous analyses were prepared to quantify many key variables, such as potential accommodations tax impacts, property value losses and public access implications. Once the decision was made that the City would in fact participate monetarily, several scenarios were prepared for Council's consideration to facilitate discussions as to how much of a financial contribution was feasible and how such funds were to be raised. Ultimately, City Council voted on January 10, 2008 to make a total financial commitment of \$2 million, most of which would be borrowed with the security being a pledge of future accommodations-related revenues. A Reimbursement Resolution was adopted on February 26, 2008 and a request for proposals to finance a \$1.7 million bank qualified loan was issued and bids accepted on May 12, 2008. Ordinance 2008-05 authorizing the City to enter into the loan agreement was ratified on May 27, 2008 and the loan was closed on June 10, 2008 with BB&T as the successful bidder.

**Public Safety Building Financing:** Efforts to secure financing for the new Public Safety Building began in August 2007 when the City worked with The McNair Firm to pass a Reimbursement Resolution dated August 28, 2007. A Bond Ordinance authorizing the sale of up to \$8.75 million in tax-exempt General Obligation Bonds was ratified on November 27, 2007. In 2008 the City worked with the project designer Cole + Russell Architects to finalize construction cost estimates, and it was determined that the City would actually need to borrow \$6.7 million for the project. A Notice of Sale was published on July 30, 2008 and on August 6, 2008 bids were received with BB&T chosen as the low bidder. The bond was issued on August 27, 2008.

**Budget:** The City completed a successful budget process that produced a balanced General Fund budget and allowed for a \$71,000 contribution towards future capital projects. The millage rate for fiscal year 2008-2009 was set at 22.2. The City maintained reserves for future drainage improvements and added to a reserve for future reconfiguration of the Recreation Center ballfields.

**Bond Rating:** Maintained A+ bond rating from Standard & Poors and A1 from Moody's

**Favorable Year-End Position:** City financial position very stable – which is an accomplishment given the current economic climate. Departmental expenses continued to be well controlled and were under budget for Fiscal Year 2008.

**Audit Review:** Received the highest possible audit opinion for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 from Greene, Finney & Horton, LLP

**Procurement:** Completed all equipment purchases to allow the City to participate in the Charleston County digital radio communication system.

**New Signage:** Developed and installed new signage at all beach access paths to welcome visitors, clarify beach rules and highlight community resources.

**Award of Contracts:** City Council recommended award of approximately thirty (30) contracts in calendar year 2008.

**Public Safety Committee**  
Marty Bettelli, Chair  
Ryan Buckhannon, Chair  
F. Michael Sottile

**Parking and Golf Cart Parking:** Reviewed concerns regarding island-wide parking.

**Signal 30 Award:** This award was given for special citizen service to Dillon Campbell and Jeremy Argabright who alerted the Fire Department to a fire in a resident's home.

**Water Rescue Missions:** Fire Department personnel executed several successful water rescue mission throughout the year, maximizing utilization of water resources.

**Donated Equipment:** A boat was donated to Awendaw Fire Department and fire hose was donated to the Sullivan's Island Training Facility.

**Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration:** The City held another successful fireworks display at Front Beach.



**Animal Rescues:** The Fire Department participated in the rescue of a Bowhead whale in Breach Inlet and several shore birds.

**Smoke Detectors:** Fire Department staff installed and checked smoke detectors as requested throughout the year for island residents.

**Fire Prevention in E-Newsletter:** Coordinated with general government to make a fire prevention tip a regular feature in the City's e-newsletter.

**Jelly Fish Stings:** Fire Department Personnel assisted visitors and residents with 124 jelly fish stings.

**Ocean Point Fire:** Fire Department personnel responded to a significant structure fire at Ocean Point. On scene, mutual aid was received from Sullivan's Island Fire Department, Mount Pleasant Fire Department, SCE&G, Isle of Palms Water Company and Charleston County EMS. No injuries were reported, and the fire was successfully contained to a single structure.

**SCDHEC/EMT License:** The Fire Department successfully obtained renewal of their South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control/Emergency Medical Technician License.

**Response to Charleston Nine:** Isle of Palms Fire Department personnel covered the City of Charleston Fire Station downtown for a twenty-four hour shift so that Charleston Firefighters could take the day to honor their fallen co-workers.

**Thermal Imaging Camera:** Procured a thermal imaging camera for Truck 1.

**Repeater:** Procured a Repeater to improve on-scene emergency communications.

**Special Event Support:** Fire Department Personnel assisted as several special events this year, all of which were successful: barrel painting, Easter Egg Hunt, Triathlon, Taste of the Islands, ALS Run, Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island Disaster Preparedness Expo, Ecothon Challenge and Front Beach holiday decorations.

**Fire Prevention Parade:** In October, the Fire Department successfully staged its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Fire Prevention Parade with the new Fire Station 2 as its origination point and Sullivan's Island Fire Station as the ending point. Fire trucks and personnel come from multiple area agencies. The event was featured in the e-newsletter, and community members received important instructions about fire prevention.

**Contract to Replace 1991 Rescue Pumper:** Developed Request for Bids for replacement Fire truck. Held bid opening, recommended award of contract, and executed contract.

**Training Officers Association:** Captain Bob Maibach and Lieutenant Shaun Gadsden have been an integral part of the Training Officers Association, a service organization working to consolidate and standardize training county-wide. This group has successfully sponsored two eight-week recruit training schools held locally.

**Firefighter of the Year:** The Isle of Palms Exchange Club named Ed Henry as Firefighter of the Year for 2008.

**Police Officer of the Year:** The Isle of Palms Exchange Club named Jacob Schwenk as Police Officer of the Year for 2008.

**Office of Criminal Investigations:** Investigators of the Criminal Investigations Division experienced a 52% increase in case assignments in the year 2008. Investigators pursued leads established through their investigations of over thirty (30) burglaries occurring in late November 2007. Three arrests were made in January 2008, clearing all thirty (30) of the November burglaries. As investigators were in the process of preparing and obtaining over one hundred thirty (130) arrest affidavits and warrants for the three (3) perpetrators, a second series of burglaries began in January 2008 and continued until February. During this time frame, forty-five (45) more burglaries were committed.

**Office of Criminal Investigations Continued:** The four (4) individuals responsible for the second string of burglaries were apprehended in late February. In May and June, over a dozen forcible burglaries occurred in less than three weeks. IOPPD Crime Scene Investigators obtained DNA evidence from the crime scenes, leading to the positive identification and arrest of the perpetrators. Information obtained by investigators regarding burglaries in surrounding jurisdictions lead to two (2) additional arrests, allowing the Mount Pleasant Police Department, the Hanahan Police Departments, the Charleston Police Department, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office to clear a substantial number of ongoing burglary cases. In August, two (2) additional burglaries occurred in as many days. Again, IOPPD investigators obtained DNA evidence while processing the crime scenes, which produced a positive identification of an island resident as the perpetrator. The subject was apprehended and charged accordingly.

On July 4, 2008, two (2) arrests were made that cleared thirty (30) larcenies. The two (2) subjects apprehended had been stealing personal property from beach-goers for almost three weeks. Investigators were able to recover a significant amount of the stolen property.

Investigators were also assigned and investigated the following cases: ninety-three (93) larcenies, fifty-two (52) vandalisms, twenty-six (26) simple assaults, twenty-four (24) narcotics investigations, twenty-three (23) thefts from motor vehicles, seventeen (17) thefts of motor vehicles, thirteen (13) domestic disputes, ten (10) suicides/suicide attempts, ten (10) intimidation, nine (9) harassing telephone calls, eight (8) criminal domestic violence, eight (8) identity thefts, seven (7) credit card thefts/fraud, five (5) breach of trusts, five (5) aggravated assaults, four (4) forgery/counterfeiting, two (2) fraudulent checks, two (2) shoplifting, two (2) theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories, one (1) contributing to the delinquency of a minor, one (1) suspicious fire, one (1) criminal sexual conduct with a minor, one (1) forcible rape and one (1) robbery. Of the total \$530,554.00 worth of property reported stolen in 2008 and \$188,481.00 was recovered. Investigators commanded a 91% case clearance rate to include 87 felony arrests.

**Personnel:** One sworn officer continues on active duty in the US Army and has been in that status since September 2006.

**Training Received:** All police department personnel, sworn and civilian, attended twenty-two different blocks of training totaling 3,305.5 hours. Five officers are now certified as Basic Instructors. As a result of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, availability of ammunition has diminished, causing the department to revert to one firearms qualification per year from two. During 2008, one officer attended and graduated from the SC Criminal Justice Academy.

**Training Provided:** Fire Department staff provided fire extinguisher and CPR training to students at Trident Technical College, City staff and Wild Dunes staff.

**Police Department Public Relations:** Officers coached a children's basketball team. Officer's trained a local Boy Scout Troop in crime scene techniques. Officers regularly install infant car seats for citizens. As requested, officers regularly provide programs to children and adults. The police department also provided staff assistance at the following community events: Bicycle Rodeo, Hurricane Expo, Law Enforcement Day at Citadel Mall, Business Council Meeting of Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, Rabies Clinic.



**Disaster Preparedness Event:** On July 23, 2008, the City of Isle of Palms and the Town of Sullivan's Island jointly held a disaster preparedness event at the Sullivan's Island Fire Station. Area agencies represented their resources with displays. This important safety event represented a joint effort between all City departments.



**American Red Cross at the Disaster Preparedness Event**

**Annual SCMIT/SCMIRF Safety Audit:** Through a year-long effort of preparation, the City received scores of 97% and 96% on the annual SCMIT/SCMIRF safety audit for insurance purposes, saving the City \$6,508.71 in insurance premiums.

**Patrol:** The Patrol Division experienced a 36% increase in the number of calls for service in 2008. There were five hundred eighty one (581) arrests, including a 1 % increase in Driving Under the Influence (DUI) detentions. Officers conducted three-thousand four-hundred twenty-two (3,422) traffic stops, and investigated sixty-eight (68) reportable accidents. It can be reasonably hypothesized that the increase in traffic enforcement is responsible for the 23% decrease in accidents. Due to the adherence and practice of the Zero Tolerance concept relating to the underage possession of alcohol, there was a 3% decrease in the number of juvenile, alcohol-related parties. By the same token, strict drug enforcement produced a 2% decrease in reported narcotics cases. The type of narcotics cases investigated corresponded with the national trend, in referencing the U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The 39% overall decrease in the number of thefts occurred as a direct result of specialized patrols in projected target areas, which were determined by weekly crime analyses reports. Note, the number of thefts does not reflect incidents of burglary where items were stolen as incidents of burglary are required by the FBI to be reported separately.

**New Initiative of Interoperable Communication:** The Isle of Palms Police Department, in conjunction with law enforcement agencies in surrounding jurisdictions, has begun utilizing the concept of interoperable communication to a greater degree than in the past. The sharing of information on a daily basis has had a profound effect on the success of criminal profiling and pro-active policing. It is anticipated that the continuing practice will result in a decrease in criminal activity and/or an increase in the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

**Speed Surveys Counter:** The City implemented the use of a special speed survey device to better enable maximum utilization of personnel to encourage reduction of speeding in specific areas.

**Thermal Monocular Imaging Device:** A Patrol Sergeant attended night vision training sponsored by SPAWAR, and in return for participating gave the police department an X200 Thermal Monocular Imaging Device, which has been used extensively on the beach. IOPPD's evaluation of the device and a photo of Chief Buckhannon were featured in a FEMA Training Publication.



**Digital Radio System:** City staff monitored, recorded and reported issued related to the radio system. The City of Isle of Palms officially entered into Inter-Governmental Agreement for Consolidated Dispatch with Charleston County. In December, the City transitioned to the county digital city-wide radio system. The Police and Fire Departments completed the transition of all in car radio equipment and all handheld radios to the Charleston County digital radio system on December 2, 2008. Police Department communications supervisory personnel and some telecommunications officers have attended several meetings and seminars to educate all personnel to the eventual transition of Communications to the Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch. Charleston County 911 provided one station with Pictometry, with the second station to be installed in early 2009. This allows telecommunications officers to view a color satellite picture of the general area where the 911 calls are originating.

**Livability:** The Livability Sergeant regularly met with merchants, citizens and rental agencies to educate people regarding livability enforcement on the island. Monthly sessions of Livability Court were successful and heard a moderate to heavy load of cases as the tourist season dictated.

Noise Violations- 13 citations were issued of 145 complaints received.  
Business License- 42 citations were issued as a result of 86 business checks conducted.  
Roll-Card Violations- 377 cans issued warning tags with 3 citations issued.  
Overnight Occupancy- 1 instance of overnight occupancy with a ticket issued.  
Overnight Vehicle Capacity- 2 instances, 1 short- term and 1 long-term rental.  
Underage Alcohol- 34 citations issued at short-term rental property.  
Unlawful Fireworks- 2 citations issued.

There were 141 miscellaneous calls that occurred at rental property ranging from burglaries, alarm activations, larcenies, domestic situations, vandalisms, and unlocked residences.

The Building Department staff worked closely with the Livability Officer to help implement the new program governing short term rentals, including sending over 70 violation notices to rental owners.

**Note:** All law enforcement statistical data provided in this report is from November 30, 2007 to November 30, 2008.

**Public Works Committee**

Marty Bettelli, Chair

Dick Cronin

Michael Loftus

**Cardboard Recycling:** Coordinated with Charleston County to establish a cardboard recycling program at no cost to the Island.

**Beach Monitoring Results:** Partially stimulated by the requirements of the Blue Wave Beach Certification that the City has earned for the past six years, the water quality of the public beaches was monitored during the months of the tourist season. Each report indicated that the ocean water quality was good.

**Stormwater Maintenance Plan:** Completed Year Four of the five-year stormwater maintenance plan with Eadies Drain and Vaccum, including restructuring the ditches at 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hartnett Boulevard and Wills Way.

**Underground Storage Tank Control Regulations:** Attended meeting for education on the program and subsequently implemented phase one of SCDHEC Underground Storage Tank Control Regulations Program.

**Garbage Truck:** Procured a replacement garbage truck for Public Works fleet.

**30<sup>th</sup> Avenue Ditch:** Restructured ditch at 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue to improve stormwater drainage.

**Hazardous Materials Collection:** Organized and hosted a tremendously successful inaugural hazardous materials collection event in October with Charleston County.

**Beach Sweeps:** In response to the increased volume, the Public Works department increased the frequency of departmental beach sweeps to clear the beach of debris.

**Annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep:** Participated with South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium and Isle of Palms Exchange Club in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual beach sweep to during which volunteers clean the City's beaches.

**Ordinance Amendment:** Recommended an amendment to Section 3-2-8 of the City Code to change acceptable time for roll-out cart placement. Ordinance 2008-02 was ratified by City Council on April 22, 2008.

**Debris Removal Contract:** Worked with City Attorney, Federal and State agencies to develop a Request For Proposal for disaster debris removal to be in compliance with FEMA requirements.



**Response to Flooding Event:** In August, Tropical Storm Hanna created significant flooding on the avenues north of 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Staff responded by pumping this water to alleviate the flooding. Significant assistance was received from the Fire Department.

**Golf Cart Parking:** The Committee held extensive discussion related to island-wide golf cart parking and directed the establishment of golf cart parking at 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The area was re-delineated and re-stripped to help golf cart drivers park their vehicles properly. The Public Works Committee worked extensively with the Police Department, the Fire Department and the Public Safety Committee on these changes.

**Tree Trimming:** Executed trimming of Palm trees from 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue to 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Executed trimming of overhanging branches on Oak Harbor Boulevard.

**Yellow Barrels:** Worked with Isle of Palms Garden Club for the painting and distributing of yellow trash barrels for the summer season.

**“Temp” Trail:** Placed excess “temp” trail at new 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue walkover to increase elderly and handicap mobility over sand.

**Commercial Dumpster Service:** Executed contract for commercial dumpster service with Carolina Waste. Continually managing this service as efficient, but also refining for cost effectiveness.

**National Pollution Discharge Elimination System:** Secured NPDES approval for Charleston County Public Works as Administrator of the program.

**AC System:** Installed a new Air Conditioning system for the Public Works Building.

**Cross Lane/Forest Trail:** Executed major storm water drainage repairs to the Cross Lane/Forest Trail watershed.

**Irrigation System:** Installed an irrigation system for the Front Beach City parking lot.

## Recreation Committee

Carol Rice, Chair  
Ryan Buckhannon  
Brian Duffy

**Wellness Program:** The Recreation Department accomplished the first full year of the City's new Wellness Program with outstanding results. Monthly, an average of fifty-six (56) City employees report their fitness miles, and all employees receive a newsletter with progress and tips. A Wellness Committee was formed with representatives from all departments to increase departmental participation. A Wellness Fair was held in September that included full blood screenings for employees, blood pressure testing, fitness testing and representatives from area health and wellness organizations. Staff members from all City departments attended and committed to 10-week fitness goals. In December, a follow-up wellness check-in was held where employees could re-take fitness tests and assess their progress. As part of the wellness program, a kickball game was organized for City staff. In the first six months of the wellness program, absenteeism was down approximately 30% among City employees.



**An Employee Blood Check at the Wellness Fair**

**Gym Ceiling Replacement:** Developed a Request for Bids for the gym ceiling. Held bid opening and awarded contract. Oversaw vendor during installation of new ceiling. The new ceiling improves safety, acoustics and aesthetics.

**Activities Guide:** Staff developed and expanded the season activities guide to increase participation in classes, athletics and special events.

**Equipment and Procurement:** The Recreation Department expanded services by procuring the following items: an 800 MHZ radio, a Toro Z-Trak mower, new flooring in cardio room, portable basketball goals, exercise equipment for class participants and sun screen on softball field fencing for better visibility for outfielders.

**Improved Drainage:** Staff worked to improve drainage of the soccer field.

**Frisbee Golf Course:** Recreation Staff worked with a local Eagle Scout on the project to design and install a Frisbee golf course at the Recreation Center.



**Staff Training:** Recreation Department staff held weekly safety meetings. In addition, staff attended RecTrac Software training, a field maintenance workshop, a Wellness Workshop, training for Dixie Youth Baseball and the State Recreation Conference.

**Keenagers:** The Keenagers meet the first Wednesday of every month from September through May. Recreation staff worked with the coordinators to schedule speakers, entertainment, lunch bunch locations and field trips for the membership. Enrollment in this popular group stayed strong in 2008, and staff continues to develop new programs for the group.

**Athletics:** Athletic offerings from the Isle of Palms Recreation Department continue to expand. Participants may choose from the following: backyard bocce, co-ed dodgeball, co-ed kickball, co-ed volleyball, a half-rubber tournament, softball, ping pong tournaments for youth, 3-on-3 soccer for youth and adults, 3-on-3 basketball for youth and adults, dodge ball for youth and adults, a soccer clinic for coaches and players 5 -12 years of age, a basketball clinic for players 9-12 years.

**Continuing Classes:** The following classes are offered as part of the Recreation Department's regular programming: ballroom dancing, belly dancing, dog obedience, fencing, gather-n-knit, salsa dancing, tae kwon do and yoga.

**New Classes:** The Recreation Department continues to expand its offers to increase interest and variety by offering the following new classes: evening yoga, drawing, acting, home school fitness, S.A.F.E. (Self-Defense Awareness & Familiarization Exchange) program, tennis, sports conditioning, mat & floor 101, Friday night hoops and speaker courses.

**Senior Exercise Class:** Funded by a grant through the Charleston County Senior Center, this extremely well-attended class provides special training and exercise techniques for senior citizens. The class regularly has a wait-list of seniors who would like to participate.

### Recreation Events

**Middle School Dances:** Dances were held the last Friday of every school month. Staff solicited community input and revised the process of ticket-selling and admissions accordingly. Staff offered concessions, checked wrist bands and provided chaperons. An average of one-hundred fifty (150) sixth, seventh and eighth graders participated every month.

**NEW! Island Arcade Day:** In January, the Recreation Department hosted its first-ever Island Arcade Day which is designed to combine fun with safety. Participants can pay \$5 to play classic arcade games in the Recreation Center. However, participants are encouraged to bring their bicycles to register with the Isle of Palms Police Department and enjoy the Arcade Day free of charge. The bicycle registration helps increase the IOPPD's ability to recover and return lost or stolen merchandise. In 2008, approximately 300 attended this event, with 137 bikes registered.



**Island Arcade Day**

**Lowcountry Blues Bash:** In February, the Isle of Palms Recreation Department participated with other regional agencies in the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Lowcountry Blues Bash. The event occurred over two days, featuring performances by jazz and blues artists. Six hundred were in attendance and two-thousand four-hundred dollars (\$2,400) was generated. This event was partially funded by the Accommodations Tax Committee.



**Cupid's Card Shop:** Thirty (30) children participated in this special workshop to make Valentine's Day cards for their loved ones.

**Doggie Day at the Rec:** This popular event was hosted in March for the second consecutive year. Vaccinations were offered for dogs, and one-hundred thirty-one (131) animals were vaccinated. Seventy-eight (78) used the opportunity to purchase City dog licenses. Dogs competed in categories, such as Most Handsome and Best Rescue, and the category winners competed for Best in Show. One-hundred sixty-one (161) canine contestants were entered. This program was awarded an innovative programming award from the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association.

**Bicycle Safety Rodeo:** Recreation staff worked with the Isle of Palms Police Department to stage this important safety event. Sixteen (16) riders participated in the obstacle courses and safety inspections. The event was improved this year by the creation of separate courses for riders of different skill levels. Most importantly, riders registered their bikes with the IOPPD to help ensure the safe return of lost or stolen bikes.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Held in April, this event invited children to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt, visit with the Easter Bunny and enjoy Easter candy, ice cream, cotton candy, prizes and pony rides. Parents had the opportunity to have their children's photo taken with the Easter Bunny. Approximately six hundred (600) children participated with nine hundred (900+) people in attendance. The event involved coordination among the Recreation, Police, Fire and Public Works Departments.

**Annual Yard Sale:** The Annual yard sale was expanded this year to include fifty-five (55) vendors and approximately three-hundred (300) bargain hunters, finding slightly-used treasures.

**Taste of the Islands:** The City partnered with Sullivan’s Island School Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) to put on this event in May at Front Beach. The event had the dual purposes of raising money for the PTA and increasing business activity at the Front Beach.

**Piccolo Spoleto Sand Sculpting Contest:** The City continued this popular, successful event during the Spoleto USA in May. Thirty nine teams of four entered the contests, for a total of one hundred fifty six (156) participants and hundreds of spectators. This event strengthens the City’s relationships with local businesses as the businesses donate prizes and serve as judges. This event also represents an important cooperative effort between the City and cultural arts in the Charleston area.

**Piccolo Spoleto Goes to the Beach:** Approximately seventy-five (75) people attended this free performance of the “Improve Smackdown” group.

**Isle of Palms Beach Run:** Held in July, this event attracted over 300 island residents and visitors. City staff secured donation of all water for the event. Staff also formed relationships with area businesses to secure sponsorships. The Fire and Police Department provided support assistance on the beach.

**Half Rubber Tournament:** In August, nineteen (19) teams consisting of four (4) people participated in a double-elimination tournament that lasted well into the evening. Staff designed and built the back stops used for all seven fields. Lunch, t-shirts, and winners’ trophies were provided.

**NEW! End of Season Community Party:** Recreation Department staff developed this new event to celebrate with the resident community the end of the busy summer season. The event featured an outdoor movie, food vendors and a popcorn vendor. Approximately two-hundred fifty (250) people attended the celebration.

**Isle of Palms Connector Run for the Child:** Held in partnership with the Exchange Club, approximately eight hundred (800) runners registered and four hundred (400) walkers participated in this charity event to raise money for children’s causes on the first Saturday in October. Recreation department staff coordinated the after-race festivities, including the sponsor-tents, entertainment and the finish-line area. The Isle of Palms Police Department provided significant support for traffic control for this event.



**Halloween Carnival:** Held on Friday, October 31, the annual carnival offers children a safe venue to celebrate the holiday. The Recreation Department's 2008 Halloween Carnival was its most well-attended ever. Staff expanded the attractions with a new haunted room and decorations throughout the season.

**NEW! Outdoor Movies:** Recreation Department Staff hosted two outdoor movies this year, *Horton Hears a Who* and *Monster House*. Refreshments were provided.

**Holiday Tree Lighting:** Held on December 4, 2008, participants were invited to come visit Santa and celebrate the festive season. 150 children talked with Santa Clause, 450 people. The City lit its spectacular 22-foot holiday tree. At the event, the winner of the Holiday Card Drawing contest was announced. This event encouraged off-season patronage of Front Beach businesses.



**Isle of Palms City Council Observes the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony**

**Holiday Craft Workshop:** Approximately 25 children and 8 adults enjoyed making holiday ornaments for the season. Staff provided hot chocolate, coffee and cookies.

**Santa's Cookie Workshop:** The popular workshop filled up during pre-registration with 89 children plus their parents. Recreation staff made a series of cookies as examples for participants. And, of course, milk was provided!

## **Personnel Committee**

Ralph Piening, Chair

Marty Bettelli

Dee Taylor

**Board Service:** In the year 2008, the City was represented on the on the Berkeley Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments and its Charleston Area Transportation Study Committee (CHATS) by Mike Sottile. The City was represented on the Charleston Area Regional Transit Authority (CARTA) Board initially by Mike Sottile and subsequently by Marty Bettelli. City Administrator Tucker continued to serve SCDHEC OCRM's shoreline change and the Municipal Association of South Carolina's Legislative Committee. Administrator Tucker is on the Board of Directors of South Carolina City County Managers Association and serves on the scholarship committee. Additionally, Administrator Tucker was appointed in 2008 to Charleston County's Green Committee. Mayor Pro Tem Rice serves on the Charleston Visitors Bureau Board of Governors. Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban served on the Charleston County Community Development Advisory Board. Clerk of Court Wilkerson served as an at-large member of the Board of Directors for the Municipal Association of South Carolina's Municipal Court Administration Association. Recreation Director Page was invited to serve on the Board of Directors for the Isle of Palms Connector Run and Walk for the Child, Inc. Chief Buckhannon was appointed to serve on the Charleston County Dispatch Board, where he serves on the protocol committee while chairing the sub-committee for accreditation and serves on the technology committee.

**Transfer of Election Authority:** The Personnel Committee and City staff conducted research into the requirements and implications relating to a transfer of election authority to Charleston County. The Committee eventually made a recommendation for transfer with Ordinance 2008-06, which was ratified in due course by Council on June 24, 2008. Subsequently, staff worked with Charleston County to execute the transfer of authority to the Charleston County Board of Elections and Voter Registration. This transfer will become especially significant in the coming year. This year was unusual for the City in that the Mayor was elected to the State House of Representatives, necessitating a transition in government. Council worked with staff to redistribute duties as appropriate and communicate with the public regarding the transition.

**Compensation Study:** Staff prepared all necessary materials to allow preparation of a compensation study by a vendor. The Personnel Committee and Council heard presentation regarding the study. Subsequently, the Personnel Committee performed a review, resulting in adjustments helped to maintain an equitable compensation of City employees.

**Wellness Program:** Taking an interest in the health and well-being of City staff, the Personnel Committee provided direction, encouragement and feedback regarding the City Wellness Program executed by the Recreation Department.

**Beach Advisory Committee (BAC):** The Personnel Committee completed an extensive review of the Beach Advisory Committee to include a review of its charter and receiving input from its members. A recommendation regarding the BAC was made to Council.

**Citizen Interviews:** The Personnel Committed conducted numerous interviews of citizens who had made applications to serve on City boards, committee and/or commissions.

## **Real Property Committee**

Carol Rice, Chair

Dick Cronin

Jim Raih

**Bulkhead Monitoring:** Prior to the commencement of the Bulkhead Replacement project, the Real Property Committee recommended to Council, which subsequently approved, periodic bulkhead monitoring.

**Front Beach Parking Lots:** After receiving notice that the Front Beach Parking Lots required new management, the City worked to develop an extensive Request for Proposals based on feedback from the previous vendor and the City Attorney. A mandatory pre-bid conference was held that included a formal response to questions, and bids are expected to be received in January so that a new vendor is in place in plenty of time for the summer season.

**Dredging:** Work on the future dredging of Morgan Creek near the Isle of Palms Marina continues. A permit has been secured, and the City continues to work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers on securing a spoil site.

**Marina Bond:** Upon the recommendation of the Committee and full Council, the City refinanced the Marina bond to take advantage of greater flexibility in its relationships with its tenants.

**Parking Lot Study:** Coordinated with cadets from the Citadel to execute a parking study at the Marina. While the study is not expected to be complete until next year, the students have made site visits and assessments.

**Review of Tenant Process:** In response to Council concern about the process used by Marina tenants to make requests, the Committee and Staff addressed the issue by holding dialogues with tenants and formalizing the process.

**Restroom Refurbishing:** The Committee worked with the Marina store tenant to execute an enlargement and refurbishment of the restrooms utilized by store and Marina patrons.

**Deck Extension:** The Committee, and subsequently full Council, gave approval for an extension of the deck behind the Marina store.

**Marina Lighting:** The Committee worked with tenants to improve the lighting, and therefore the security, of the Marina parking lot.