

City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina
Accomplishments
January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009



Mayor
Dick Cronin

Mayor Pro Tem
Carol Rice

City Council
Barbara Bergwerf
Marty Bettelli
Ryan Buckhannon
Brian Duffy
Michael Loftus
Ralph Piening
Dee Taylor

City Council-Elect 2010
Sandy Stone
Doug Thomas

City Administrator
Linda Lovvorn Tucker

Assistant to the Administrator
Emily Dziuban

City Treasurer
Debbie Suggs

Director of Building, Planning and Zoning
Douglas Kerr

Fire Chief
Ann M. Graham

Police Chief
Thomas E. Buckhannon, III

Director of Public Works
Donnie Pitts

Director of Recreation
Norma Jean Page

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Ways and Means

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Barbara Bergwerf
Marty Bettelli
Ryan Buckhannon
Brian Duffy
Dick Cronin
Michael Loftus
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Carol Rice

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Ralph Piening, Chair
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Public Safety Committee

Ryan Buckhannon, Chair
Marty Bettelli
Michael Loftus

Public Works Committee

Marty Bettelli, Chair
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Real Property Committee

Dick Cronin, Chair
Carol Rice
Dee Taylor

Recreation Committee

Carol Rice, Chair
Ryan Buckhannon
Brian Duffy

Citizen Boards and Commissions

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee
Board of Zoning Appeals
Code Board of Appeals
Planning Commission

2009 Major Projects

Public Safety Building: Construction of the new Public Safety Building, an approximately 31,000 square-foot building located at 30 J.C. Long Boulevard, was completed in 2009, and the Police Department and Fire Station 1 staff did the extensive work of equipping and moving into the building. A “Topping Out” ceremony was held on Wednesday, March 25 to celebrate the placement of the last roof beam – a construction milestone. An extensive element to the move-in of the new building was the networking of the computer and phone systems to create communications between the Public Safety Building and City Hall. This involved the procurement of new equipment as well as the technological set up of that equipment.

Of special note are the building’s environmental or “green” features that include solar water-heating system, pervious concrete, building materials with higher levels of recycled content, energy efficient lighting features and occupancy sensors that eliminate the lighting of unoccupied rooms.

Many Fire Department training features were also designed into the building, including a front stairwell tower that doubles as a training tower with rappelling anchors, sprinkler head training, hose advancing, high-angle rescue training and dry standpipe connections. An elevated platform in the apparatus bay allows personnel to practice confined spaces situations and hoisting equipment. A common training room in the building provides a technology-equipped environment that can be used as an emergency operations center in the event of a disaster.

The Police Department features improved evidence storage and processing capabilities, including refrigerated storage, a ventilation hood for chemical testing and substance processing and an evidence garage for vehicles and large items. The “sallyport,” a gated garage area and a separate elevator lead to a processing room with a secure bathroom and interview facilities, allowing prisoners to be taken into custody while maintaining officer safety.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: At 5:30PM on Friday, September 25, the City held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Public Safety Building, where the Mayor, City Council and residents of the Isle of Palms, along with Lowcountry dignitaries, celebrated the achievement with tours of their new facility.

Marina Bulkhead Replacement: Replacement of the Isle of Palms Marina bulkhead, the retaining wall that separates the land and water, was completed in spring of 2009. The new bulkhead covers the old bulkhead and improves the safety, functionality and aesthetics of the marina. The General Government Department supervised construction, attending regular construction meetings during the process. In addition, regular reports were made to the Real Property Committee, who monitored the project closely. Staff, committee members and contractors completed a careful walk-through of the finished project, and community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Marina Management: The restructuring of the Marina bond as a taxable issue, a task accomplished in 2008, provided a unique opportunity for the City to re-structure its relationship with the tenant who leased the marina assets for the purpose of managing the marina. In 2009, the City developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) that provided the City the greatest number of choices possible, allowing the Real Property Committee to carefully consider which contractual arrangement would be of greatest benefit to the City. The City issued the RFP, held a public bid opening, compiled and researched the information submitted and presented the materials to the Real Property Committee. Based on the Committee's recommendation, staff entered into negotiations with a bidder and the negotiated contract was presented to City Council, who approved the award in August.

Demonstration Project at 41st Avenue: This project was first implemented in 2008, and after review of its effectiveness, City Council voted to move forward with steps to make the project permanent. The project closes the intersection of Palm Boulevard and Cameron Boulevard and makes the intersection of Palm Boulevard and 41st Avenue an all-way stop. The City held several meetings with SCDOT to discuss the project and communicated with the citizens via the e-newsletter and the website. At Council direction, staff developed an RFP for engineering, design, permitting and construction administration for making the project permanent. The bids were publically opened and evaluated. City Council awarded the contract to Thomas & Hutton, and a notice to proceed was issued in December, in the hopes that the project could be completed before the 2010 "high season."

Plant-A-Palm Commemorative Marker: On September 21, the 20th Anniversary of Hurricane Hugo, the City held a ceremony to unveil a historic marker to honor the efforts of the Plant-a-Palm Committee, a group of volunteers who came together after the storm to raise money to line Palm Boulevard with the beautiful avenue of Palm trees that are still there today. The historic marker was installed near the beach access path at 21st Avenue and Palm Boulevard.

Beach Restoration Post-Project Monitoring: The City entered into a post-project monitoring agreement with Coastal Science and Engineering, who completed two monitorings during the year and provided a report of the condition of the beach, which is generally judged to be sound and undergoing natural adjustments since the project's execution. The post-project monitoring not only meets the permit requirements but also monitors the beach outside the project area to assist the City in identifying potential future concerns. All year the City monitored escarpments on the beach and had them graded to level, as the permit requires, for purposes of safety and sea turtle protection.

Pandemic Mutual Aid Resolution: In an effort to proactively prepare for the potential impact of a H1N1 epidemic, the Isle of Palms City Administrator initiated discussions with the neighboring East Cooper municipalities. The end result of several meetings included a resolution signed at a press conference by the mayors of the Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island and Mount Pleasant, pledging mutual aid assistance in the form of essential personnel to create the highest possibility that no service interruptions would occur for residents and visitors should City staff be significantly impacted by any epidemic.

2009 Legislation

Smoking Ban Enforcement: City ordinance 2008-08 went into effect on January 1, 2009 and Police Officers worked with community businesses to establish enforcement of the ban.

Recodification: On February 24, City Council passed second reading and ratification of Ordinance 2008-09, which completed the recodification of the City of Isle of Palms Municipal Code. The recodification process is a review of municipal law required every ten years to improve the code by eliminating errors and ensuring that the code is consistent with state law. For the first time ever, the City now has an online, searchable code available to anyone with internet access.

Real Property Committee: On February 24, 2009, City Council held second reading of Ordinance 2009-01, which created a standing committee of Council known as the Real Property Committee.

Radio Communications: On February 24, 2009, City Council passed second reading and ratification of Ordinance 2009-04, which requires minimum standards to ensure a reasonable degree of reliability for radio communications of the City's public safety emergency services.

Zoning Variances: On May 19, 2009, City Council held second reading of Ordinance 2009-02, which relates to the granting of zoning variances within the City and further defines the circumstances under which variance may be granted.

Swimming Zone: On June 23, 2009, City Council passed second reading and ratification of Ordinance 2009-10, which created a swimming zone and established regulations related to that swimming zone.

Beach Debris: Ordinance 2009-11, which passed second reading and ratification on June 23, 2009, revisited and further defined the ordinance passed in 2008 related to the abandonment of personal property on the beach and leaving the beach in an unsafe condition. 2009 represented the first full-time beach season of implementation of these regulations.

Extended Off-Leash Dog Hours: The suggestion to extend the off-leash hours for dogs on the Isle of Palms beach was brought to the Public Safety Committee by a member of the community. After researching alternatives and consulting with staff, the Committee recommended an ordinance change that was approved by the full body of Council.

Resolutions and Proclamations: City Council issued several resolutions and proclamations in 2009, including support for National Beach Safety Week, Approving the CARTA Budget, Stating the City's Safety Policy, Authorizing and Directing the Permanent Elimination of the Intersection of Cameron and Forty-first Avenue, Providing for Mutual Aid between East Cooper Municipalities in case of a Pandemic and honoring the City Council Service of Dee Taylor and Carol Rice.

2009 Grants

Fire Department MASC Grant: The Fire Department received a \$2,000 grant for equipment from the Municipal Association of South Carolina. This grant funding was used to off-set budgeted items.

Fire Department Wal-Mart Grant: The Isle of Palms Fire Department received a grant from Wal-Mart in the amount of \$1,000 to support their community CPR classes.

Transportation Funding: In 2009, via an application submitted by the General Government Department, the County Transportation Committee (CTC) of Charleston awarded the City of Isle of Palms \$100,000 in 2009 for drainage improvements in the area of 54th-57th Avenues. The county awarded the City \$50,000 in Transportation Sales Tax (TST) funding to improve the drainage at Lauden Street.

Energy Efficient Lighting: The General Government Department worked with the Building Department to complete the application process for a grant to improve durability and environmental aspects of lighting in the Front Beach area. The Council of Governments (COG) reviewed and endorsed this application.

2009 Awards

Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction: Councilmember Carol Rice was named Woman of Distinction by Girl Scouts and honored at the April 28th Council meeting.

J.P. Strom Award: City of Isle of Palms Officer Wesley Funsch won J. P. Strom Award upon graduation from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. The J.P. Strom Award is given to the candidate in each class who attains the highest cumulative point total on the written tests and passes each “hands-on” proficiency test on the first attempt.

Municipal Association of South Carolina Achievement Award: Mayor Cronin, City Administrator Tucker and Assistant to the City Administrator Dziuban traveled to the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) conference in Hilton Head to accept an “Achievement Award” for the best Communications program in the state of South Carolina, given for the City’s e-newsletter, which features three editions: general interest, recreation and visitors. In addition, Bill Huggins of the MASC attended the August City Council meeting to commend the City on its newsletter, which he described as an “economically and environmentally friendly way to respond residents’ requests for information.”

South Carolina State Re-Accreditation of Police Department: Sherriff DeWitt of Berkeley County attended the September Council meeting to present the Isle of Palms Police Department with its Re-Accreditation from the State of South Carolina. The Police Department is also nationally accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). At the meeting, Sherriff DeWitt stated that the Isle of Palms “Police Department [at the Isle of Palms] is a premier law enforcement agency, not only in South Carolina, but [also] in the United States of America.”

South Carolina Recreation & Parks Association Category 1 Agency of the Year: The South Carolina Recreation & Parks Association, presented the Isle of Palms Recreation Department with the Category 1 Agency of the Year, which recognizes outstanding contributions agency-wide to the park and recreation profession in South Carolina.

South Carolina Association Recreation & Parks Category 1 Athletic Agency of the Year: The South Carolina Recreation & Parks Association, presented the Isle of Palms Recreation Department with the Category 1 Agency of the Year, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the park and recreation profession related to Athletics in South Carolina.

Traffic Safety Officer: Distinction awarded to Officer Sharon Baldrick from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy for achieving certification in Radar, Datamaster DMT, Advanced DUI/Standardized Field Sobriety Test and completed the Traffic Collision Reconstruction Course.

Best Beach: *Southern Living* magazine named the Isle of Palms to its list of ten best beaches.

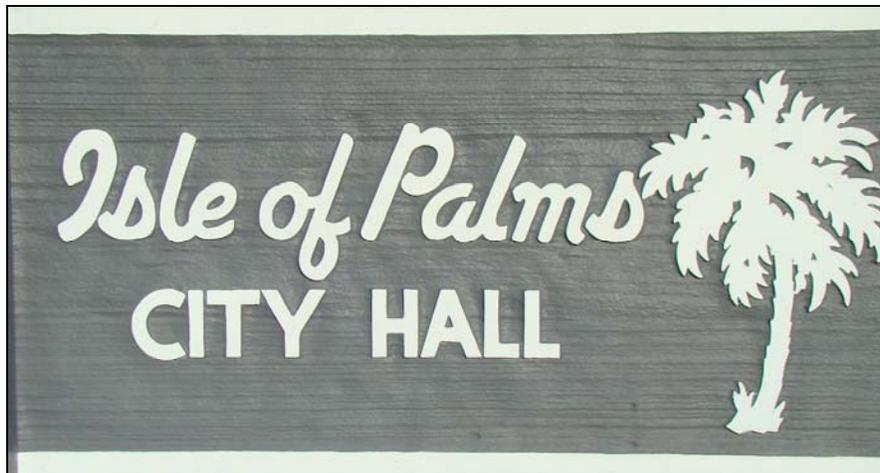
Sexiest Beach: *Maxim* magazine named the Isle of Palms to its list of sexiest beaches.

9th Blue Wave Beach Designation: In 2009, the City earned its 9th consecutive Blue Wave Beach designation after submitting an extensive application and passing an unannounced, on-site visit. The designation is given to beaches that meet certain criteria related to cleanliness, safety and access to the public. The Isle of Palms is the only South Carolina beach to hold this designation.

Firefighter of the Year: The Isle of Palms Exchange Club named Chief Graham and her entire department as the firefighters of the year in recognition of their teamwork.

Police Officers of the Year: The Isle of Palms Exchange Club names Detective Sergeant Dawn Caldwell and Investigator/Victim's Advocate Diane Tarr as Police Officers of the Year in recognition of their contribution to the successful arrest of those responsible for a significant series of burglaries on the island.

Board Service: In the year 2009, Mayor Cronin represented the City on the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCD COG) and on the Charleston Area Transportation Study Committee (CHATS). Councilmember Marty Bettelli represented the City on the Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) Board. City Administrator Tucker continued to serve on the Municipal Association of South Carolina's Legislative Committee and on the Board of Directors of the South Carolina City County Managers Association, for which she serves on the scholarship committee. Administrator Tucker also continued to serve on Charleston County's Green Ribbon Committee. Assistant to the Administrator Emily Dziuban continued to serve on the Charleston County Community Development Advisory Board. In 2009, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban was appointed as the Municipal Association of South Carolina's Representative on the Advisory Board to the South Carolina Director of Insurance. Clerk of Court Amy Wilkerson served as an at-large member of the Municipal Association of South Carolina's Municipal Court Administration Association for which she was elected Secretary/Treasurer. The Fire Department's Captain Bob Maibach and Captain Shaun Gadsden continue to serve with the Charleston County 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.



Front Beach Parking Lots Contract: The leasing of the Front Beach Parking Lots was impacted by the construction and completion of the Public Safety Building, which had a negative impact on the number of available spaces. The Real Property Committee and the staff worked to develop an RFP that took the PSB construction into consideration, evaluate the bids and make a recommendation for award to Council, who awarded the contract in January.

Millage: The millage rate was kept the same as the prior year at 22.2 mills in a recession economy.

Tourism-Related Revenues: Reduction in tourism-related revenues was less than 4%. This reduction is significantly less than the 15% reduction contemplated in the budget.

Budget: The City worked through its extensive and thorough budgeting process, which included an update of the ten-year capital budget projections, and passed a balanced budget that provided for consistent service delivery within the current economic climate.

Improved Bond Rating: The City's bond rating was upgraded by Standard & Poor's from "A+" to "AA." This significant achievement evidences sound fiscal management in a recession economy and may reduce the cost to the City of borrowing money.

General Obligation Bond Issuance: Ordinance 2009-05, which was ratified on March 24, authorized the issuance of this general obligation bond, the proceeds of which were utilized for the marina bulkhead replacement project. While the ordinance authorized the borrowing of up to \$1,500,000, the City only borrowed \$1,000,000, which was combined with funds reserved in prior budget cycles, to meet the expenditures of the project.

Favorable Interest Rates: The City held public bids on two major financing projects in 2009: the general obligation bond to pay for the marina bulkhead replacement and the financing of a 2009 Pumper Fire Truck. In both cases, the City secured favorable interest rates: 4.39% taxable for the bond and 3.89% on the fire truck.

Financial Transactions related Capital Endeavors: In addition to daily operational financial transactions, in 2009, the City continued to manage a significant number of financial transactions related to three major capital projects: the Public Safety Building, the Beach Restoration and the Marina Bulkhead Replacement.

Water and Sewer Commission Bond Refinancing: City staff worked with the Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission to pass Ordinances required to authorize the refinancing of Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission Bonds.

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 2009.

Audit Review: The City underwent a successful audit and received the highest possible audit opinion. As part of this process, City staff facilitated all auditors’ needs for records and information.

Improved General Fund Balance: The City ended the fiscal year with a surplus which was used to build the General Fund balance by \$250,000 or 12%.

Reconfiguration of City Hall: As a planned portion of the capital project to construct a new Public Safety Building, the City Hall building, which would be vacated by the Police Department and therefore under-utilized, would be reconfigured to accommodate the Building Department.

Website Upgrades: New Sections include recently passed ordinances; searchable, digital code; Police Department Public Service Announcements and Citizen Alerts; News Features; Recycling; Resolutions and Proclamations.

Communications: Subscriptions to the various editions to the City’s e-newsletter rose from approximately 1,000 in 2008 to over 3,300 by the end of 2009.

Personnel Cross-Training: As an off-shoot of analysis of the impact of a potential pandemic on the Isle of Palms, the City Administrator initiated analyses in each department of chains of command and cross-training needs. If areas of weakness were identified in what were deemed essential service areas, personnel were cross-trained. The goal being that assuming a pandemic reduced City staff by one-third, the City would still be able to provide continuation of services. For example, an additional member of the General Government staff received training on the payroll system. Coupled with these efforts were efforts to education staff of flu prevention.

Island Map: With funding recommended by the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee and approved by City Council in January of 2009, City Hall staff developed and had printed a free, accurate, fold-out map of the island available to visitors to City Hall. Local groups also distribute this map in “new neighbor” packages.

Sand Fencing and Dune Vegetation Projects: The City approved two sand fencing projects this year. Permit applications for both were received from SCDHEC OCRM. The first was executed in May 2009 and included approximately 2,800 feet of linear sand fencing along with dune vegetation plantings over approximately 60,000 square feet. The second was permitted in November and was primarily a volunteer effort using donated materials with some assistance from the City. This project is anticipated to be executed early in 2010.

Merit-Based Compensation Program: The Personnel Committee initiated a move toward a compensation program for employees that is merit based rather than based on merit as well as cost-of-living. After significant research and several meetings, the Personnel Committee made a recommendation, which was adopted by City Council and implemented by staff, which included a Council-approved revision to the City Personnel Manual. The initiative also included a revision to the review process of the City Administrator.

Recodification and Supplements: General Government staff worked with the Municipal Code Corporation to update the records regarding the City of Isle of Palms Municipal Code as new ordinances were passed since the original codification, which occurred in February 2009. The first supplement was delivered to the City in December of 2009. The City's website features a digital, searchable version of the code which is updated with each supplement. This feature, available to anyone who has internet access, increases transparency and was promoted in the City's e-newsletter.

Ben Sawyer Bridge Rehabilitation Project Communications: SCDOT began a federal project to rehabilitate the Ben Sawyer Bridge, connecting neighboring Sullivan's Island with Mount Pleasant over the Intracoastal Waterway. The City of Isle of Palms was greatly impacted by the alterations of vehicular and mariner traffic patterns. The City used a pro-active communications strategy, calling meetings with the major participants and calling a Special Meeting of City Council to communicate with the citizens. The City also used its website and e-newsletter to provide the most up-to-date information.

Court Administration: The City held twenty-two (22) successful sessions of Municipal Court as well as ten (10) sessions of Livability Court. Thirty-four (34) outstanding jury trials were resolved this year. As part of a special project to ensure accuracy of historical records and filings, the Court Administration audited 21,515 historical citations for the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV). A total of 2,318 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.

Special and Regular Municipal Elections: Working with Charleston County, the City held four (4) elections in the calendar year.

Newspaper Advertising: At Council initiative, City staff completed an analysis of newspaper advertising practices and requirements in an effort to reduce City expenditures.

Marina 10th Anniversary Celebration: With a recommendation for support from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee and approval from City Council, the tenants at the Marina hosted Anniversary Party to celebrate the City's 10th year of ownership of the marina and to showcase the new bulkhead and the aesthetic improvements at the marina. The event took a pirate theme and was well-attended.

Drainage Improvements for 54th through 57th Avenues: Using funding secured by the General Government staff from the County Transportation Committee (CTC), the City issued an RFP for engineering, design and permitting for drainage improvements for the area of 54th for 57th Avenues. The City facilitated meetings with the engineer and the Wild Dunes Resort to work towards the most advantageous design for all parties affected. The permit application was completed and submitted.

Speed Limit and Cross Walk: At Council's directive, City staff initiated discussion with the South Carolina Department of Transportation regarding the installation of a crosswalk on Palm Boulevard at 43rd Avenue and the lowering of the speed limit on Palm Boulevard from 41st Avenue to 57th Avenue.



Radios: After extensively documenting problematic transmissions on radios used by Public Safety Personnel, Chief Graham has spearheaded efforts to communicate with Charleston County and identify potential solutions to these problems. Chief Graham serves on the Digital Radio User Group Advisory Board and makes regular reports to the Public Safety Committee and City Council regarding the issues. Corrections of these problems with benefit not only the Isle of Palms but also all the municipalities in the Lowcountry area.

Personnel: Lieutenant Scott Braun retired after 10 years of service with the department.

DNR Plane Event: Fire Department, along with the Police Department and General Government staff, responded to a plane down on the beach. Personnel found that a single-engine plane owned and operated by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) had made an emergency landing on the beach. The plane had four (4) occupants, none of whom was injured during the landing. The plane's crew made a repair to the fuel pump, and police and fire personnel helped clear the beach so the plane could take off.

Horry County Fire: Two (2) separate crews responded as part of a statewide effort to control a large wild land fire in the Myrtle Beach area of Horry County. Personnel assisted with incident command and fire control efforts over a two-day period. As a result of proactive efforts by Chief Graham, the City received \$8,548.10 in assistance reimbursement from Horry County in FEMA funds for these efforts.

Marsh Incident: Fire Department responded to the crash of a lightweight aircraft in the marsh near the Old Village of Mount Pleasant. The Isle of Palms assisted the Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island with the incident. No one was injured. The Isle of Palms Fire Personnel returned two (2) days later to stand-by while the aircraft was removed from the marsh.

North Charleston Fire Assistance: Fire Department personnel responded to a request for assistance from the North Charleston Fire Department at the scene of a ship fire on the old Naval Base. Several pieces of equipment were deployed to the scene including Rescue 5 (the Bobcat ATV). Personnel assisted with incident command and remained on the scene until the situation was declared under control.

Sullivan's Island Fire Assistance: Personnel responded on a mutual aid request from Sullivan's Island to a structure fire on Brownell Avenue. Upon arrival, personnel advanced a hose line into the building, and assisted with salvage and overhaul in all areas involved in the fire. After checking for fire extension on both floors of the residence, the crew was released and asked to standby at Sullivan's Island Fire Station until units finished at the fire scene.

Water Rescue Missions: Maximizing the use of water resources, Fire Department personnel responded to several dozen water rescue calls throughout the year, including calls for missing persons in water, on land, surf rescue, watercraft in distress and medical calls.

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 loggerhead turtle, a bird, and a cat.

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

Jelly Fish Stings: Fire Department Personnel assisted visitors and residents with sixty-one (61) jelly fish stings.

Sting Ray Bites: Fire Department personnel assisted visitors and residents with seven (7) sting ray bites.

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

Special Event Support: Fire Department personnel assisted in providing emergency and staff support for many City-wide events this year, including litter barrel painting, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Triathlon, the ALS Beach Run, the Bicycle Safety Rodeo, the Holiday Tree Lighting, the Isle of Palms Connector Run and Walk for the Child, the Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island Disaster Preparedness Expo, the Ecothon, the Annual Tree Lighting as well as the installation and removal of the Holiday Lights

Fire Prevention Parade: In October, the Fire Department successfully staged its 6th annual Fire Prevention Parade with the new Public Safety Building 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.

Training Provided: Fire Department staff provided fire extinguisher to City staff and Wild Dunes staff.

Disaster Preparedness Event: On July 22, 2009, 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.

Pet Masks: The Isle of Palms Fire Department received the donation of two sets of Pet Oxygen Masks from Oxygen Masks for Pets and Invisible Fence Brand. The masks are designed to save pet's lives and prevent pets from succumbing to smoke inhalation. The masks will be carried on the ladder trucks.

Community CPR Classes: Using the American Heart Association's Heartsaver Curriculum, the Fire Department offers monthly community CPR classes to island residents and any other interested parties. The Fire Department sought and received a \$1,000 grant from Wal-Mart to support this training program.

Donated Equipment: With Council approval, two (2) portable defibrillators were donated to the South Carolina Aquarium. The IOPFD participated in an equipment exchange of hose and airpacks with Awendaw. Hose was donated to Sullivan's Island for training.

E-One Pumper Fire Truck: As part of the planned capital replacement cycle, the Fire Department procured an E-One Pumper Fire Truck, approved as part of the budget, the award of contract unanimously approved by Council and the financing of which authorized by the second reading and ratification on August 25, 2009 of Ordinance 2009-12. The truck is a 1,250 gallon per minute rescue pumper.

Annual SCMIT/SCMIRF Safety Audit: Through a year-long effort of preparation, the City received a score of 100% on the annual safety audit for insurance purposes.



Consolidated Dispatch: Several administrative staff members serve as board members on the Consolidated Dispatch Committee, assisting in the development of policies and procedures that will be standards of operation upon consolidation. Police department personnel are working closely with officials to ensure successful transition into the new consolidated dispatch center, projected for the year 2012.

CALEA Re-Accreditation: Police Department personnel continue to assist the Accreditation and Assistant Accreditation Managers in preparation for a mock assessment that is preliminarily set for the summer of 2010. The agency will undergo re-accreditation assessment in December 2010.

Interoperable Communication: The Isle of Palms Police Department, in conjunction with law enforcement agencies at the Federal, State and local levels continues efforts to enhance en masse communication methods regarding intelligence information gathering and sharing based upon the compulsory concept of “information sharing.” A multi-faceted research approach is being utilized to determine what is, or has been, affective. Positive conclusions indicate that current and developing methods, in fact, have had a profound effect on the success of criminal profiling and proactive policing efforts.

Personnel: One sworn officer continues on active military duty in the United States Army, and has been in an “Activated” status since September 2006. Three (3) police officer candidates attended and successfully completed the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (SCCJA). Two (2) police officer candidates have been selected to fill vacant sworn officer positions. Both candidates began their employ with the police department mid-December 2009. Their training at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy started in late December 2009.

Hiring Process Improvements: In 2009, the hiring process was improved for the selection of candidates for sworn positions. Police officer applicants are now required to first successfully complete a physical agility course and pass a nationally standardized written exam. These two phases were added to the currently existing requirements of successful performance in a board interview, an interview with the Chief of Police, an extensive background investigation, and positive results on a number of evaluations (psychological, medical and drug screening). The

newly implemented stages of the hiring process were developed through standards sanctioned by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (SCCJA). As a result, candidate pools have demonstrated the physical ability and aptitude to pass the rigorous academic and physical agility testing and training while at the Academy.

Telecommunications Division: The Telecommunications Division received and dispatched approximately 39,898 calls for service. An additional 13,068 calls were generated via police-officer-initiated activity, such as traffic stops, building checks, property checks and residence checks. Telecommunications Officers also serviced an unnumbered amount of officer-initiated and agency-initiated calls for service for the Isle of Palms Fire Department and the Sullivan's Island Police and Fire Departments.

Patrol Division: The Patrol Division experienced a 14% decrease in the number of calls for service, in as far as reactive policing or responding to complaints reported to the police department (29,744 calls in 2009 compared with 34,427 in 2008). Likewise, there was a 6% decrease in the number of officer-initiated calls (13,068 calls in 2009 compared with 13,956 in 2008).

In 2009, officers conducted 2,335 traffic stops. Thirty-four percent (34%) of the time, violators received citations. State citations issued included: 27 for driving under the influence (DUI); 35 for driving under suspension (DUS); 431 for speeding; 596 for traffic violations other than speeding, DUI or DUS; and 235 for non-traffic related violations. The 1,324 *state* citations issued in 2009 created a 14% increase from 2008. Officers and investigators issued 263 Isle of Palms City citations, 659 warning tickets, and 4,145 parking tickets (percentage increases from 2008 are 7%, 16% and 45%, respectively).

In 2009, Officers investigated 70 traffic collisions (3% increase from 2008) and sixteen (16) incidents of underage possession of alcohol (25% decreased from 2008). There were 473 arrests for the year (20% decrease from 2008).

The slight decrease in calls for service is, in part a result of the increase in Community-Oriented Policing (COP) efforts. Such efforts increase public awareness, citizen approval and support, and deter criminal activity in neighborhoods.

Criminal Investigations Division (CID): The Criminal Investigations Division was assigned two hundred thirty-eight (238) cases in 2009 that were reported to the FBI via Uniform Crime Report (UCR). Of these cases, eighty-six (86) were cleared by arrest, ninety (90) were exceptionally cleared (victim refused to cooperate), twenty-three (23) were unfounded, and thirty-nine (39) were administratively closed (neither leads nor suspects developed during the investigation). Investigators prepared one hundred fifty-nine (159) affidavits and obtained as many arrest warrants. Additionally, eight (8) search warrants and affidavits were obtained and executed at various locations throughout the state. Finally, approximately fifty-two (52) subpoena duces tecums, a form of summons ordering parties named to appear and produce tangible evidence, were prepared, obtained and served.

Total cases worked by the Criminal Investigations Division included 1 kidnapping/abduction, one (1) forcible rape, two (2) forcible fondlings, one (1) robbery, six (6) aggravated assaults, eleven (11) criminal domestic violence, thirty-one (31) assaults, one (1) intimidation, fifty-seven (57) burglaries, six (6) shopliftings, eighteen (18) thefts from motor vehicles, one hundred thirty-two (132) larcenies, eleven (11) thefts of motor vehicles, five (5) false pretense/swindling, twelve (12) credit card thefts/identification frauds, thirty-two (32) vandalisms, seventeen (17) narcotics cases, seven (7) harassing telephone calls, nine (9) fraudulent checks, six (6) suicides/suicide attempts, and twelve (12) domestic disputes.

Significant Cases

Assaults: Of the aggravated assaults, two (2) cases were found to be assault and batteries of a high and aggravating nature (ABWIK), i.e., attempted homicides. In one (1) of the cases, a male subject stabbed his estranged wife some nine times, with an assault knife, about the head, facial and upper torso regions. The perpetrator was apprehended on scene. The victim underwent extensive emergency surgery and was deemed by physicians, “lucky to be alive.” Investigators received a written confession from the perpetrator. The second ABWIK incident occurred on the beach, behind the Grand Pavilion Hotel. A local male subject struck the victim about the head and facial region with a steel stake, commonly used in the game of beach horseshoes. The perpetrator was unknown to the victim. Through investigation, a suspect was developed and a nine-photo line-up was prepared and presented to the victim who positively identified the perpetrator. Several additional witnesses were located and positively identified the perpetrator as well. Investigators located the steel stake hidden under a row of bushes in close proximity to the incident location and collected it as evidence. It was transported to SLED for DNA analysis. Investigators obtained a warrant, located the perpetrator and detained the perpetrator.

Strong-Arm Robbery: In a strong-arm robbery case that occurred in November 2009, a local man was assisting a family member unload luggage from a car trunk in the driveway of his Isle of Palms home when both men were assaulted by two (2) unknown black males. The perpetrators robbed the victims and then fled the scene on foot. A “get-a-way” van was parked in the middle of 7th Avenue, occupied by multiple accomplices. The van’s engine was running and two (2) side doors were open, presumably for rapid deployment from the scene. Investigators called upon a sketch artist to meet with the victims, at which time composite drawings were completed and forwarded to the media for airing. Suspects have developed and investigators are in the process of finalizing the case investigation and obtaining arrest warrants.

Investigators attended twelve (12) sessions of Grand Jury, presented forty-six (46) cases in Preliminary Hearing Court, attended two hundred seventy-eight (278) Bond Hearings, twenty-two (22) sessions of the Isle of Palms Municipal Court, eleven (11) sessions of Livability Court and four (4) sessions of Family Court.

The Victim's Advocate Program of CID provided services to approximately five hundred forty-eight (548) victims in 2009. All victims of incidents reported to the police department were communicated with via mail, email, telephone and/or in person by an investigator.

Investigators processed sixty-six (66) crime scenes; conducted approximately one hundred twenty-four (124) hours of undercover/surveillance; worked one hundred seventy-seven (177) hours of special events or assignments; conducted forensic analysis of evidence collected from crime scenes for one hundred fifty-eight (158) hours; performed ninety-four (94) chemical/forensic analysis of marijuana, including five (5) for the Department of Natural Resources); and conducted ten (10) other assists for the following agencies: the Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Department of Natural Resources, the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General, the 9th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office Investigators, the Mount Pleasant Police Department, the Charleston Police Department, the Charleston County Sherriff's Office, and the New York Police Department.

In 2009, the total value of property stolen through incidents such as burglary, larceny and thefts of motor vehicles was \$291,082.00; a 44% decrease from the year 2008. **Eighty percent (80%) of the stolen property was recovered and returned to the rightful owner.**

Investigators received ninety (90) hours of "in-house" training and one hundred six (106) hours of training at other agency training facilities. The Detective Sergeant, supervisor of CID, assisted the patrol division by serving as the Patrol Duty Supervisor for four hundred three (403) hours and provided training instruction for thirty-four (34) hours, including Firearms, Use of Force, Crime Scene Processing Techniques, Basic Criminal Investigations Techniques, and Clandestine Laboratories to both the police and fire department personnel. The Detective Sergeant accompanied the Accreditation Manager to Columbia, South Carolina to serve as an Accreditation Assessor for the Columbia-Lexington Homeland Security 911 Communications Center in April 2009 and served as a guest instructor at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy for five (5) days in May of 2009. Administrative staff completed an additional five (5) mock assessments of various local law enforcement agencies in preparation for the respective agencies' state and national accreditations. Administrative staff participated in a Hurricane Emergency Preparedness exercise with Charleston County Emergency Management. The Detective Sergeant served on the Employee Hiring Committee, interviewed and tested approximately twenty-eight (28) candidates, conducted five (5) background investigations, and served as a committee member on the Sergeant's Promotion Board, Internal Affairs Committee, and the Consolidated Dispatch Committee.

Investigators provided twenty-eight (28) hours of community service, extradited two (2) inmates from outside detention facilities to the Charleston County Detention Facility and transported evidence for advanced forensic analysis (DNA) on six (6) occasions.

Livability Division: The Livability Sergeant regularly met with merchants, citizens and rental agencies to provide education regarding livability issues, quality of life issues and City ordinances. Monthly sessions of Livability Court experienced a heavier case load than in years past, logically expected as a result in increased enforcement of livability-related offenses.

The Livability Division handled nine hundred sixty-one (961) calls for service, combining civilian-reported complaints and officer-initiated activity. These calls resulted in one thousand sixty-one (1,061) incidents, which break down as follows: one hundred seventy-three (173) noise ordinance violations, three (3) overnight occupancy violations, nine (9) excessive vehicles violations, one (1) oversized vehicle violation, six hundred eighty-seven (687) roll-out cart violations and one hundred eighty-eight (188) uncategorized violations. These incidents resulted in four hundred eighty-one (481) citations issued for city ordinance violations, of which one hundred thirty-two (132) citations were for livability offenses.

Animal Services Division: The Animal Control Officer issued eighteen (18) citations and thirteen (13) warnings in 2009. Thirty-five (35) animals were located, secured and returned to their owners. Fourteen (14) vicious animals were trapped and one hundred ninety-nine (199) carcasses were handled. A total of thirty-four (34) animals were transported to the veterinarian's office or to the Charleston Animal Society.

Personnel Training: All police department personnel, both sworn and civilian, completed close to sixteen hundred (1,600) hours of training. Five (5) Isle of Palms officers are currently Certified Instructors, a dual benefit since it significantly increases the potential for "in-house" training and creates opportunities for the IOPPD to host statewide agencies for training.

One (1) of the three (3) Firearms Instructors completed the Glock Armor Certification training course, so the department now has two Armorers' that are qualified to repair and conduct safety inspections on all department issued firearms.

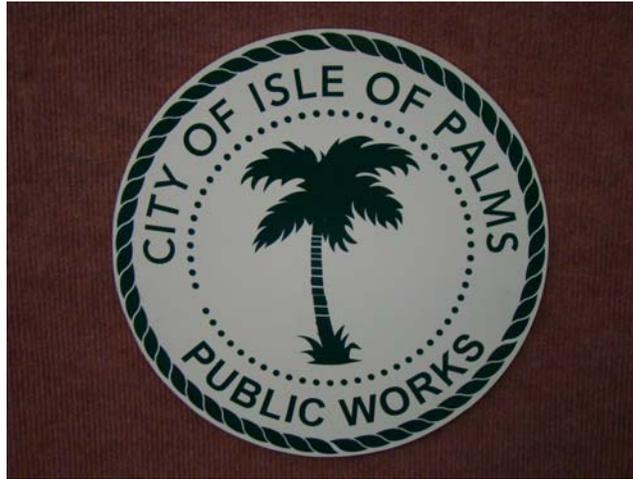
In January 2009, several members of the IOPPD participated in anti-terrorist training with the United States Department of Homeland Security via Operation Seahawk. The training consisted of a multi-agency mock terrorist attack. A portion of the simulated attack was conducted at the Isle of Palms Marina and along the Intracoastal Waterway from the marina to the Ben Sawyer Bridge on Sullivan's Island.

Public Relations and Special Events: Officers coached a children’s basketball team and presented information at several safety courses, including bicycle safety and “Stranger Danger.” Investigators and officers met with a local Boy Scout troop and provided information and instruction regarding drug and alcohol awareness. Additionally, officers continued to provide a valuable public service by properly installing child restraint and infant seats in citizen vehicles. A crime scene techniques and fingerprinting program is scheduled for late December of this year with a local Cub Scout troop. Police department personnel regularly host programs for youth and adults, and assist in city-sponsored special events as follows: Middle School dances, Island Arcade Day, Bicycle Safety Rodeo, Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Yard Sale, Piccolo Spoleto Sand Sculpting Contest, Isle of Palms Beach Run, Half Rubber Tournament, Isle of Palms Connector Run and Walk for the Child, Halloween Carnival, Fourth of July Fireworks Display, Fire Prevention Week Parade, the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Hurricane Preparedness Expo.

Donated Equipment: With Council approval, the blue evidence storage lockers used in the Police Department in City Hall were donated to Sullivan’s Island after the Police Department moved into the new Public Safety Building.

Low Speed Vehicle: City Council approved the acceptance of a donated Low-Speed Vehicle to the Police Department. The vehicle is marked as a police vehicle and is used for community service and beach services functions.

NOTE: The data utilized for this report were obtained from statistics recorded from January 1, 2009 through November 30, 2009.



Charleston County Incinerator Closing Impact: Charleston County closed the incinerator in 2009, necessitating that the City plan for and absorb the logistical and fiscal impacts of the change to garbage collection protocols. Staff compiled research, completed analysis and attended several meetings to prepare for the closure. Administrator Tucker served on the Green Ribbon Committee, which was formed to advise Charleston County regarding solid waste management. When the closing occurred, through careful planning and staff effort, there were no interruptions in service for the City.

Cleaning Piped Ditch: With Council's support, the piped ditch in the large parking lot on Front Beach from 14th Avenue to Ocean Boulevard was cleaned of accumulated residue.

Disaster Debris Removal Contract: The contract for disaster debris removal was advertised in January and the public bid opening was held in March. Staff developed an extensive bid tabulation. The Public Works Committee compared the varied elements related to the contract. Based on the Public Works Committee's recommendation, the contract was awarded in June to a company called Bamaco.

Household Hazardous Waste: The Public Works Department coordinated with Charleston County to establish a hazardous waste recycle day on the Isle of Palms in March.

Stormwater Maintenance Plan: The City completed year five (5) of the 5-year maintenance plan with Eadies Drain and Vacuum.

Trash Pumps: As part of the approved budget process, the City procured three 4-inch trash pumps to assist in keeping roads clear and accessible during stormwater flooding.

Underground Storage Tank Monitoring: The Public Works Department monitored the leak test systems for the City's fuel systems.

21st Avenue Beach Access Path: Working in coordination with the Building Department, Public Works staff re-structured the 21st Avenue beach access path.

Street lighting: Public Works staff initiated the monitoring of the street lights and coordinated with South Carolina Electric & Gas the general maintenance of lights.

Beach Debris: 2009 was the first full monitoring of the beach in accordance with the City's beach debris ordinance. Public Works staff executed the necessary beach sweeps with the IOP Police Department and cleared debris such as tents, umbrellas and beach chairs in accordance with the enforcement.

Generator: Staff overhauled the Public Works generator.

Landscaping: Staff managed the general landscaping contract with a company called Miracle Green to meet the City's landscaping needs.

54th Avenue – 57th Avenue Drainage: The City began the first steps of engineering design and permitting for the 54th through 57th Avenue drainage project by awarding a contract to Civil Site Environmental.



Wellness Program: In September, the Recreation Department partnered with East Cooper Regional Medical Center and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to provide fasting blood work, flu shots and tetanus shots at the second annual Wellness Fair, expanded this year to include not only employees but also community members. Over forty (40) health professionals participated. In addition, the City continued to offer wellness classes and seminars to employees, while staging several events – such as volleyball and practicing the Police Agility Test.

Theater: The Recreation Department’s relationship with the Crabpot players resulted in a successful, year-long engagement of community. Actors of all ages and experience levels in the community were invited to participate. Three separate productions - *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Our Town* – held open auditions, rehearsals and were staged for multiple, sold-out performances at the Recreation Center.

Playground Equipment: The playground equipment was upgraded by replacing platforms and rusted brackets. Through staff efforts, the only costs incurred in this endeavor were for labor.

New Recreation Department Programs: The Recreation Department continued its practice of developing and offering new programs to stimulate the community and respond to new interests. Spring Break Activities featured themed, sports days including dodge ball day, kick ball day, Frisbee golf day, science camp day and open gym Friday. To give parents alternatives during school holidays, the Rec offered School’s Out Activities, including pumpkin painting, a ginger bread house workshop and a holiday basketball camp. New dance classes for youths and adults featured Hip Hop and Jazz Dancing. After-school physical education and sports fitness and Friday night hoops encouraged children to be active outside the classroom. Guitar Lessons were offered for youths and adults. New programs in sports featured a soccer penalty shoot out, ping pong tournaments, dodge ball tournaments, a youth and Adult homerun derby, a basketball free throw and 3-point shoot out; a co-ed dodge ball league for adults; a co-ed kickball league for adults, lacrosse camp, and a basketball coaches’ clinic. The Recreation Department also offered home school fitness to provide a physical education option for families who educate their children at home.

Continuous Classes: The Recreation Department continued to offer a variety of classes with proven community interest, including: Line Dancing, Dog Obedience, Tae Kwon Do, Yoga, Evening Yoga, Saturday Yoga, Total Body Challenge, Sports Conditioning, Gather, Knit-n-Stitch, Mah Jongg, Canasta, Salsa, Senior Exercise, Tennis for youths and adults, Gymnastics, Ballet, Tiny Tots, and Jump Start.

Special Events: A hallmark of the Recreation Department is the planning and hosting of many special events throughout the year, which are designed to commemorate special occasions and engage the community in a variety of recreational interests. Middle School Dances offer safe fun for middle school students. One hundred (100) children participated in Island Arcade Day, where 62 bicycles were registered with the Police Department to increase recovery in the case of lost or stolen property. The Recreation Department hosted a performance during the Lowcountry Blues Bash, which features events throughout the area. Cupid's Card Shoppe attracted 30 children, and Doggie Day at the Rec featured 140 animal participants with 78 City dog licenses sold. At the Bicycle Safety Rodeo, 17 bikes were registered, and at the Easter Egg Hunt 700 Children and Family Members searched for eggs. The Annual Yard Sale was expanded with 60 Spaces Rented. Sixty-three (63) teams competed in the Piccolo Spoleto Sand Sculpting and 390 people came to see Piccolo Spoleto Goes to the Beach. The Isle of Palms Beach Run had 325 runners, and the 11th Annual Half-Rubber Tournament had 28 teams. A showpiece event for the island, 17th Isle of Palms Connector Run and Walk for the Child attracted over 1,600 participants. For the holidays, the Recreation Center hosted its Annual Halloween Carnival, Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony with approximately 500 in attendance, a Holiday Craft Workshop, a holiday card drawing contest with 25 cards submitted, Santa's Cookie Workshop with 88 cookie creators registered and the Light It Up Contest.

Athletics: Along with classes, programs and special events, the Recreation Department offers athletics for those island folks who are primarily interested in sports. Athletics include youth baseball, basketball, soccer, girls' softball, adult softball, 3-on-3 basketball, co-ed volleyball, backyard bocce, AJ basketball camp, soccer camp, and girl's volleyball camp.

Employee Training: Recreation Department employees received significant training this year, including weekly staff meetings, the joint conference of the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association/North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association (SCRPA/NCRPA), American Fitness Professionals and Associates Certification, Sports Management Institute and a Sports Field Turf Maintenance Workshop.

Municipal Association Conference for Human Resource Directors: Director Page was a featured speaker at this conference concerning the IOP Employee Wellness Program.

Activities Guide: Beginning September 2009, a new activities guide was issued by the Rec Department, which was larger and featured more color.

Tree Replacement: The Recreation Department replaced two trees on the property, a Live Oak and a Palm.



Comprehensive Plan Revision: The Planning Commission worked extensively on the required 5-year revision of the City of Isle of Palms Comprehensive Plan, available on the City’s website. As required by law, the City held a Public Hearing to allow members of the public to make formal comments about the plan. The revision were presented to City Council at its July meeting, and legislatively adopted through Ordinance 2009-13, which passed second reading and ratification on September 22, 2009. Among other editorial improvements, the revised plan focuses seven (7) elements historically included – population, economy, natural resources, cultural resources, community facilities, housing and land use - and two (2) new elements – transportation and priority investment.

Selection of Architectural Engineer: Based on an evaluation of the conditions of the City Hall building and the needs of the City, Building Department staff developed a Request for Proposals for architectural engineering services for the planned reconfiguration of City Hall. Staff held a public bid opening, evaluated the submitted proposals and made recommendations to City Council, who award the contract to Liolio. The architectural engineering work is currently underway and the project is expected to be executed in 2010.

Planning Commission: In September, the City Council and the Planning Commission held a joint workshop to consider issues and facts related to the island’s ordinances, zoning, livability issues, history and future.

Short-Term Rental Placard Revision: Ordinance 2009-15, which passed second reading and ratification on October 27, 2009, specified the location and manner of placement of the written notice required to be conspicuously located in all short-term residential rental dwellings and to prohibit the removal, destruction or obstruction of such notice.

Public Restrooms on Front Beach: The Building Department assessed the roof on the Public Restroom at Front Beach, solicited bids for construction improvement, made a recommendation to Council and oversaw construction of the a new roof on the Public Restrooms at Front Beach. As a result, the building now endures less damage due to inclement weather, making it more pleasurable for visitors. In addition, volunteers from Keller Williams Realty spent a day painting the Front Beach Restrooms. Thank you, volunteers!

2009 Highlights



The City cut the ribbon on the **Public Safety Building**, an approximately 31,000 square foot facility housing Police and Fire staff and designed with multiple training and environmental features.



Construction was completed on a **new bulkhead at the Isle of Palms Marina**, improving safety, functionality and aesthetics.



On the 20th Anniversary of Hurricane Hugo, the City honored the volunteers of the **Plant-A-Palm Committee** with a **Commemorative Marker**.



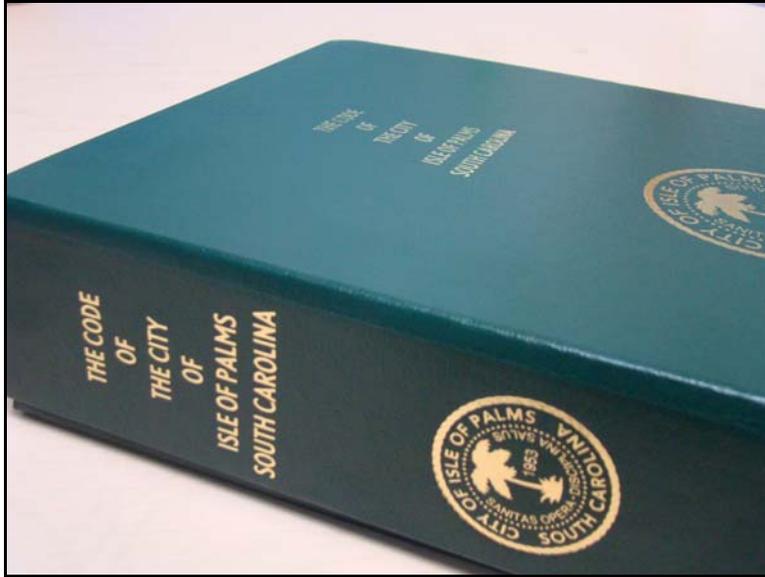
Mayors from the Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island and Mount Pleasant signed a **Historic Mutual Aid Agreement** pledging assistance in the event of a pandemic.



The City went through an extensive research, bidding and review process to award a new **Marina Management Lease.**



The demonstration project intended to alleviate traffic concerns at the **intersection of 41st Avenue and Palm Boulevard** was evaluated all year, and under Council direction, a contract was bid and executed to complete design to make the change permanent.



The City completed the **Recodification** of its laws which improved consistency throughout the code and updated the code to reflect changes to state and federal laws.



The City won a **Municipal Achievement Award** for its e-newsletter.



During a recession economy, City Council passed a **Balanced Budget** that did not increase the millage. The City also earned an **Improved Bond Rating**.



The Recreation Department held a full year of successful **Community Theater**, featuring sold-out performances to three productions: *The Wizard of Oz*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Our Town*.



The Police and Public Works Department cooperated on the first full year of enforcement of the **City's Beach Debris Ordinance**.



The Building Department, the Planning Commission and City Council worked to revise and approve the City's **Comprehensive Plan**.