

2012 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Recreation Ballfield Lights

The City's Recreation Center includes one softball field, one baseball field, two tennis courts, and two basketball courts, all of which received new, more environmentally friendly lighting this year. A 25 year product assurance warranty protects the lights, and the illumination levels are electronically monitored so any problems are quickly detected. Spill light control ensures the light stays on the fields and does not "spill over" into the neighborhoods.



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Beach Preservation Legislation Initiative

The City of Isle of Palms participates in a group of Mayors and Administrators from coastal communities that contemplates issues unique to cities and towns with beaches. These meetings provided the catalyst for a new initiative from the City to provide funding for future beach preservation through changes in state law related to accommodations tax. While potential adoption of new laws is still in the future, City elected officials and staff have arranged and attended many meetings with key figures in the state to garner support.



Piping used in the City's approximately \$10 million 2008 beach restoration project.
Photo by Dick Cronin.

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Marina Dredging

In early 2012, the City completed construction on the dredging of the City-owned Isle of Palms Marina. Dredging work occurred in the Intracoastal Waterway and Morgan Creek. The project improved the ingress and egress of watercraft to the 5-acre site.



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Holiday Street Festival

For the first time, Front Beach transformed into a holiday street festival in 2012. Island businesses showcased their best for all to enjoy and entertainment abounded, including face painting, Santa, a photo booth, rides, jump castles and music. Laughter and smiles filled the streets.



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Police Department Meet and Greets

The Police Department began the Neighborhood Block Meet and Greet to strengthen partnerships with island residents, build a stronger community, reduce crime and enhance quality of life. Police department personnel met with citizens in their neighborhoods in an effort to promote communication, coordination, cooperation and collaboration. Seven meetings were held between the months of August and November to share ideas and information.



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Single Stream Recycling



After intense coordination and advocacy with Charleston County, the Isle of Palms was one of the first municipalities in the County to receive single-stream recycling bins. “Big Blue” bins were delivered to one half of the island and, later, the other half. Residents no longer have to sort their recyclables but can place them all in the bins in a single stream. The City worked with the County on an education initiative for the new recycling, which could decrease the amount of debris on the island.

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45th to 51st Avenue Drainage Engineering & Design

The positive momentum of the City’s successful “Phase One” drainage project, in which drainage infrastructure was installed on 53rd to 57th Avenues, carried forward into this year. The City contracted the engineering and design work for “Phase Two,” the first step toward installing now-missing drainage infrastructure on 45th to 51st Avenues.



Flooding after heavy rains on 50th Avenue.

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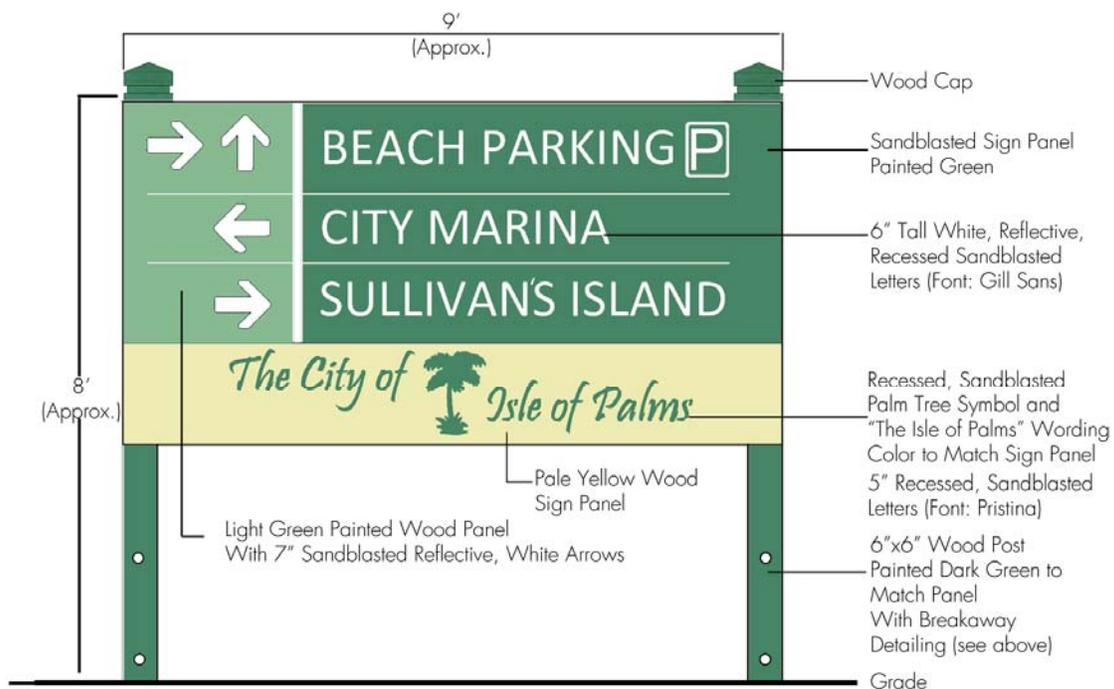
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Wayfinding Sign Initiative

After listening to citizen concerns about parking and contemplating possible solutions, City Council took action in 2012 by hiring a consulting firm to assist the City in designing, permitting, and installing “Wayfinding” signs in hopes of directing beach visitors to the best and safest available beach parking. The City has completed the design work and submitted the permit application by the end of the year, working toward the goal of installing signs before the next beach season.



TYPE A: Large Vehicular Directional

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Greenbelt Grant Award for Live Oak Park

The City successfully applied for its \$474,305 allocation in Charleston County Greenbelt funding to acquire property at 1801 Palm Boulevard, which will preserve a permanent vegetative buffer between the commercial shopping center and residential streets. The majority of the City's significant land preservation work has occurred on the perimeter of the island, and this property presents the exciting opportunity to preserve undeveloped land on the interior of the island.



Mary Pringle walks Live Oak Park during a Redtail hawk rescue. Photo by Barbara Bergwerf.

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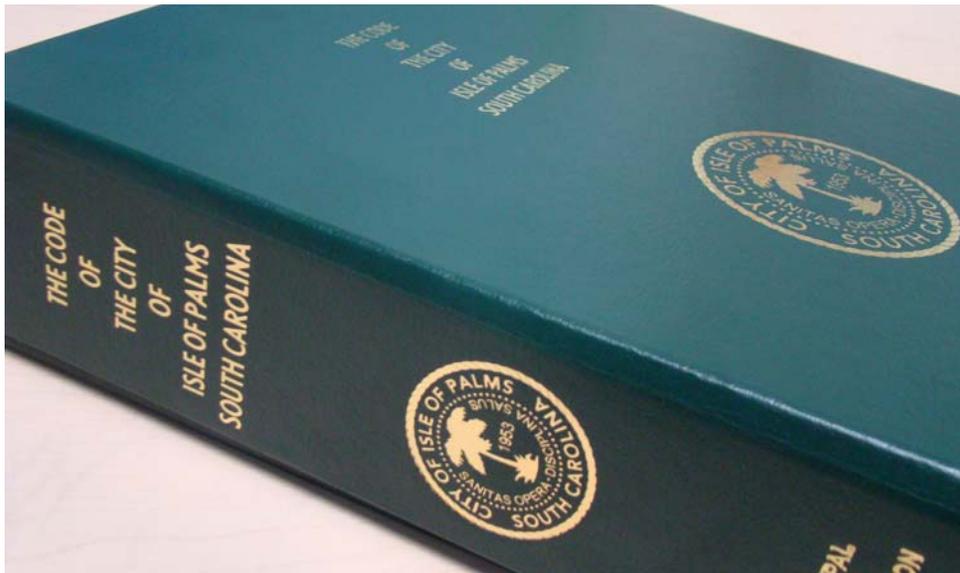
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Legislation

City Council analyzed, debated and ratified several important pieces of legislation in 2012, including: granting utility easements to allow for a new underground transmission line, adding outdoor seating to permitted uses in the GC-3 district if a variance is granted, approval of refinancing of Water and Sewer Commission bonds, quitclaiming Cassina Avenue, adopting a budget for fiscal year 2013, prohibiting parking on pavement where there is no curb, fixing clerical errors in the code, and changing the provisions for insurance companies to conform with state law.



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Personnel Manual Revision

City Staff are essential to the City's success in serving the citizens. The City is fortunate to have many long-serving, dedicated staff members. The Personnel Manual is the document that protects both the City and its staff in the employment relationship by articulating rights and responsibilities on both sides. This year, City Council adopted a revised version of the City's personnel manual based on multiple and extensive reviews to ensure that the manual is as complete and up-to-date as possible.



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Shoal Management Project

In 2012, the City received a permit for shoal management and executed a project to move 87,763 cubic yards of sand from areas of the beach experiencing accretion to areas of the beach experiencing erosion.



Photo by Dawn Caldwell.

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Demolition of 1301 Palm

In the first part of the year, the City took the final step in a years-long plan to consolidate the Building Department into City Hall. Council executed an extensive review of options for the unoccupied building at 1301 Palm Boulevard and determined that the best course of action was to demolish the building, which was executed.



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Municipal Association Achievement Award

In 2012, the City won its third Municipal Association Achievement Award in five years representing an outstanding achievement in municipal service in the state of South Carolina. This year, the City was honored for its team building efforts in the 2008 beach restoration project, which was successful in large part because the City took a leadership role and facilitated logistics among multiple entities.



Mayor Cronin in the makeup chair getting ready to film for MASC Achievement Award.

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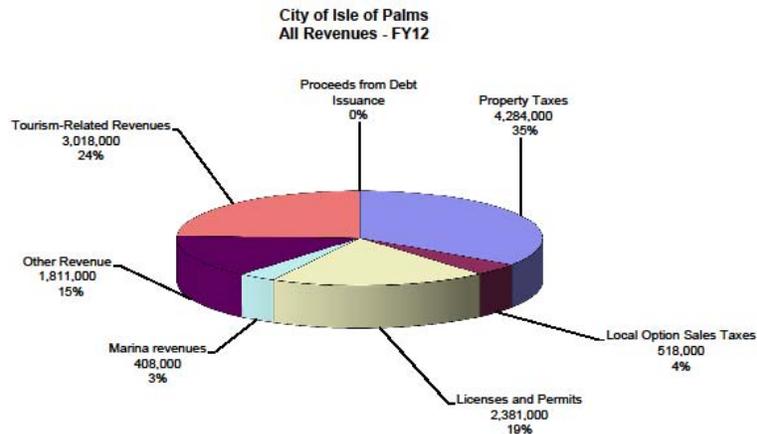
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Finance and Revenues

The City's finances were in excellent shape at the end of Fiscal Year 2012. The annual audit produced an "Unqualified" opinion. The City ended the fiscal year \$800,000 better than anticipated due to expenditures being well-controlled and revenues higher than anticipated in the General Fund. \$100,000 was retained in the General Fund to build a healthy fund balance. In calendar year 2012, Council increased the disaster recovery fund by \$160,000, for a new balance of \$2 million. Approximately \$540,000 was transferred to Capital projects, part of which was identified to pay off capital leases.



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Department Highlights

The Building Department issued approximately 522 building permits.

City Hall processed 2,726 checks and over 2,100 court cases.

The Fire Department responded to over 942 alarms and over 510 emergency medical calls.

The Police Department received over 48,600 calls for service.

The Public Works Department collected over 2,503 tons of debris.

The Recreation Department welcomed over 11,000 visitors.

Monthly departmental reports available at:
www.iop.net/Government/AgendasMinutes.aspx



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City Council Committees

Dick Cronin, Mayor	Public Safety and Chair of Ways and Means
Jimmy Carroll	Public Works
Marty Bettelli	Personnel and Chair of Public Safety
Barbara Bergwerf	Public Safety and Chair of Recreation
Ryan Buckhannon, Mayor Pro Tem	Real Property and Chair of Public Works
Mike Loftus	Public Works and Chair of Real Property
Doug Thomas	Recreation and Chair of Personnel
Sandy Stone	Personnel and Real Property
Jimmy Ward	Recreation



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More

Worked toward execution of dune walkover improvements, including materials evaluation, submission and revision of permit application.

Executed preparation work toward upcoming transition to Charleston County consolidated dispatch, including installing Mobile Data Terminals, transition to new communications software, training staff and projecting citizen needs. Emphasized education initiative to have addresses clearly displayed on interior and exterior of homes.

Completed thorough evaluation of use of municipal lots in off-season for RV parking.

Received ATAX grant from Charleston County to help fund Beach Services Officers.

Appointed Associate Judge to improve court system coverage.

Developed and adopted anti-fraud policy.

Approved and coordinated with SCE&G to establish underground power line to provide additional coverage in power outages.

Approved and coordinated with crew of "Army Wives" to film an episode on the beach.

Approved and executed amendments to the marina and marina store leases.

Awarded "Best of the Best Restored Beaches Southeast" by the American Beach and Shore Preservation Association.

Executed extensive cleaning of beach access paths.

Received donation of agility equipment and drinking fountains for award-winning "Bark Park."

Constructed improvements to City parking lots to increase safety and access to the compactor for Front Beach businesses.

Received improved bond rating from "Aa2" to "Aa1" from Moody's investor service.

Created a Medical Equipment Loan Closet, a coordinated effort between the City and citizens.

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