



# Island Report

Communication, Advocacy and Protection of BHI Property Values

## All About a Place

By Carrie Moffett, BHA Executive Director

In early March, Bald Head Association’s Board of Directors closed the office to help prevent the arrival of the coronavirus onto Bald Head Island. With the exception of Diane Mesaris, who lives on BHI, staff began working remotely from home. I’m grateful that Diane volunteered to open the office a few hours each day (while social distancing) to give keys to service providers that are completing work at property owners’ homes. This allowed BHA to serve numerous members without utilizing the ferry when space was at a premium.

Board, committee and staff meetings have all been held online utilizing GoToMeeting and Zoom. ARC just reviewed two new construction applications to keep the construction process moving. We’re currently creating short videos for our members about how, while not ideal, we’re able to continue the Association’s important work.

Other BHI entities also transitioned to working remotely. Village Council meetings were held online or by conference call. Old Baldy and the Conservancy have also produced great videos to keep connected with their audiences.

For nine years, I’ve wrestled with getting up at o-dark-thirty to get kids off to school five days a week (for several years with a twice-daily, hour-long drive) while literally racing to get to the ferry on time. The anxiety of beating the 8am ferry’s horn has been enough to drive me mad. If I’m honest, it’s been a welcomed luxury these past few weeks working in *very casual*

clothes without makeup or fixing my hair (not my forte anyway).

But, here’s what I’ve realized...I miss the Island. I miss that blasted horn. The solace of the ferry ride. The comfort of that first step onto the Island. The familiar tunnel of trees at the end of Federal Road. Property owners coming to the Association for yoga or Pilates classes or to knit. Deer crossing Stede Bonnet. Tired, sunburned children struggling to keep up with their mom at the Market. Squeals of delight from kids doused by buckets of water at the Club’s new aquatic center. The familiar deer whose ears are tagged with “100” that walks behind the Chapel and the Association Center and through Battery 4. (I often wonder what the rest of her day looks like.) Smiling strangers on golf carts staring at maps. That crazy squirrel that jumps in and among the trees just outside my office window.

You see, for me and the rest of the BHA staff, this isn’t just a job. We all love the Island. Although it’s been nice to work in *very casual* clothes, we miss the Island, and just like our property owners, we are eager to get back there when the time is right.

BHI’s unfettered opening will eventually come, and besides the obvious habit of washing our hands, there is something that we can **all** do once restrictions are lifted. Adopting social norms of face coverings, social distancing of 6’ and limits for mass gatherings will be important for all of us — property owners, guests, vacationers, employees and day visitors. Wear a face

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## Hold the Press — Last-minute Updates!

- The Village Council extended its original State of Emergency proclamation until Friday, May 29, 2020, to align with Phase 1 of North Carolina’s reopening plan.
- North Carolina’s governor extended the original State of Emergency proclamation until Friday, May 8, 2020, with a 3-phased plan to ease restrictions dependent upon a combination of four COVID-19 health metrics. View the 3-phased plan and the metrics at [BaldHeadAssociation.com/covid-19-resources](http://BaldHeadAssociation.com/covid-19-resources).
- The ferry and tram systems are privately owned by BHI Transportation and regulated by the NC Utilities Commission. Current restrictions are anticipated to be eased during Phase Two (at least 2-3 weeks after Phase One begins) of North Carolina’s 3-phased plan.
- BHI organizations are developing and implementing safety precautions for phased-in reopenings after North Carolina’s and the Village’s State of Emergency restrictions are lifted, keeping in line with North Carolina’s 3-phased plan recommendations.
- Per the April 28 *Village’s Voice* regarding reopening BHI organizations, Village Council “would not be approving or enforcing the plans, because they are neither under the authority of the Village nor does the Council have the expertise to evaluate them.”

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**DO NOT** cut or trim trees and vegetation — ask ARC first!

Planning a renovation project or new construction?

Want to change outdoor lighting or fixtures?

Thinking about any landscape changes?

**Ask ARC before any work begins!**

ARC is your resource for all work pre-approvals and can help you comply with BHA's Design Guidelines. During this COVID-19 pandemic, the ARC office is closed to walk-ins until further notice. Contact ARC Coordinator Karen Mosteller at [Karen@BaldHeadAssociation.com](mailto:Karen@BaldHeadAssociation.com) or Carol at 910-477-7246.

## Convenient, Fillable ARC Application Forms on Website

Are you looking to change the paint color on your home? How about add a decorative item to your home's exterior? Or do you want to make a change to your existing home? All ARC forms are available in fillable format for your convenience on the BHA website. Go to [BaldHeadAssociation.com](http://BaldHeadAssociation.com), click on "About BHA," then "Architectural Review."

Fillable ARC application forms include:

- **New Construction** (an original signature is required)
- **Construction Deposit/Owner's Agreement** (a notarized, original signature is required, so the final page is not fillable because the owners must sign in front of the notary)
- **Change** — new work on an existing home or design changes during construction
- **Decorative Items** — bird houses, bird baths, sculptures, monuments, flagpoles, outdoor lighting, etc.
- **Paint/Color Application** (manufacturer paint chips are required to be submitted with this application)

*Please note:* To avoid delays, make sure your submittals are complete. For example, manufacturer paint chips are required to be submitted with your Paint/Color application. For Decorative Item applications, include a photo or sketch of the item(s) and location(s) to ensure a timely response.

## ARC Monthly Meetings Have Gone Virtual!

During the current State of Emergency, ARC continues its work, including monthly meetings for Sections A and B, now using a virtual platform for reviews and discussions. Starting with the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Karen Mosteller (ARC Coordinator, in the foreground) facilitates a property owner's submittal with ARC Committee members. Tiffany Williams, Board Liaison, participates from the outer office.



## Congratulations Graduates!

### BHI Celebrates Those Who Will Miss Graduations Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency

BHA recently became aware that several property owners had discussed placing yard signs at their homes to celebrate their graduating seniors' achievements. Graduation signs are considered seasonal, temporary signs, which are permissible under the Village of BHI's sign ordinance and are permitted in all zoning districts. They must be taken down or removed within a reasonable time period and do not require a sign permit.

However, BHA's Design Guidelines are very specific about the kind of signs that are allowed in residential areas, and this type of temporary signage would be a violation of the guidelines.

With the understanding that these are indeed extraordinary times for our property owners and their families and to simplify enforcement and not be in conflict with the Village, BHA's Architectural Review Committee (Sections A & B) considered and approved a **one-time variance (detailed below) that will allow for graduation signs to be placed on residential properties one week before and one week after what would be students' graduation dates.** The Village will be responsible for enforcing the two-week rule and at the end of August, the BHA violation process regarding signs inconsistent with the guidelines will resume.

#### Statement from the ARC:

"The Architectural Review Committee acknowledges that the BHA Design Guidelines only provide for the use of three types of signage — construction signage, real estate sales bollard caps and house signs. The members of the ARC appreciate the unusual circumstances that have affected our BHA member families. The Village of BHI has recognized that the temporary placement of individual graduation celebration signs will be allowed for up to two weeks. Due to the current postponement/cancellation of graduation ceremonies and the hardship this has created, the ARC agrees to allow the display of temporary graduation celebration signs on individual BHA member properties for a two-week period, one (1) week before and remove the sign one (1) week after what would be the graduation date, starting now through the end of August of 2020."

*BHA sends its congratulations to the Class of 2020!*

## Mental Health Assistance — Just a Click or Phone Call Away

It can be tough to navigate life when times are “normal.” But now, during the COVID-19 pandemic, life stressors have ratcheted up a few notches in multiple directions. Just remember — you’re not alone, even during this current mandatory social isolation. And if you have loved ones who live alone, check in with them often.

There are many resources and tips from credible sources available online to help with a variety of topics, including help with alleviating stress, your overall health and, specifically, mental health. Brunswick County has a wealth of resources. Have you explored their website?

Brunswick County offers free telehealth resources 7/24/365

through a program named “Trillium.” The call center is available in English and Spanish, and the phone number is 1-877-685-2415. The “Disaster Distress Helpline” is available at 1-800-985-5990 or via text at “TalkWithUs” to 66746 (24-hour availability).

Connecting North Carolinians with mental health assistance for coping is a program called “Hope4NC Helpline,” and the number is 1-855-587-3463. You can speak to a live person, and it’s now available 24/7.

And a new initiative called “Hope4Healers Helpline” provides assistance for those on the front lines of the COVID-19

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## Smart Meters

Duke Energy provides electric power to six states, including homes on Bald Head Island. The process of updating energy meters on houses from traditional, manually read meters to smart meters started back in January 2012. Installation is free to customers.

Though both meters use low-wave, radio-frequency (RF) signals to transmit usage data, traditional meters only utilize RF signals during a house visit reading with a worker’s receiver. The RF of new smart meters works similarly to Wi-Fi, and RFs are lower than cell phones, baby monitors and microwaves — all of which are typically closer to you inside the house. Smart meters are outdoors.

From Duke Energy’s website, “A smart meter records energy consumption using digital technology and then transmits the data to Duke Energy using two-way communication. This information allows us to identify and respond faster to potential problems like power outages and provides you with better visibility into your energy usage.”

Smart meters bring benefits for customers. This includes the ability to view energy usage data online, receiving usage alerts, changing the due date and utilizing start-and-stop capabilities. And power outages are reported in real-time, so they can be addressed faster.

If you’re concerned about possible health and privacy implications, do your research. Duke Energy ([Duke-Energy.com](http://Duke-Energy.com)) and the American Cancer Society ([www.Cancer.org](http://www.Cancer.org)) have information about smart meters on their websites.


If you want to opt-out from having your meter changed,

visit the Duke Energy website to understand fee implications for setup and monthly charges. These charges may be waived following an approved, notarized health exemption from a North Carolina-licensed medical physician. FAQs and forms are available on their website. Visit [Duke-Energy.com](http://Duke-Energy.com), click on the bottom “About Us” link, then the “Smart Grid” icon near the bottom. There is a link to smart meters in the text.

According to a Greentech Media March 2020 report, “U.S. utilities, meanwhile, will spend about \$3 billion to add about 24 million smart meters to the estimated 104 million deployed as of this year. By 2025, more than four-fifths of U.S. utility customers will be equipped with smart meters.” For a global perspective, the report states, “By mid-decade the world will have almost 1.3 billion smart meters in place.”

For the three BHA-managed drip-line communities (Keeper’s Landing, Surfman’s Walk and Sumner’s Crescent), Pam Rainey will inform property owners about the opt-out option and facilitate the process.

### Update — Smart Meter Project on BHI Postponed

The April 15<sup>th</sup> *Village’s Voice* stated, “Duke Energy has postponed the Smart Meter Project on BHI. Duke Energy customers on Bald Head Island may have noticed some information in the mail about Duke Energy’s efforts to switch from the traditional electric meters to smart meters. This project has been postponed until this fall, likely in the November time frame. The Village will be receiving some more detailed information that will be distributed closer to the project launch date.” 



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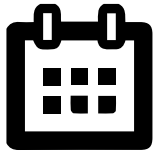
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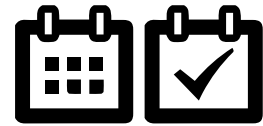
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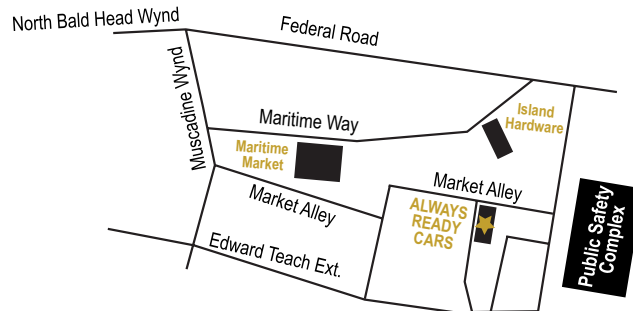
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# Help the Village Protect Bald Head Island's Dunes

By Carin Faulkner, Village of BHI Public Information Officer

Dunes act as a barrier from storm surge during severe storms and hurricanes. They act as a storage reservoir for sand that only gets taken away when there is an infrequent but severe storm or hurricane. The larger the dune, the more time it takes to erode and the more protection it provides to landward properties and infrastructure. The sand stored by the dunes also reduces wave heights, compared to areas that have little or no dunes.

Through the years the Village of Bald Head Island has gone to great expense and effort into stabilizing and protecting the dune system along West and South beaches. In addition to shoreline restoration projects, the Village has planted vegetation and installed rope fencing to help build up sand on the dune line. The Village also routinely monitors the beaches and dunes to see if any weak areas exist that could be vulnerable to storm surge.

During a survey of the beach in early March, the Village found accesses that did not extend past the vegetation line and accesses that require repair (see photos). Ensuring that your beach access is built up and over the dunes will help preserve the dune system and create a contiguous barrier to storm surge. Having the crossover built up and over the dune will also prevent beachgoers, including those who may be visiting or renting, from violating the Village's Dune Protection Ordinance (\$500.00 fine).

Before having your crossover extended, repaired or replaced, please contact Stephen Boyett in Development Services ([sboyett@villagebhi.org](mailto:sboyett@villagebhi.org) or 910-457-9700, ext. 1004) or stop by his office (the mobile office between Public Safety and Public Works). He will be able to determine if the Division of Coastal Management needs to flag the first line of vegetation and can provide the specifications for construction. Before construction can begin, Mr. Boyett must review the construction drawings and issue a building permit. For all Bald Head Association member properties, any change to an existing beach access, including dune crossovers and walkways, requires prior approval by the Architectural Review Committee (ARC). Contact Karen Mosteller, ARC Coordinator, at [Karen@BaldHeadAssociation.com](mailto:Karen@BaldHeadAssociation.com).



If you do not have a private beach access, you can help by reminding your visitors and guests to stay off the dunes and to use the public beach accesses or designated accesses near your home.

If you are interested in learning more information about dunes, erosion and how the beach works, NC Sea Grant has published a booklet called "The Dune Book." It is an excellent resource and was the source for this article. It can be found online here: [https://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/ncseagrant\\_docs/products/2000s/dune\\_book.pdf](https://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/ncseagrant_docs/products/2000s/dune_book.pdf).



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## It's Sea Turtle Time!

By Paul Hillbrand, Sea Turtle Program Coordinator, BHI Conservancy

This is a time to celebrate on Bald Head Island, as BHI's unique summer residents are completing their migration home. That's right, the nesting loggerhead sea turtles are returning, and nesting season has begun. It lasts from May 1<sup>st</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup> each year.

Embarking on the 2020 nesting season, the BHI Conservancy wants to remind everyone of proper beach etiquette during the summer months. Please remember:

- Fill in all holes dug in the sand.
- Remove ALL beach equipment/furniture to at least the dune line each evening.
- Section 3.a. of the Village of Bald Head Island's Artificial Lighting Ordinance prohibits illuminating the beach by artificial light from May 1<sup>st</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup> except by frequencies of red light (this includes phone lights).

- Stop by the BHI Conservancy for supplies to convert your flashlight to red light.
- Section 3.c. of the Village of Bald Head Island's Artificial Lighting Ordinance prohibits exterior lighting of any kind, except low-profile luminaries and baffled lights by frequencies of red or amber light.
- If you see a nesting sea turtle, keep a respectful distance and please call the BHI Conservancy's wildlife response hotline at 910-457-0089, ext. 5.

Whether during the day while BHI Conservancy workers are placing adopt-a-nest signs celebrating the wonderful people of our lovely community or at night witnessing the magical moment a mother sea turtle decides to emerge from the Atlantic to lay her nest, the BHI Conservancy's Sea Turtle Protection Team looks forward to seeing everyone on the beach this

summer. Thank you for doing your part to make Bald Head Island a safe haven for sea turtles!

*Continued from page 3 (Mental Health Assistance — Just a Click or Phone Call Away)*

pandemic, including healthcare professionals and staff, emergency responders and their family members. The number is 919-226-2002 and available 24/7. Callers will be contacted quickly by a licensed mental health professional.

Additional resources can be found by exploring websites such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and the American Psychological Association (APA). If your residence is in another county or state, investigate your local resources online.

Links to these organizations and specific resources are posted on the BHA website at [BaldHeadAssociation.com/covid-19-resources](http://BaldHeadAssociation.com/covid-19-resources). Share these valuable resources with your family and friends.

Take time to look for funny videos, humorous cartoons and silly quotes because, after all, laughter is the best medicine.

*Continued from page 1 (All About a Place)*

covering and stay 6' away from anyone else when you're on the ferry, at the post office, the Association, the Market, the Club or anywhere in public. And make sure to pick your spot at the beach away from where large numbers of people are gathering.

Adopting, promoting and personally demonstrating these social norms will help us stay close to the Island we all love so much.





# BHI Conservancy Updates During the COVID-19 State of Emergency

*By Emily Eldridge, Marketing & Communications Specialist, BHI Conservancy*

Although the BHI Conservancy has temporarily closed its doors to the public, we continue to actively engage and educate the public in a variety of ways. We are connecting with our community virtually and encourage people to follow us on social media — [@bhiconservancy](https://www.facebook.com/bhiconservancy) — to stay up to date. Now more than ever, we recognize the importance and value of living in harmony with nature. Hear from our staff about the ways the Conservancy has been positively moving forward during this time.

### **Pam Smith, Turtle Central Retail Manager**

At Turtle Central, we've adapted our selling model to include FaceTime and porch pick-ups at the store. Online product inventory has been diversified and increased on our website ([turtlecentral.org](https://www.turtlecentral.org)), and we've also hosted special contests and discounts through social media and email. We want to stay connected with our customers and let them know that we are here to help them during this time of uncertainty. Furthermore, we are so grateful for everyone who has called in, messaged, emailed us and FaceTimed with us or ordered online! We are so appreciative of our Bald Head Island community. And we cannot wait until we are able to open our doors and greet you in person again.

who continues to pursue mission-based activities even though they have been separated from the Island. These dedicated folks have been tirelessly seeking funding via grants and fundraising initiatives, analyzing datasets from our long-term research projects, designing online educational programs and creating social media posts aimed to keep our community in touch with the magnificence of Bald Head Island. I am also very thankful to our Board, who continues to provide support in numerous ways during this crisis. Lastly, I appreciate how the Conservancy community at-large has stepped up to support us with donations, memberships, Adopt-a-Programs and online Turtle Central purchases. I do hope and pray that everyone on BHI and in the Conservancy community stays safe and healthy, and imagine how wonderful it will be when we can all once again enjoy the glory of BHI beaches, marsh and maritime forest!



### **Beth Darrow, Senior Scientist**

Our Science Team reprioritized fieldwork before we had to leave the Island to make sure the bird nesting habitat at Beach

Access 1 was roped off, our

2020 deer capture season was finalized and our March quarterly water quality sampling for the creek and aquifer was complete. We have shifted some of our data crunching work on our deer population to this spring, we are working on grant proposals to support our science work and we are making many contingency plans to be ready for sea turtle nesting season. You can check out our "Behind the Scenes at the Conservancy" video on our social media channels to watch some of these projects in action.


### **Marissa Blackburn, Senior Educator**

We are really missing Bald Head Island. Right now, we are continuing our education efforts from afar with our "Conservancy Connections" videos. Through this series, we are still focusing on teaching children and families, and inspiring curiosity and wonder of what's happening in the world around us. Episodes premiere on our Facebook page every Monday and Thursday at 2:00pm, and Kelly Armstrong and I are available online at that time to answer any questions viewers may have.

### **Christopher Shank, Executive Director**

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# Old Baldy Update

By Abby Sachs, Development and Communications Coordinator

The Old Baldy Foundation continues to be humbled by the support received from the community of Bald Head Island during the COVID-19 crisis. The organization is proud to be offering virtual programming twice a day during this time, to serve the mission of historical preservation and educational outreach.

Viewers have tuned in to Facebook Live at 10:00am and 2:00pm for an in-depth look at the Old Baldy archival collection and tours of historically significant spots on the Island. Old Baldy would present this content if even just one viewer tuned in to learn but is thrilled to have an average of 1,500 viewers per video. These viewers are tuning in from across the entire country and abroad. School children and teachers are using these videos as a tool for virtual learning, Bald Head Island lovers are using them as a way to connect with the community they miss, history buffs are expanding their knowledge, along with many others. Whatever the reason, the Old Baldy Foundation is honored to be reaching this many people in these trying times.

Not only has the Old Baldy Foundation received a welcome response to our virtual programming, but the foundation has also been honored by the financial donations and contributions received. Old Baldy heavily relies on revenue from lighthouse admissions, historic tours, gift shop sales, special events and more to fulfill our mission. With all of these avenues shut down due to the pandemic, worry set in about how operations would

continue. The Old Baldy Foundation debuted a new website that includes an online shop with merchandise from the gift store, a place to make donations, online sales of the annual lighthouse pass and even to adopt a duck for our annual duck race. The BHI community has once again shown their support of the Old Baldy Foundation as online orders and contributions have helped to allow operations to continue.

Another way to support Old Baldy when the Island opens back up is to participate in one of the many community events it will host throughout the summer. Please follow [www.oldbaldy.org](http://www.oldbaldy.org) for schedule updates and changes due to COVID-19. Join Old Baldy in celebrating the rich history of our Island and community by attending events, volunteering, sponsoring and more. COVID-19 will be an important piece in the historical story of Bald Head Island. Be a part of this story by celebrating our community with Old Baldy when we are on the other side of the health crisis.

As this article was written, there are still many unknowns for what the month of May and then the summer will bring. While Old Baldy is hopeful to be back in operation soon, we will only open when it is safe for the community and staff.

If you can donate or can support the lighthouse by purchasing something from their online shop, head over to [www.oldbaldy.org](http://www.oldbaldy.org). Old Baldy has stood tall for over 200 years, and the foundation will weather this pandemic by the support shown from our community.



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Dear BHI neighbors,

## The Huneycutt Group

Our agency is thinking about you and your family during these unprecedented times. If you have questions about your insurance around COVID-19 please reach out to us. Our agents are working and here for you during this time.



**Chad Huneycutt, agency owner**

Bald Head Island Homeowner

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910.338.1773



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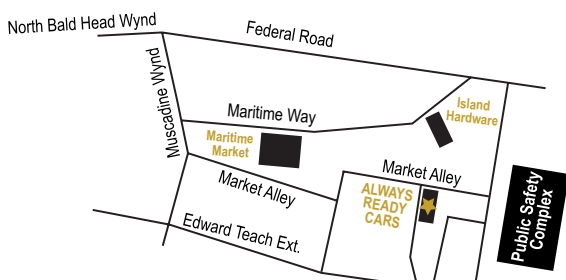
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# Cape Fear Station Alleys — Call-in Meeting May 21 at 2:00pm


Within the planned unit development of Cape Fear Station are alleyways that were designed to provide additional access to 125 properties in that area. These properties contain a private, paved easement that is located at the rear 10' of each of the properties. Owners pay for the maintenance and reserves of these alleys proportionally, based on linear feet. Visually, the alleys appear to be regular public streets without a street sign. They are, in fact, private easements owned and paid for by the property owners.

To help reduce ongoing costs for the owners of alley properties, the Stage II Association negotiated an agreement with the Village of BHI whereby if all owners on the respective alleys agreed to convert the private easement to a public easement, the Village would maintain the alleys, along with other public streets on the Island. Stage II Association began the effort several years ago to collect the requisite documents for the conversion and coordinate

the paving of the alleys to Village standards. BHA continued the effort after the merger, sending numerous general mailings and having multiple contacts with individual alley owners.

To date, notarized easements have been received from all owners on four of the nine alleys. There are several alleys where the required documentation has been received by all but two owners; other alleys are lacking a significant number of owner signatures. At the BHA Board's instruction, staff will not be actively collecting the easements but will, instead, respond to inquiries and educate new owners

about the ongoing costs. To view the alley status map, go to [BaldHeadAssociation.com/news](http://BaldHeadAssociation.com/news) and click on the April archived *Island Report*.


One of the alleys was paved last fall, and the other three alleys are set to be paved as part of the Village's fall paving project, to save on mobilization costs. 








A call-in meeting for owners of alleys not receiving 100% participation is scheduled for **Thursday, May 21 at 2:00pm**, barring any complications from the COVID-19 pandemic. To participate, contact Pam Rainey, Customer Relations Associate at Bald Head Association, at [PamR@BaldHeadAssociation.com](mailto:PamR@BaldHeadAssociation.com).

## Bald Head Association's 2020 Assessments

BHA's 2020 assessments were originally due by February 29, 2020. As your neighbors, the BHA Board understands the economic impacts due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency. For property owners who have made prior arrangements to make quarterly payments, second quarter payments are due by May 31, 2020. For property owners who haven't yet paid their 2020 assessment and need additional time, the Board has suspended interest accrual until July 1, 2020. To discuss partial payment arrangements or for any questions, contact Denise Eidal at [Denise@BaldHeadAssociation.com](mailto:Denise@BaldHeadAssociation.com).

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# TIDBITS:

*(Noun) a small and particularly interesting item of information.*

## Important Reminder — DO NOT FLUSH Cleaning/Sanitizing Wipes Down BHI Toilets

The Village’s Public Utilities Department would like to remind BHI customers **DO NOT FLUSH** disinfecting wipes (such as Clorox and Lysol wipes) down toilets. They clog up the sewer system. Though a product may be labeled “flushable,” “disposable” or “biodegradable,” it does not mean that it is designed to be flushed down the toilet. This has become an increased concern for all sewer utilities during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

As a general rule of thumb, do not use your toilet as a trash can. Prevent damaging and costly sewer backups by being careful of what items are flushed. Items that should be thrown in the trash — NOT flushed down toilets — include: facial tissues, gum, cigarette butts, all feminine sanitary products, bandages, paper towels, disposable diapers, hazardous chemicals and grease.

BHI Public Utilities asks for everyone’s help. Please share this important information with all guests and renters.

## Your Virtual Library Is At Your Fingertips

During this COVID-19 State of Emergency, everyone is spending lots of time at home, and many people are using this time to read more. If your home library is limited or you’ve already re-read some of your favorite books and are craving something new, you have more options than just buying new books online.

If you’re interested in widening your literary circle to find just the books you’re looking for, sample reading is a great way to gain new favorite authors. And to top it off, it’s free! Your ticket is simply your library card number.

This virtual library is an app that you can download on most iOS, Android and Windows 10 devices. It’s called “Libby.” From the Libby website, “Libby is a free app where you can borrow ebooks and digital audiobooks from your public library. You can stream books with Wi-Fi or mobile data, or download them for offline use and read anytime, anywhere. All you need to get started is a library card.” For more information and frequently asked questions, visit [Help.Libbyapp.com](http://Help.Libbyapp.com) or your app store.

The Brunswick County Library System has many virtual ser-

## Pedestrians and Bicyclists — Traffic Flow and Safety

It’s important to remember that BHI roadways are shared with pedestrians, bicyclists, golf carts, small contractor trucks and vans and large shipping trucks. Traffic laws apply for safety, and pedestrians and bicyclists should comply with correct traffic flow.

**All pedestrians should walk/jog/run against the flow of traffic** on BHI roads. Wear brightly colored clothing and be extra cautious on blind curves. Walk/jog/run in single-file and stay on the right side of the road when vehicles approach.

**All bicyclists should ride single-file with the flow of traffic.** Bicyclists are subject to the same rules of the road as other vehicles — stay to the right. Wear brightly colored clothing for higher visibility and wear a helmet to help protect your head and brain from injury in the event of an accident. Local laws and Village ordinances require anyone under the age of 16 to wear a helmet while on a bicycle, scooter (motorized or non-motorized), roller blades or similar means of transportation. Front and rear lights must be in working order while riding at night. Pull over to the right side of the road to allow carts, trams, Public Safety QRVs (Quick Response Vehicles) and commercial vehicles to pass.

Remind children riding bicycles to look and wait for traffic at all intersections. Though this is an island paradise, BHI roads can have significant traffic, especially during warmer seasons. Too many children have been seen darting unsafely into the road without even looking for oncoming traffic. **Let’s all be safe!**

Children wearing helmets while bicycling have a chance to earn free ice cream. If a Public Safety officer sees a child wearing his/her helmet while bicycling, they may give him/her a “Doin’ It Right” card, good for a free ice cream cone from Sandpiper.

Pass it along! Share this information with visiting family and friends as well as guests renting your homes.

vices and resources available to library cardholders, even though the brick and mortar facilities are closed to the public. Visit [www.BrunswickCountyNC.gov/virtual-library-services](http://www.BrunswickCountyNC.gov/virtual-library-services). Here are some resources available at your fingertips: virtual books; education and teacher resources; online health information; ancestry research; language learning; video collection; newspapers and magazines; job search, resumes and career advice; testing and education reference center and Everything NC.

Get creative! Start your own virtual book discussion group with friends or family. Or, join a book club already out there. It’s important to balance alone time with time spent with others — *virtually*, of course.



## Who Do I Call? During a State of Emergency

As the municipality on Bald Head Island, the Village of BHI is the prevailing authority during states of emergency. The Mayor, Village Councilors and Village staff coordinate efforts with officials from Brunswick County, North Carolina and federal agencies as needed. Village officials also coordinate efforts with the owner of BHI Transportation. The ferry and tram systems are privately owned by BHI Transportation and regulated by the NC Utilities Commission.

The Village of BHI handles all issues regarding public safety, including emergency response. The Public Safety Department is equipped to handle medical, fire, water rescue and police emergencies. The department also handles golf cart and ICE (internal combustion engine) permits and enforces Village ordinances. For general questions, call the Public Safety Department office Monday-Friday 9am-4pm at 910-457-5252.

- **When you are physically on BHI, for emergencies and non-emergencies: call 911.**
- **When you are not physically on BHI, for emergencies and non-emergencies: call the Brunswick County dispatch station at 910-253-7490, which uses the same dispatch protocol as 911.** This is due to 911 phone tracking purposes.

The Village Public Utilities Department handles water and sewer services for BHI. For questions call 910-457-7350. The Village Public Works Department handles trash pickup and recycling services for BHI. For questions call 910-457-5422. The Village Post Office/Island Package Center handles mail and package services for BHI. For questions call 910-457-9700. CodeRED is Brunswick County’s emergency alert notification service. Sign up at [www.brunswickcountync.gov/codered](http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/codered). Keep in mind that hurricane season begins June 1, so be prepared with necessary alert notifications.



## New to BHA? Be Informed!

### Don't miss out on updates from various BHI organizations

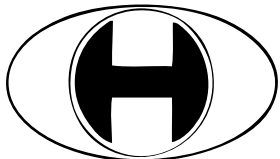
In season, off season or “shoulder” season, it doesn’t matter the time of year. It doesn’t even matter during a global pandemic amidst emergency stay-at-home orders. Information continues to flow, thanks to technology. And BHI organizations are definitely plugged in to keep our collective communities in the loop.

Organizations on Bald Head Island utilize various online channels to help keep islanders connected. Channels that you can view at your leisure include websites, Facebook pages, YouTube channels, Instagram posts and more. For timely updates or newsletters that are sent to you directly, many organizations use email platforms. But first, you have to sign up to receive them. Are you signed up to know everything going on around Bald Head Island?

- Sign up for Bald Head Association E-blasts on the home page of [BaldHeadAssociation.com](http://BaldHeadAssociation.com).
- Sign up for the Village of BHI’s *Village’s Voice* at [www.villagebhi.org](http://www.villagebhi.org). Hover over “Resident Services,” then “Services” and click on “*Village’s Voice* Application.”
- Sign up for Old Baldy’s monthly newsletter, *The Keeper’s Times*, on the home page at [www.oldbaldy.org](http://www.oldbaldy.org).
- Sign up for the BHI Conservancy’s newsletter, on the home page at [www.bhic.org](http://www.bhic.org). Scroll down and click on the purple bar labeled “Sign up for E-news,” then fill out the form.
- Sign up for The Village Chapel’s newsletter, *The Beacon*, on the home page at [www.villagechapelofbaldheadisland.org](http://www.villagechapelofbaldheadisland.org).



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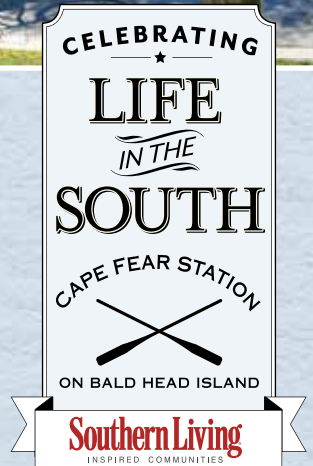
# Meet *Southern Living's* Inspired Community of the Year



*The word is getting out...* Bald Head Island's *Southern Living* Inspired Community in Cape Fear Station was recently hailed the **Community of the Year** by the magazine.

Only a handful of communities meet *Southern Living's* strict criteria for "charm, taste and Southern spirit embodying a distinctive pride of place." Located just a stone's throw from the Atlantic Ocean, each specially designed home in the community is built by Whitney Blair Custom Homes, two-time winner of *Southern Living's* Custom Builder of the Year award.

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## Congratulations Joe Hawkins!

BHI resident Joe Hawkins recently won a Class A section of the Walter Muir Quad, a correspondence chess tournament. Joe plays using a web server that shows chess moves on his screen. He explains that some social chess sites use three days/move as a standard. For this tournament, Muir Quads are set to 10 moves/50 days.

From Joe Hawkins, “Correspondence chess is a very slow version of regular tournament chess. While it does allow much more time to analyze a position, it offers more opportunities to make horrendous mistakes, as well.” It is played using web servers, internet forums, email or the postal system. A quick check on Wikipedia explains, “Less common methods that have been employed include fax, homing pigeon and phone.”

Joe Hawkins explains, “The Muir Quads are webserver tournaments managed by the US Chess Federation, which result in official US rating points. Each quad consists of four players who simultaneously play two games (one white and one black) against each of the other three players. So, you end up playing six games.” To view the chess matches, visit <https://new.uschess.org/postal/check-is-in-the-mail-april-2020>. By clicking on chess piece movement links, you can watch how the match unfolded.

Joe has been playing Muir Quads for at least 10 years, slowly moving up in ratings. Only the third or fourth time playing in the A Section, he was pretty surprised to win it (three wins, three draws). He explains, “The A Section is the section just below where the Masters (Candidate Masters through Grandmasters)


play. These folks play some serious chess.”

When asked how he got started playing chess, he explains, “I got my first chess set at about eight or nine years old. Neither my Mom or Dad knew how to play, and all we had to go on was a little half-page set of instructions that obviously had been translated several times before it got to English. It was a little unclear. But eventually, I learned the basics and have been playing ever since. I’ve had some great games, beating a master once and a state champion a couple of times, but then got wiped out by some random guy in a bar. Chess is a funny game.”

After Joe and his wife, Bobbie Randall, moved to BHI full-time, he taught some chess classes through the BHA, which proved to be a big hit. For those courses, he wrote two books, *Chess Fundamentals* and *Tactical Concepts*.

Joe says that he has played a lot of chess with another BHI resident, Alan Briggs, over the years. “We play very similar styles and are pretty evenly matched strength-wise, so we’ve had a lot of draws. I have to admit, he’s probably got a couple more wins in the series, but who’s counting.”


Anyone interested in playing chess can find resources online. The US Chess Federation ([www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org)) is the governing body for US chess competition. And membership is free at [www.Chess.com](http://www.Chess.com).

Bald Head Island may just be the perfect place to engage in correspondence chess. There is definitely a similarity between correspondence chess and BHI’s “turtle time.” 

## BHI Transportation Authority Meetings Temporarily Canceled

Due to COVID-19 State of Emergency (SOE) restrictions, the BHI Transportation Authority (BHITA) meetings have been temporarily canceled. Meetings would exceed the current maximum 10-person gathering rule, and the meeting place at Southport’s Community Center is not available until Labor

Day, due to Southport Mayor’s SOE declaration. Stay tuned for updates when meetings resume.

BHI Transportation is the current owner of BHI ferries, trams, docks and parking, and they have been working with the BHITA toward the possibility of acquiring the assets since 2017. 


## Tides and the Moon

Bald Head Island is a barrier island surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and Cape Fear River. If you live on or visit Bald Head Island, it is wise to know about tides that may affect your outdoor recreation. Knowing these times can affect not only where you place your beach chairs and when to walk, but more importantly, when or when not to kayak, canoe, paddleboard, boat, fish or swim.

High tides can be higher (and low tides can be lower) than normal depending on the phase of the moon that corresponds with the alignment of the Earth, sun and moon (during full and new moon phases, all three are nearly aligned during a “spring tide” that occurs every two weeks), during times of the moon’s closest proximity to Earth (called perigee) and

when the Earth is at perihelion (closest to the sun in early January). A king tide is a colloquial term for an especially high spring tide, such as a perigean spring tide. King tides occur three or four times a year.

Tide charts are easily found online. And moon phase information is easily accessible online as well as on some weather apps. Check daily to know when high and low tides are occurring on BHI.

It is not recommended to venture out onto Frying Pan Shoals at ANY time, even low tide, for safety. Every year, too many people on BHI need water rescues from being stranded by incoming tides. Help spread the word to your guests and renters. 

Bald Head Association  
PO Box 3030 / 111 Lighthouse Wynd  
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www.BaldHeadAssociation.com  
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*COVID-19 resources  
for all property owners,  
including those who rent:  
www.BaldHeadAssociation.com/  
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