

# From the Mayor's Desk

From the October, 2008 Tybee Breeze:

At this time last month, we had tropical storms and hurricanes lined up out in the Atlantic. At various points in their path, both Hanna and Ike were expected to affect our area. We are extremely lucky that we were able to dodge the bullet(s) once again. As we all know, hurricane Ike was the most destructive of the storms that have made landfall in the United States thus far this year. We pray that the people of Galveston (and Haiti and Cuba) are able to recover from this terrible storm.

If there was one lesson that we learned from Ike, it would be to follow the advice of those who call for evacuations, if for no other reason than to avoid placing the lives of first responders who may be called to rescue you at risk.

On a more positive note, the re-nourishment project is set to begin in early October. I mentioned last month that I would devote some space in this month's article on this project. We expect that it will last about 60 days. The contractor, Great Lakes, has a longer window in which to finish the project, but it is obviously in their best interest to get the project completed as soon as possible. The amount of sand we will be getting was estimated to be approximately 1,200,000 cubic yards. This equates to 750 football fields filled a foot deep. Due to erosion that we experienced thanks to Tropical Storms Fay and Hanna, we may get more sand than that. The goal is for the contractor to give us enough sand to last for approximately 7 years.

Luckily, the bid came in lower than we expected, which should allow us to get more sand. The area that will receive the most sand is the area that is most eroded: the zone between Second Street and the location of the anchor (at the curve where Highway 80 turns into Butler Avenue). Our focus for the long term is to complete the second phase of the channel impact study so that the federal government will be required to provide funds in the future for periodic re-nourishment... to put it another way: so we do not have to depend on obtaining an "earmark" from Congress every 7 years. As we watch the presidential debates, both candidates will in all likelihood call for an end to earmarks as it is often equated with "pork barrel" spending. This increased scrutiny of the earmark process makes it even more imperative that we begin laying the groundwork for the future now.

There is one more thing I wanted to mention about this project. It will be an inconvenience in several respects. First off, portions of the beach will be closed at various times. Also, the contractor is allowed to work around the clock. The number one complaint experienced at Hilton Head during their recent project was the beeping of large equipment going in reverse. On the other hand, it will be interesting to see such a large scale operation take place. And there is no better time to find shark's teeth at the beach!

Just a few more things to mention: I have asked city staff and the City Council to approve moving forward with obtaining a Bicycle Friendly designation for our Island. If approved, the designation will force Tybee to take several steps towards becoming a better and safer place to ride our bikes. More on this will come later.

Also, the Legion held its annual September 11th commemoration and drew an enormous crowd. Many thanks for their consistent dedication to this important event.

Finally, it has been 100 years since the Chicago Cubs beat Ty Cobb and the Detroit Tigers to win the World Series. Jodee Sadowsky has done a lot for Tybee since the Breakfast Club was opened in the early 80's... so since the Braves are dead in the water let's all start pulling for the Cubbies to overcome the Curse of the Billy Goat and 100 years of bad luck!

Mayor's Night In will be on Tuesday, October 14 at 6:00 PM. Please contact Vivian Woods at 786-4573 ext 103 for an appointment.

Have a great October!

***As always, feel free to contact me at 786-4573, ext. 108 or via e-mail at [buelterman@hotmail.com](mailto:buelterman@hotmail.com). See you around town.***