

EMERALD ISLE

Old Ferry Channel dredging underway, Emerald Isle beach project delayed

BY BRAD RICH
NEWS-TIMES

After years of planning, dredging of Old Ferry Channel in Bogue Sound between Cape Carteret and Emerald Isle, as well as in Deer Creek in Cape Carteret, is underway.

Greg Rudolph, manager of the Carteret County Shore Protection Office, which oversees dredging and beach nourishment projects, said Friday work started Thursday in the channel.

The dredge from T.D. Eure of Beaufort will slowly move toward shore and eventually into Deer Creek and its tributaries, which provide access to deep water for Cape Carteret residents and visitors.

Mr. Rudolph thinks work in the creek should begin toward the end March. That includes the connector between Deer Creek and the ferry channel, Deer Creek North, Deer Creek South, Deer Creek North

Extension and Schoolhouse Creek. Deer Creek North will probably be the last segment dredged, he said.

T.D. Eure won the contract for the project last year with a low bid of \$1.45 million.

“T.D. Eure did a great job getting the (dredge spoils) disposal sites ready,” said Mr. Rudolph, who anticipates a smooth project.

Dredged material from the channel and Deer Creek will be stored, until it dries, on three properties owned by Paxon Holz and another owned by her brother, John “Bubba” McLean and John McLean Sr. Ms. Holz said Friday she and her family donated use of their properties to help the project because they believe it’s good for Cape Carteret.

“We don’t even have boats,” she said. “But this will benefit so many people in town.”

The site donors get to keep the dredged material

and can sell it for fill material, but Ms. Holz isn’t sure it will be worth selling, as it’s mostly mud and probably full of oyster shells.

Two-thirds of the cost of the project is being paid through the state Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging and Aquatic Weed Fund, with the county, Cape Carteret and property owners along the creek splitting the remaining third.

Meanwhile, the start date for the \$36.1 million Emerald Isle beach nourishment project has been pushed back two to three weeks, from the last week of January to Friday, Feb. 12.

Mr. Rudolph said Thursday he’s not concerned that phase three of the post-Hurricane Florence project on Bogue Banks will run past the Friday, April 30 environmental deadline.

“Akin to building a house from the ground up, there’s always delays,”



Dredging of the Old Ferry Channel is underway, with spoils being deposited at this site off Live Oak Drive and two others in Cape Carteret. (Brad Rich photo)

Mr. Rudolph said in an email. “While inconvenient perhaps, there is no cause for alarm.

“We started our Phase II project last year on Feb. 5 with a similar amount of cubic yards (a little more than 2 million), albeit (with) a shorter sail distance to and from the borrow sources off Atlan-

tic Beach compared to the Phase III Project.”

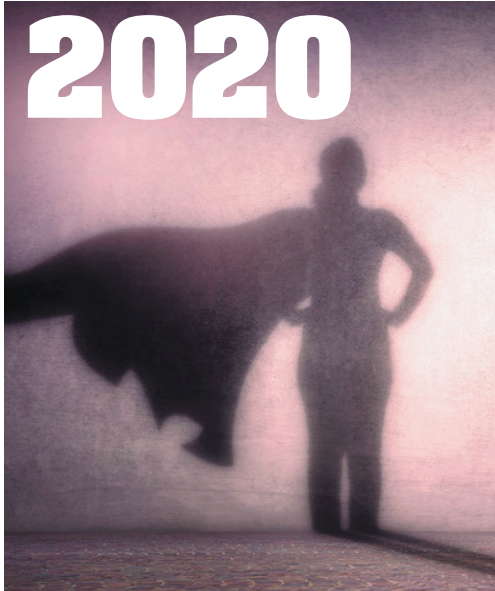
Phase two included western Atlantic Beach and Pine Knoll Shores, plus some of Emerald Isle.

The work will begin with the Liberty Island, one of two dredges involved, dredging up the sand and hauling it to the far western end of Emerald Isle for dis-

charge by pipe to the beach. However, Mr. Rudolph said contractor Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co. of Illinois plans to make up for the later start by bringing in its larger-capacity dredge, the Ellis Island, earlier than planned. That means the two will work in tandem for a longer period in order to meet the deadline, which is set primarily so dredging will be finished before sea turtles arrive in area waters.

“Otherwise,” Mr. Rudolph said Thursday, “the mobilization schedule pretty much remains the same.”

Water-based equipment – submerged pipelines, tugboats and ancillary vessels – has already started arriving at the State Port of Morehead City. Land-based equipment, such as beach pipes, bulldozers and front-end loaders, will begin arriving this week at the vehicular beach access site at the dog leg on Ocean Drive in Emerald Isle.



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Mary Miller – Co-owner The Market at Cedar Point
nominated by Rose Culbreth, Carteret County Food and Health Council

When it became evident that Covid-19 was going to drastically alter the spring for a majority of the people in Carteret County, Mary and her husband opened up their hearts and their food market business for those that had need of food help through loss of job or just any need, up to and including bringing food to those that could not physically come to their market. Basically, if you can’t pay right now, you can get food. If you can pay later, great. If not, that is okay too. Just do not go hungry for lack of money. They started this right at the beginning of the shutdown before people were able to get unemployment or government assistance and there was a real need to community/neighbor helping neighbor. Mary and her husband Jeff stepped up and offered that help to anyone that had a need. They also created a space for crafts people and the local farmers that have lost income due to the various festivals and outlets in the area cancelling due to the virus and continue it with every other week Craft Markets/Farmers Market on their property.

Building on the help she offered to the Coast Guard members who lost wages during the 2018-2019 government shut-down, Mary started this program right at the beginning of the coronavirus shutdown before people were able to get unemployment or government assistance and there was a real need for community neighbors helping neighbors. Mary and Jeff stepped up and offered that help to anyone that had a need. And then the Miller’s friends and supporters expanded this Good Samaritan work by buying gift cards for the Market at Cedar Point which allowed Mary to hand these cards to those who needed their food.

The Market at Cedar Point is a central meeting spot selling organic and locally sourced fresh produce, organic and sustainably raised meats, seafood, baked goods and dairy as well as shelf-stable staples. They have also opened their spacious field and parking lot to vendors who sell their own produce, proteins, and crafts at The Market at Cedar Point Farmers’ Market every other weekend. Mary and Jeff will not idly sit by and watch anyone be hungry or in need, and they will and have put their very livelihood on the line to help people out.

The Market at Cedar Point has been a labor of love since it’s inception and continues to offer that love to all that come through the door.



Daryl Waller – Food Waste and Recovery Program,
Carteret County Food and Health Council
nominated by Martha Przysucha, Carteret County Food and Health Council

Daryl lives in Beaufort and works throughout Carteret County to address food insecurity issues as a dedicated leader and contributor to the Carteret Food and Health Council. By trade, she is a small farm owner and producer. She has been a member of the Council since its start in 2019 and has developed many initiatives in response to COVID and brought in many volunteers to work short and long-term programs within the Council. This county is very fortunate to benefit from her strong passion for assisting those less fortunate.

COVID came upon us all quickly and Daryl mobilized teams by contacting local leaders and creating partnerships across support organizations for the optimal response to COVID. Her broad reach throughout the county provided her the opportunity to contact local school teachers to understand how the children were being fed when schools closed and then contacted faith organizations to access their support towards ensuring the children’s needs were met.

Daryl contacted food banks, food pantries, and farmers markets in the County to assess their greatest needs. She built a team for the Food Waste and Recovery (FWR) Program within the Council. Recognizing the urgency of families that needed assistance during COVID, she used social media to request donations for the local food banks and pantries. The recipients of those organizations were extremely pleased with her efforts and that of the Council for the rapid response of donations, for some weeks receiving more than double the normal donation levels.

As part of the FWR Program, she drove the compilation of safe handling practices of food waste. Her outreach for food waste, unsold food, food for compost, all required that the team understand the published regulations for safe handling and distribution. She also drove the outreach to grocery stores to assess the potential for distribution of unsold food to those in need. This support has been invaluable for the FWR Program of the Council and its members.

Daryl’s innovative thinking also led to the formation of the Community Garden Program (CGP) within the Council. She views this as a long-term initiative in solving food insecurity issues. She again encouraged the use of social media and local outreach to kickstart what is now a very busy program with multiple community garden sites and educational programming for the county residents.

Daryl is humble in her achievements. She is visible through her contributions yet always gives credit back to the Council members or other partnering organizations as a whole. Part of her mentoring others has been through personal feedback which fosters more participation and contribution from the newer Council and program members. She is building role models by her own strong and tireless contributions.

Daryl’s commitment to solving food insecurity issues is unwavering and dedicated. COVID may be with us into 2021 and Daryl realizes that we must move beyond addressing the short term food insecurity needs. The county is fortunate to have such a caring, giving, and passionate volunteer and leader to make positive impacts during COVID. We thank her for her contributions, leadership and passion!



Delicia Lintau – Manager, The Storehouse
Food Pantry in MHC
nominated by Daryl Walker- Carteret Local Food and Health Council

Delicia Lintau is a powerhouse for The Storehouse Pantry! One cannot meet her without being infected by her joyous, loving, energetic spirit. Born and raised in the Philippines and married there to a United States Marine, she and her husband Roland Lintau, of Portuguese-French origin, returned to NC in 1977 to be stationed at Cherry Point. After his twenty years, plus their three children, he retired from the Service.

Delicia began her work as a volunteer when the pantry was part of the East Coast Church in 2008. But when it closed in 2011, she “saw a great need” in the area, and having been asked to take it over, left her driving job to become the manager. She said, “I didn’t have enough money for this but I wanted to help people”. She used her credit card, received donations from friends and involved the Food Bank, where she could buy food for 19 cents/lb. Several churches paid her electric bill, currently around \$800/month and the Willis’s provided their old restaurant space on Bridges rent free. But now she is looking for another large space for the pantry.

Now, along with a handful of volunteers, her most significant assistant is her husband who left his General Manager position at Dominoes to help her. He noticed the 40 lb boxes she was handling were heavy for her to lift! And, he also knew how happy the work made her, so joining her was a way for him to help and to give back to the community, also. Delicia noted, “I have been here 43 years and have been happy living here. I feel blessed and want to repay the United States, to share my joy! If you love God, you love people and want to do good things for others.”

“Ms. Delicia” reported that last month the pantry only served 652 households and 1,985 individuals. Usually, it is closer to 840 households and 3,051 individuals per month. But many were scared to leave home due to the virus or thought the pantry was closed. She noted that people come from many countries and ethnic backgrounds - Asian, Latino, White, African American. No vouchers or IDs are required. Ms. Delicia is available even on Sundays by appointment, truly one whose generosity and commitment has and will help so many in difficult times. “You need food? I give it to you!” she exclaimed. “Everyone is welcome here!



Catherine Elkins – Food Activist,
Carteret Local Food Network
nominated by Fran Pigott Harding- Beaufort Women’s Club

Catherine Elkins - a well-known local food activist --started Carteret Local Food Network in 2008 even before she moved to the area permanently in 2011. Spending summers and long weekends in Carteret County for many years led her to search out the freshly grown food sources and Carteret County farms and farmers. Friends with similar interests were involved and discussions revolved around eating fresh and shopping local, supporting farmers and fishermen and women. And making fresh food from farms more accessible to more people. Thus the nonprofit Carteret Local Food Network was established. And its mission - simply stated -- focused an emphasis on strengthening the connections between farmers and local shoppers. Today CLFN continues to find ways to strengthen this connection. Since the recent pandemic, however, the tools used to serve both populations have changed. The organization has turned to initiatives that support a greater focus on home cooking and family time. CLFN introduced the Veggie Van to bring fresh veggies to the consumer and support local farmers as well as a new phone app to help shoppers find their fresh ingredients. The CLFN Veggie Van delivers CSA-style produce boxes filled with bounty from our local Carteret County farmers to distribution points around the county. As a SNAP retailer, CLFN can also serve our low-income communities with scheduled deliveries of the freshest farm products. Another initiative -- the ‘Visit NC Farms’ phone app -- developed by NCDA and financed in Carteret County by Carteret Local Food Network, is also very important to the community. How? By helping our neighbors as well as visitors to the area find farmers and fishermen as well as farm stands and restaurants serving local ingredients. Other highlighted activities are farm tours, “pick-your-own” farms and farmers’ markets. Since March, Catherine has also served in the Beaufort Middle School cafeteria building meals for school bus delivery, and has served on the Faith, Food, and Fire community response team for Downeast, North River and Beaufort areas. This awareness of the need to understand where to look for food sources in our county - in times of emergency situations such as pandemics and hurricanes - led Catherine to spearhead the next initiative - researching the feasibility of establishing a food hub that could include a shared-use kitchen as well as storage for emergency preparedness. Catherine’s emphasis on eating fresh, shopping local initiatives have supported farms and farmers as well as our Carteret County Community as a whole. In 2009, Catherine opened Underground Farm and Learning Center. She introduced us to farmers’ markets by founding and managing the Olde Beaufort Farmers’ Market in 2013. And she supported (and painted!) the Morehead City Curb Market. She also introduced Slow Money NC to the area. She continues to mentor numerous young and new farmers to Eastern NC.