

COASTAL OBSERVER

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Photos by Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

July Fourth: Night and Day Fireworks fill the sky over the Litchfield Beaches. Below, people fill the beach and ocean at midday.



CORONAVIRUS | Behind the mask

Ordinance seen as sending needed message

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI
COASTAL OBSERVER

Local business owners now have a recourse when customers refuse to wear a mask indoors: no mask, no service.

"It keeps it simple, people know what's expected and it levels the playing field," Beth Stedman, president of the Chamber of Commerce, said about an ordinance passed by County Council last week. "All businesses are doing the same thing and are on the same page. You're not going into one restaurant and having one set of rules and then going next door and there's a different set."

Council voted 6-1 to require people over the age of 10 to wear masks in food service establishments, retail stores, grocery

Doctor on front lines braces for new spike

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI
COASTAL OBSERVER

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing an onslaught like Dr. Desmond Young has never seen.

Young, a pulmonologist at Waccamaw Community Hospital, said in the last two weeks, Tideland's Health's two hospitals in Georgetown County have



Dr. Young

seen a "horrific increase" in the number of COVID-19 patients and the severity of their illness. At the same time, doctors are also treating patients with a variety of other ailments.

"Our ICUs are running at near or full capacity. It seems to be daily, we are seeing more patients in need of hospitalization for

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stores and pharmacies.

A poll of Chamber members last week showed support for the ordinance, Stedman said.

David McMillan, owner of Drunken Jack's and Inlet Affairs and past president of the S.C. Restaurant and Lodging Asso-

ciation, welcomed the council's move.

"We really felt that it put us in a very tough situation when we're requiring our staff to wear a mask and take precautions, and up until last week, less than two percent of the customers were

wearing them," McMillan said "It was really disproportionate and it made our staff wonder what's the purpose. We're trying to protect them and [customers] don't care."

McMillan hasn't seen the

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LITCHFIELD BEACH

POA's revised renourishment plan will haul sand by truck

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Property owners at the south end of Litchfield Beach plan to bring sand from inland rather than offshore to build up the beach and dune. The work will require 100 to 150 truck trips a day for about three months.

The Peninsula Property Owners Association has applied for state and federal permits to truck up to 450,000 cubic yards of sand to the beach. It will be placed along 2,700 feet in front of the 33 lots in the Peninsula and along 900 feet in front of the Inlet Point condominiums.

No sand is proposed in front of Inlet Point South, an area with 26 beach- and creek-front homes.

"There are some owners along the Inlet Point South area that preferred not to be included," said Steven Traynum, the project manager for Coastal Science and Engineering. "It's not ideal. With a big storm event, that would certainly be the weak point."

The Peninsula POA applied in April for permits to place up to 700,000 cubic yards of offshore sand along nearly a mile of beach in front of all three portions of the gated community at the end of Norris Drive. The cost was estimated at \$12 million. Owners at Inlet Point, but outside the Peninsula, said they faced paying hundreds of thousands of dollars in assessments for a project that would primarily benefit the 33 lots.

Scores of property owners filed objections with the state Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Army Corps of Engineers, which must approve the project.

Mary Shahid, an attorney with Nexsen Pruet, represented 39 Inlet Point owners. "There is no consensus in the Peninsula / Inlet Point / Inlet Point South communities regarding the proposed renourishment," she told the agencies this spring.

Shahid said this week she had not yet spoken with her clients about the new permit application, which is open for public comment through July 31.

The Inlet Point and Inlet Point South associations have not voted on the project, according to members who asked not to be identified since they were not authorized to speak for the

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ENVIRONMENT | Toiling in the soil

A tale of two gardens

Sown in shutdown, plot faces short growing season

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

There were tomatoes, squash, eggplants and basil set out on a folding table at the end of the cul-de-sac. They didn't last long.

A group of gardeners who have tilled the soil in a corner of the Pawleys Place neighborhood shared the bounty with the rest of the community on the Fourth of July. About 60 people got some vegetables. Many left behind their names on a petition showing support for the garden,

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The first crop from the garden at Pawleys Place was given away on the Fourth of July.

Charles Swenson/
Coastal Observer



Patience pays off as first plants go in the ground

BY JOSHUA FORD
COASTAL OBSERVER

Giany Guedjo knew three years ago that he wanted to create a community garden in the Pawleys Island area. He also knew that it'd take a lot of time.

So when he and volunteers from the community watched a 10-minute YouTube video this year on how to build a greenhouse, he knew it wouldn't be a 10-minute project. Not a 10-day one either.

"The vision of this is to really

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Independent spirits: Pawleys Island honors a World War II veteran and a tradition.

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Education: Summer learning programs think outside the box.

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