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Summer 2012 Newsletter



Seagulls

Our seagulls must have a real bad agent. We've been doing this newsletter for almost four years, and this is the first time we have featured this, our most common bird. Actually, this could have something to do with it – they're such common birds in this area. We never get tired of telling you about our rear window and the beautiful view from our office. We enjoy watching the herons, and pelicans, and even some birds we can't identify, but seagulls? Frankly, we're not impressed. They're everywhere! No matter where you go around here, you're bound to run into a flock of seagulls (the actual birds, not the singing group). On the other hand, it could be personal – one of them broke my car window once, throwing an oyster shell against it to break it open. You've got to remember though, that our parking lot sits right next to the marsh, so we're sort of in the way of their smorgasbord. Not to mention that it breaking my car window was not intentional; it was just bad aim on its part. What they do is throw the oyster shells on a rock to break it open. Why bother with a rock when they have this nice flat parking lot built right next to their

feeding grounds? Pretty smart for a bird; pretty bad for our car tires, with all the broken oyster shells.

Seagulls in general have a bad reputation. For one thing, they're very loud! Several of them together sound like a group of old women arguing about whose kids are the smartest. In the movie *Finding Nemo* they kept shouting, "Mine, mine, mine", endlessly. Well, they act like it's all theirs, especially your unattended chips or sandwich, but their sound is more of an "Aw auk". They really shouldn't be blamed for stealing our food – we have trained them by feeding them from boats, and at the beach. Kids and adults alike love to feed the seagulls on the beach. It's so much fun to watch them snatch the food in midair, or right off your fingers. If you take the Southport ferry to Fort Fisher, don't forget to bring some seagull snacks. They follow the boat, flying behind it all the way across the river.

Now that I have referred to these "lovely" birds as seagulls five times so far, I must admit that the term Seagull is a misnomer. Not all gulls are seagulls. Some live inland, and most don't wander too far out to sea. There are several different kinds of gulls, and ours are Herring Gulls, of the family Laridae, but for simplicity sake, let's just keep calling them seagulls, and no, they're not all that bad. They're very good parents. Both the male and female take turns sitting on the eggs, which take twenty six days to hatch. Each one will sit on the eggs for three or four hours while the other one goes hunting. When the hunter returns, they switch places. That's sexual equality at its best. They also both continue to take care of their chicks, which stay with the flock for about four years, until they're old enough to breed. Seagulls mate for life, and they live approximately ten years in the wild. They not only learn behaviour, like stomping their feet to simulate rain, to trick earthworms, and that throwing-shells-on-a-rock thing, but they also teach their young these survival tricks. They have excellent eyesight, and unlike most birds, their eyes can move in their sockets. Also, they can drink salt water, which is very unusual indeed. They can do this because they have a pair of glands above their eyes designed to flush the salt out of their system.

The best thing about seagulls is that their diet doesn't just consist of ham sandwiches, and chips. They scavenge dead animals and organic litter, so seagulls, in spite of their bad reputation, actually help keep our beaches clean!



I hope you don't mind recycled photographs. We used this one in our Spring 2010 newsletter, but I couldn't resist using it again, since I'm so proud of it. Thank Steven Sasson of Eastman Kodak for inventing the digital camera, because I probably took a dozen photos of my daughter Linda and my husband Robert feeding the seagulls on the ferry before I was able to get this perfect shot.

Photos courtesy of Martha Russ

♪ *Let's go surfing now,
Everybody's learning how,
Come on a safari with me* ♪
The Beach Boys 1962

In the last few months we have seen three new Surf Shops open in Ocean Isle Beach. Before you get to the light, on Ocean Isle Beach Road, there's Xtreme Surf Shop. In the Lowe's Foods shopping center is OIB Surf & Java, and south of the light, on Causeway Drive, is the newest addition, Tsunami. This got me to thinking about surfing in Ocean Isle Beach. When I think about surfing, I think Hawaii. Am I right? Since our beach faces south, not east like the rest of the coast, our beaches don't have the wave action I associate with surfing, but then, what do I know? So I thought I'd consult with an expert. I learned that our slow, small waves are just what's needed, how about that? Ben Powell, one of the owners of Carolina School of Surf was kind enough to educate us on the basics of surfing.



Situated on the southern-most portion of North Carolina, Ocean Isle is a favorite amongst beach-goers. Visitors flock to the beach community during the summer months to enjoy amenities that the coastal venue has to offer. One recreational activity that is popular amongst the masses is surfing. Being that this sport is exclusive to beach communities, there is high demand for the sport in Ocean Isle, in large part during the serenity of the summer months.

Now, Ocean Isle Beach is not generally touted as "Surf City", but there are many factors that cultivate an ideal setting for newcomers of the sport which many people may overlook. For beginners, small waves - those ranging from two to four feet - are generally the best to learn on. This is because as the waves get bigger, the surfer exercises a smaller degree of control over his or her actions in the ocean. Another element of the beach of Ocean Isle that attracts surfers is its gradually sloping, sandy beaches. Surf breaks with gentle slopes allow for waves that break softer, thus making it easier for the surfer to engage in the act of standing up on the surfboard and ultimately surfing. The sand bottom is much more conducive to safe surfing as compared to a rocky shoreline or reef sea bed which can be extremely dangerous if proper care is not taken.

One advantage the beaches of the east coast wield over the contrasting west coast is a warmer water temperature. During late spring, throughout the summer and most of the fall, the ocean surface temperature of Ocean Isle is very inviting. The temperature climbs from a cool fifty degrees in the winter, and crescendos to about 75-80 degrees in late July, early August and then moderately falls until the end of autumn. Visitors to the beach absolutely love warm water. This is something you cannot find in California per se.

As can be seen, these geographical features of southern North Carolina have allowed the sport of surfing to gain popularity in the area. For any who are looking to learn, Carolina School of Surf is a blue ribbon surf school that caters to all ages and levels of surfing. Owners/Operators Michael and Ben Powell have been surfing professionally for five years and can make any beach vacation a memorable one. As touched on before, Ocean Isle is a great place for beginner surfers. Don't miss out this summer; get lessons or rent a board from the local surf shop. I guarantee you will be coming back for more.

Ben Powell

For more information, please contact Carolina School of Surf (910)233-8908 www.carolinaschoolofsurf.com



Photos courtesy of Ben Powell

What's new?



Since your last trip to Ocean Isle Beach...

Restaurant News

- 125 Oyster Bar at the corner of Causeway and Beach Drive has had a facelift. They still have a breakfast buffet, and are also featuring Calabash Style seafood. Check their marquee for which nights they have karaoke or live music!
- Second Street Café changed ownership and is now Pelican's Perch Bar & Grill. It looks great. They're on [facebook](#).
- Cinelli's, next door to us, also changed ownership and is now Scoozzi , Excuse me?
- The long-awaited Golden Corral is going up in Shallotte and should be finished by July. It's at the first light going north on Hwy 17.

Retail News

- We have three new Surf Shops, and an addition to Eagles. Enjoy shopping at Tsunami Resort Wear, Xtreme Surf & Sport, and OIB Surf & Java. At [OIB Surf & Java](#), you can also have a gourmet coffee while you're on their free Wifi.
- Sugar Britches Beachwear & Gifts just opened on the Causeway next to Causeway Gourmet. Isn't that a cute name? Sugar Britches!

Attraction News

- You want to check out some ghosts? Ocean Isle Beach has a brand new Ghost Walk at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. They meet at the Sunset Slush, by the pier. The walk is led by our local paranormal historian husband and wife team, Will and Allison Smith. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 12 and under. For more information, please call 910-221-4387, or visit them at www.oibghostwalk.com or on [facebook](#).
- This summer, Wonder Works at Broadway at the Beach in Myrtle Beach will have a hot air balloon! Go up, up, and away in their new attraction, "Wonders of Flight." Their 72-foot helium balloon holds up to 30 passengers and will lift you 500 feet over Myrtle Beach! [Click here for more info.](#) *Hint, take a photo and send it to us!

Other News

- If you're a runner or a walker, you might appreciate the new mile markers the town put up. I think they'll also help when we give our guests directions to their rental properties and tell them it's x number of miles up the road. Check out the new mile marker signs on your next jog.

Kids Corner

We need your help to produce our new feature Kids Corner! Tell your kids about it and let them know they can draw a picture, tell us a story, share their favorite beach memory, etc. Send it in to us at ncmcclure@atmc.net and we'll feature it here!



Drew Miller was casting for shrimp off a Raeford Street dock when this picture was taken. He did haul in some shrimp, but was more excited with the small squid he caught!

Photo courtesy of Roberta Chopko

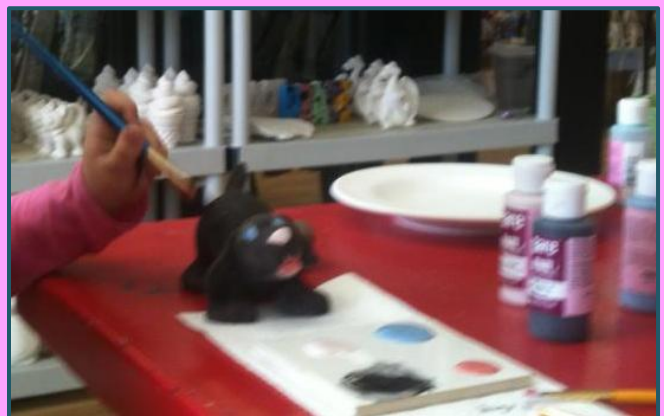


Next Generation Children Clothing & Paint Your Own Pottery

Your perfect back-up plan for those rainy days (let's face it, there's usually one during a beach week) is Next Generation's paint your own pottery studio. Located in Shallotte in the Big Lots shopping center, it's a short drive to take your kids to paint their own masterpieces that they get to take home as their own custom souvenirs from the beach. And hey, there are items for adults too!

Why should the kids have all the fun? A wide variety of ceramic pieces are available to paint at the studio.

Next Generation has got a ton of art adventures planned for Mondays through Fridays this June. Class space is limited so call to save your spot at 910-754-KIDS (5437). Projects vary by day. Call for details.



Boy, we had a great response to the article in our Spring 2012 newsletter, A Dog's Week at the Beach. If you missed it, check it out [here](#). We are happy to be able to offer [pet-friendly accommodations](#) so that our renters can bring their furry family members along on vacation. Here's a photo of Harper, who recently stayed with us and enjoyed Ocean Isle Beach.



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Henderson, Asheville, NC



YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!



Do you have an idea for a topic or event you want to see in one of our quarterly newsletters? Tell us about it!

Send an email to ncmclure@atmc.net.

While you're at it, send us your beach pics from past trips to Ocean Isle Beach!

We love to feature reader-submitted photos, comments, and other submissions!

We'll take beach photos, children's drawings and/or stories, restaurant reviews, topic ideas, Oyster Festival pics, almost anything!



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Summer Concert Series

If it's summer, it must be time for our Friday evening concerts. The Property Owners Association, in conjunction with the Town of Ocean Isle Beach is continuing to provide our guests and residents with the free concert series we have come to love and look forward to. Shows take place every Friday, at the Museum of Coastal Carolina from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. While the show is free, donations are accepted for the local food banks.

2012 Concert Schedule

June 8	Fat Jack	
June 15	The Imitations	Beach/Motown
June 22	Continental Divide	Variety
June 29	The Holiday Band	Beach
July 6	Craig Woolard	Beach music
July 13	Band of Oz	Beach music
July 20	Goldrush	Variety
July 27	Blackwater	Rhythm & Blues
August 3	Carolina Breakers	Variety
August 10	Davis Messina	
August 17	Sea Cruz	Beach/Variety
August 24	Atlantic Groove	
August 31	Legends of Beach	



Don't miss the Ocean Isle Beach Fourth of July Parade on Wednesday July 4, 2012 at 10:00 am. The parade starts at the Museum of Coastal Carolina. It travels east on Second Street to LaGrange, and then returns to the museum on First Street.

Here's some photo highlights from last year's parade.

Reminder: Fireworks are prohibited on Ocean Isle Beach. Professional firework shows are usually held in Southport, NC, Myrtle Beach, SC, and Cherry Grove, SC. Our local paper, the Brunswick Beacon, should tell us details when it gets closer to Independence Day.



Having trouble packing
everything you need for your
beach vacation ?



Help is here!

Angie's Linen Service and Beachway Rentals

Order rentals through Angie's or Beachway and take the stress out of packing too much for your beach trip this year. Angie offers bed linens and bath towels, kitchen towels, and crib sheets. Beachway Rentals can hook you up with beach chairs, umbrellas, a grill, a stroller, a golf cart, and much more. Items are delivered right to your rental and picked up when you depart. Couldn't be easier!

Call today to reserve items early!

Angie's Linen Service

910-755-7220

www.angieslinenservice.com

Beachway Rentals

910-579-8788

www.beachwayrentals.com

RH McClure Real Estate Sales

Below is a current list of properties that are available through R.H. McClure Realty, Inc. We would like very much to represent you in your quest for properties on or around Ocean Isle Beach. Our sales staff will assist you with any listed property in this area. Please check with us often, as prices and listings change frequently. Call

Bob Kennette
910-540-5940

B. Wayne Melton
910-233-6606

John Hightower
910-520-0533

Or visit our website at www.rhmclurerealty.com to view all listings in Brunswick County

Beach Homes

Oceanfront-149 Ocean Isle West 6 br, 6.5 ba		\$ 2,200,000
Oceanfront-124 East 1 st St 4 br, 4 bath	SOLD	\$ 1,435,000
Oceanfront-269 West 1 st St -5 br, 3 bath	SOLD	\$ 749,000
Summerplace-74 Private Dr 4 br, 3.5 ba		\$ 529,000
Soundfront-155 Marsh Lagoon- 5 br, 5.5 bath	SOLD	\$ 895,000
Natural canal – 79 Wilmington, 6 br, 2 bath		\$ 445,000
Concrete canal-45 Raeford-4 br, 3 ba, new dock		\$ 499,000
Island Park Cottages-3 Myrtle Ct, 4 br, 2 bath	SOLD	\$ 359,900
Soundfront-125 SSD – 5 br, 5.5 bath		\$ 749,000

Beach Lots

Soundfront Lot-192 West 4 th St	\$ 349,000
Second Row Lot-313 East First St	\$ 250,000

Beach Condos

Windjammer Unit 1-J – 2 br, 2 bath, oceanfront	\$ 299,900
Windjammer Unit 1-I – 2 br, 2 bath, oceanfront	\$ 295,000
Ocean Point Unit 1002 – 3 br, 2 ba, oceanfront	\$ 565,000

Mainland Lots

Brookhaven Subd – Lot 10, 5 minutes from Wilmington	\$325,000
Bricklanding Golf Course Frontage - 1633 Carriage Pl	\$ 99,000
Bricklanding Golf Course Frontage - 1625 Carriage Pl	\$ 99,000
Crown Stream – 1602 Crownstream Drive	SOLD \$ 35,000

Mainland Homes

Crown Stream – 1600 Crownstream Dr.- 3 bedroom 2 bath - **SOLD** \$175,000

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