

Dennis Barbour
Mayor

Joel Macon
Councilman

Jack L. Lynch
Councilman



Pat Efir
Mayor Pro Tem

Gary Doetsch
Councilman

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TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH ANNOUNCES FLOOD PLANS

CAROLINA BEACH, NC---Mayor Dennis Barbour announced a plan today that the Town of Carolina Beach will implement immediately to address flooding. Some of the actions requested by the Mayor were already in progress; however, he directed staff to increase efforts to alleviate flooding and flood-related issues here.

"Tropical Depression Tammy was an extraordinary event which caused major flooding not only in Carolina Beach, but in all of New Hanover County and vicinity. I want to see Carolina Beach better prepared for storms like this in the future," Mayor Barbour said.

Plans include the following items:

- 1) Mayor Dennis Barbour is sending a letter to Governor Mike Easley to inform him about the flooding situation here and ask for more assistance.
- 2) The Town is already partnering with the NC Department of Transportation to resolve some of the road flooding problems in Carolina Beach.
- 3) The Town will commission an engineering study immediately to determine what the pumping capacity needs to be to control the flooding. This study will also include a costs analysis for all recommendations.
- 4) With the assistance of Cape Fear Resource Conservation and Development, a NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources grant to pay for dredging the lake is being submitted to help

clear the lake of the built-up sediment and debris will increase its holding capacity. All available grant opportunities are currently being explored.

- 5) The Town has identified the most flood prone-areas and is cleaning out ditches, removing blockages and repairing pipes to help improve water flow.
- 6) The Town has purchased a new sewer camera that will help to scan pipes, identify break points and get the pipes repaired more efficiently.
- 7) The \$2 million Carolina Sands subdivision drainage project is currently underway. Completion of this project will assist with flooding issues throughout the town.

Some citizens have expressed concerns about whether pumps were running through the recent storm. Town pumps had been running since 6:45 a.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2005, Tropical Depression Tammy quickly dumped about 14 inches of rain here last weekend causing Carolina Beach Lake to overflow into the streets. The pumps ran non-stop throughout the week with the exception of a couple of hours when they were stopped for repairs.

Carolina Beach Lake can hold a maximum of 55 million gallons of water. Generally, the Town's Operation staff keeps it at a lower level than that and when the forecast calls for heavy rain, they start lowering the water level immediately – which they did for Tammy. Earlier in the week, the National Weather Service had predicted four inches of rain for this area, not 14 inches.

Flooding is not new for Carolina Beach Lake; however the Town's Operation Department has managed to keep the lake from overflowing for four years before Hurricane Ophelia struck in mid-September of this year.

Currently, the Town pumps have the capacity to push 5,000 gallons of water per minute out of the lake. The line the Town has now can only handle a maximum 6,000 gallons of water per minute. Any more causes the line to burst.

Simply, the Town currently does not have the ability to prevent the Lake from flooding when the rains come quickly and in such huge amounts like in Tammy. The Town is hoping that these plans will result in a better flood-prevention system in the future.

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