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Councilman



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Councilman

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TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH
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News Release

Issued: August 11, 2004
For Immediate Release

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TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH LOOKING FOR HELP WITH SEA OATS PLANTING

CAROLINA BEACH, NC---The Town of Carolina Beach is seeking volunteers from the community to help plant sea oats on the North End beach. Planting takes place on Friday, September 17, 2004 and Saturday, September 18, 2004 from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. on both days. The town will provide the plants, refreshments and training on how to properly plant sea oats. In addition, free parking for volunteers will be available in the Sandpiper Lot (and nearby meters) located on Sandpiper Avenue between Canal Drive and Carolina Beach Avenue North. Temporary parking passes for volunteers can be picked up from Town Hall the week of September 13th.

Sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*) are important because they help to stabilize the sand on the dunes and can help the dunes to accumulate sand, rather than eroding. However, when people walk over and across sand dunes, the plants become dislodged and this leaves the dunes unprotected from wind and rain erosion. Planting sea oats in heavily trampled areas can help restore and protect the dunes that in turn help protect the houses behind the dune area. (The sea oats that will be used were grown in the Town of Carolina Beach Municipal Green House.)

Volunteers may contribute any amount of time they have available on either or both planting days. So far, community response and interest in the sea oat planting project is good. Volunteers already signed up to help include:

- 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students and staff from Carolina Beach Elementary School
- 20 citizens
- Town staff
- Members of the North End Ad Hoc Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee and Beach Guardians.

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However, there are thousands of sea oats to be planted, so more volunteers are needed. Assisting the town with rebuilding the dunes through sea oats planting is an excellent community service opportunity for businesses, churches, civic groups and other organizations. Contact the Town of Carolina Beach at (910) 458-2999 to volunteer or for more information.

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