

## Q & A FROM THE DESK OF BILL KENDALL

### Renovation of Beach Area

Q. I noticed County workers, equipment and State Detainees at the beach area. What is going on?

A. This is part of an ongoing program of updating the Recreation Department facilities. Yes, we are using county equipment & labor of road dept. and State Dept. Office of Corrections detainees at no extra labor cost to the taxpayers. The crew of detainees has a very accomplished carpenter who will supervise other detainees in constructing a pavilion.

Last summer we upgraded the ball fields by building press box, new bleachers, constructed three batting cages, improved the fields, grass area and parking area. This winter we constructed additional parking at the Recreation Gymnasium which will be paved and landscaped this summer.

We are now in the process of renovating and upgrading the Beach Area, which will be another ongoing project. Following are some things that will be done in time for this summer season at the beach.

1. A new roof, paint and termite treatment has been completed on the beach house.
2. Under brush area to the lake and surge stone on lake banks.
3. Concrete slabs for picnic tables and a pavilion to be constructed.
4. New sand will be added.
5. A top-notch play area will be added at the back of the beach house.

We are not providing adequate activities for our very young children beginning with toddlers, therefore I have asked a group of citizens, many of whom have this age children or grandchildren to serve on a committee to upgrade the beach facilities. They are in the process of raising funds, getting prices and purchasing equipment for a top rated playground area, also swings, picnic tables and later walking trails. They hope to make the beach renovation project a community effort by soliciting your input, financial contributions and actual manual labor, and will have a “playground raising”, similar to the old fashioned “barn raising”. This will not only result in the importance of getting the community involved but will save approximately \$20,000.00 of installation cost.

Other changes include:

Leaving the facility open all year and eliminating the \$2.00 entrance fee. We are living in a time where there are fewer and fewer places to go for a simple outing with the family for a picnic, etc., without having to pay a parking fee or entrance fee, or some other fee.

We want the Towns County Beach area to be a place the citizens feel is their own to have pride in, are free to come and go and bring their children often without having to pay, or where workers can take a sandwich for a lunch break---We just ask the public to help us take care of your property and keep it clean.

The Committee has already donated many hours of their valuable time – most of them have regular jobs and small children to take care of – **lets support them in this endeavor.**

