



# TOWN MANAGER'S NEWS AND NOTES

May 2021

## ADMINISTRATION

### BEACH LITTER SWEEP

As we head into our summer season, come support your community by volunteering for our Beach Litter Sweep! This event is open to the public, all ages welcomed! Volunteers are provided with gloves and trash bags. Don't forget to share your pictures with us at Town Hall! For more information and to share this event with you friends and family, check out our Facebook event at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/447252939716276/>

#### MEETING POINTS:

ACCESS #3, BETWEEN 915 N. ANDERSON & BLDG QUEEN GRANT

ACCESS #6, ROCKY MOUNT

ACCESS #10, CREWS AVE

ACCESS #16, SEA VISTA MOTEL



If you have any questions, please call Town Hall at (910) 328-5841.

## SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Summer is here and with it comes all the fun activities that a beach community has to offer. We want you to enjoy your time here at Topsail Beach, and there are several steps you want to take to protect yourself and still have fun. If you are a swimmer the ocean can be a great place, but you must be aware that if not careful it can be dangerous. Rip currents are powerful, narrow channels of fast-moving water that can move up to eight feet per second. Even the best swimmers can struggle in these conditions. Fortunately, NOAA has developed a new tool that can help make your visits to our beaches safer.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's new forecast model can [predict the hourly risk of rip currents](https://polar.ncep.noaa.gov/nwps/viewer.shtml) on beaches in the United States, including along the North Carolina coast, up to six days in advance. This link <https://polar.ncep.noaa.gov/nwps/viewer.shtml> will take you to their website with an interactive map showing the rip current risk. You can also go to <https://www.weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent> to learn more about rip currents.

Topsail Beach will also fly flags at each public access notifying the public of the rip current status. Flags will change based on the conditions. Please remember that the absence of red flags does not assure safe conditions. Please get familiar with what each color means. Remember, many visitors, tourist and vacationers are unfamiliar with the Rip Current danger, so spreading the word can help reduce loss of life.



### **Green Flags - Low Hazard and Calm Conditions**

The ocean is always unpredictable, and even on clear and calm days, hazards still exist. However, there are days when the threat of danger is lower than others. A green flag on the beach is an all-clear sign, indicating that it is safe to swim. Even when the flag is green, make sure to exercise caution in the ocean.



### **Yellow Flags - Be Aware and Cautious**

Yellow flags mean some rip current activity is expected. You should be cautious if

entering the water, do not swim alone, and know what to do if caught in a rip current. If you are swimming with children, or you aren't a strong swimmer yourself, wear a life jacket when swimming on yellow-flag days.



### **Red Flag - Strong and Frequent Rip Currents are expected**

Red flags mean dangerous rip current activity is expected. The rip currents would be likely to be stronger and more frequent. Though you can still swim if there is a red flag, all swimmers are discouraged from entering water. Those entering the water should use extreme caution.

Rip currents can occur any time even on calm days, so always be alert. NC Sea Grant and NOAA has provided additional information so you can learn more about rip currents. Brochures are available to the public at Town Hall.

## **BUDGET WORKSHOP**

The Board of Commissioners will hold a Budget Workshop on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This will be the third of three scheduled budget workshops as the Board moves towards adopting the FY 2022 Budget at its June meeting. Preparation is ongoing as our Department Heads continue to review and fine-tune our financial needs to maintain the level of service Topsail Beach deserves.

The Town Hall is currently closed to foot traffic, but the meeting will be streamed live on the Town's website. For those who have any questions pertaining to the budget workshop or wish to make Public Comments, please send them in advance to: [publiccomments@topsailbeach.org](mailto:publiccomments@topsailbeach.org). Should you need assistance for this meeting please contact us at 910-328-5841 or by email at [jderoche@topsailbeach.org](mailto:jderoche@topsailbeach.org).

## **CORONAVIRUS**

As the state's metrics and key indicators remain stable, Governor Cooper signed an Executive Order outlining safety measures for the month of May. Executive Order No. 209 will take effect April 30 and is set to expire June 1. As more North Carolinians get vaccinated and adhere to safety protocols over the course of the next month, the state anticipates lifting more restrictions on June 1.

Under the new Executive Order, masks will still be required indoors but are no longer mandated outdoors. Masks are still strongly recommended outdoors by NC DHHS in crowded areas and higher risk settings where social distancing is difficult.

Executive Order No. 209 also increases mass gathering capacity limits. The number of people who may gather indoors will increase from 50 to 100 and the number of people who may gather outdoors will increase from 100 to 200. Occupancy limits currently in place will remain the same.

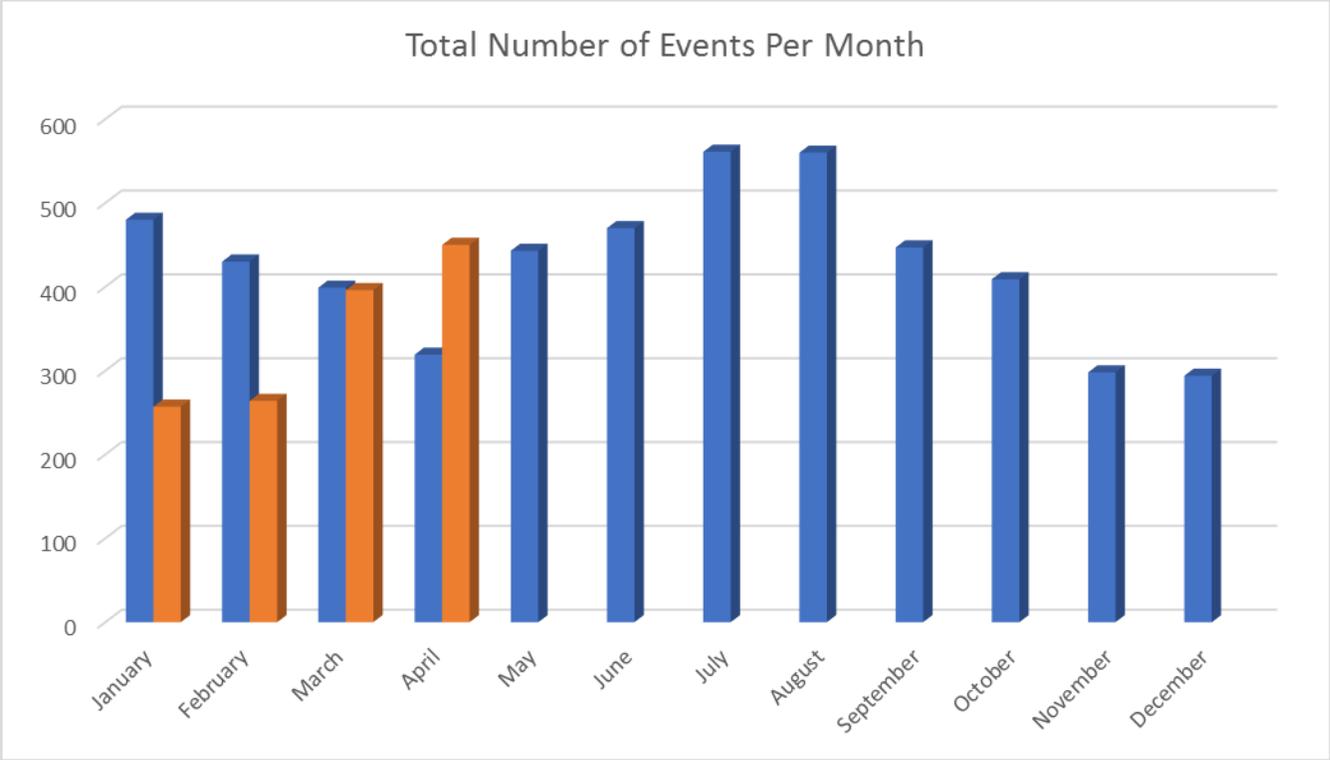
As we head into the summer season, we encourage everyone to get vaccinated. Pender County Health Department is offering the Moderna vaccine on Tuesdays in Burgaw and Thursdays at the Hampstead annex. Appointments are available online at [pendercountync.gov](http://pendercountync.gov) or you can walk in starting at 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



## POLICE

### ACTIVITY LOG EVENT SUMMARY

APRIL 2021			
ARREST MADE	10	ASSIST TO FIRE/RESCUE	1
ALARM CALL	1	CALL FOR SERVICE	25
ASSAULT	0	BEACH PATROL	2
BOAT RELATED CALL	0	BEACH WHEELCHAIR	0
CIVIL CITATION	6	DEATH	0
DISTURBANCE CALL	6	DOG RELATED CALL	2
LARCENY REPORT / B&E/ DRUGS	1	LOST & FOUND PROPERTY	1
MESSAGE DELIVERED	0	MISSING PERSON	0
OPEN DOOR FOUND	7	PARKING COMPLAINT	7
PROPERTY DAMAGE	1	SURFING VIOLATION	0
SCHOOL ATTENDED	7	SECURITY/BUSINESS CHECK	194
SPECIAL WORK	47	STATE CITATION ISSUED	50
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	2	SUSPICIOUS/UNLOCKED VEHICLE	18
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	0	TRESPASS CALL	4
TOPSAIL/SURF CITY ASSIST	1	WARNING CITATION ISSUED	57

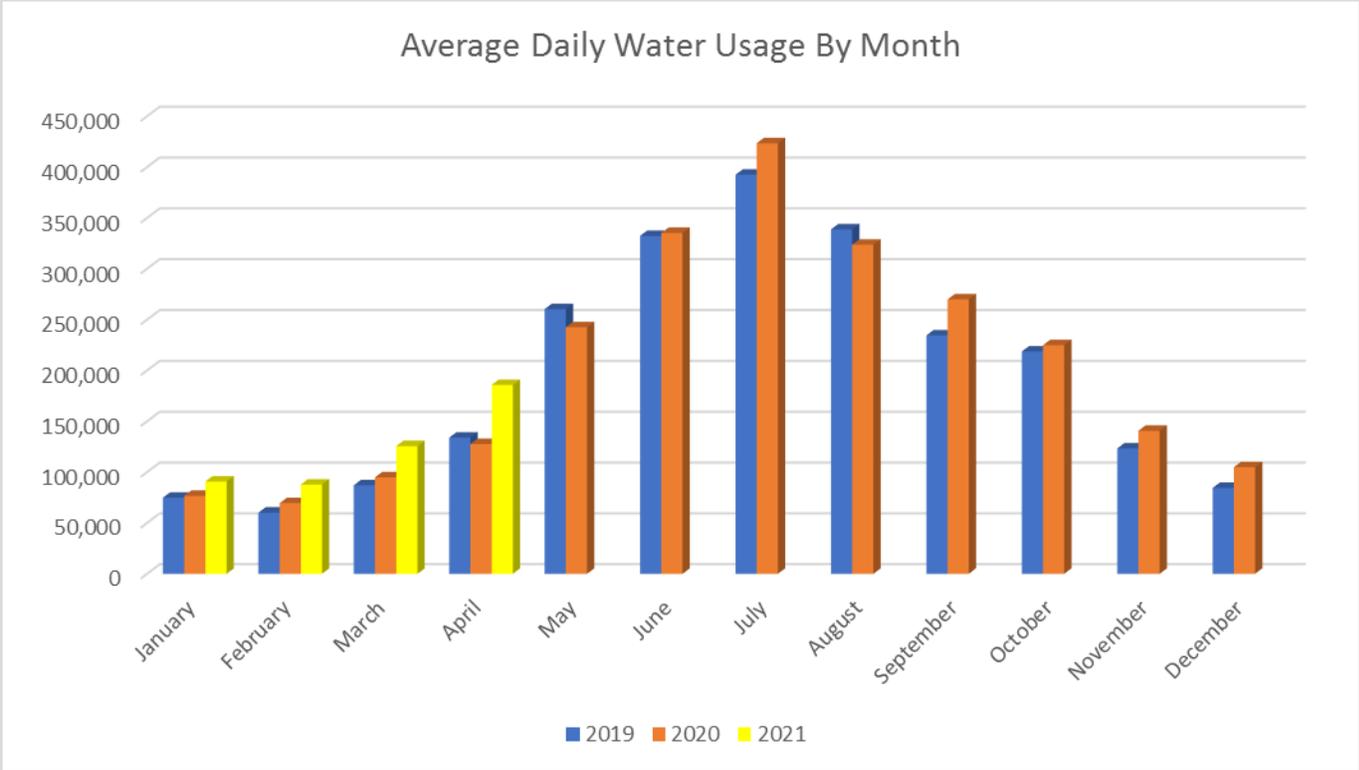


## PUBLIC WORKS

### WATER USAGE



Below is a look at the average daily water usage for April 2021, and a comparison of the data to 2019 and 2020. This April the distribution for the water system was a total of 5,758,270 gallons of water for an average of 185,751 gallons a day, an increase of 58,138 gpd over the same period last year (127,613 gpd).



**PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES**



Our Public Works staff continues to ramp up efforts to get ready for the summer season! Our beach accesses are getting a bit of a facelift, including parking lot regrading, adding curb stops, outlining the perimeter with timbers, replacing faded signs, and general clean-up. Over the next few

weeks, they will be putting up the rip current flags and life rings at each access. Every effort will be made to work quickly and minimize any inconvenience. If you see staff out and about, be sure to say hello!



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### PLANNING AND ZONING

The Planning Board met on April 28, 2021 with the following actions taken:

1. Reviewed and made a recommendation of a proposed ordinance to amend the Town Code in compliance with the 160D NCGS regulations. The proposed ordinance was prepared by Wes MacLeod, Cape Fear Council of Governments.
2. Reviewed and made a recommendation of a proposed Ordinance to restrict development of properties within the Conservation districts to those properties in and abutting to residential, B-1 and B-2 zoning districts.

### PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met on April 28, 2021 with the following actions taken:

1. Discussed and clarified recommendation to the Board of Commissioners the options and priority of the Walk/Bike Plan.
2. Discussed the status of the repair to the pickle ball courts, removal of the bushes on the east side of the courts and made a recommendation to the Board of Commissioner to address prior to the summer season.
3. Discussed and made a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to place signage at or near the pickle ball courts to establish the following rules of use/play:
  - Limit play to one game per court while others are waiting to play
  - Waiting players should rotate in either as a group or individually
  - No foul language or abusive behavior
  - Please dispose of all litter in trash cans

### SPECIAL EVENTS

None.

<b>BUILDING PERMIT SUMMARY</b>
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A total of 19 permits were issued at a valuation of \$98,175.00.

### **April 2021 BUILDING PERMITS**

<b>PERMIT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>VALUATION</b>	<b>PERMIT FEE</b>
Docks/Decks/Seawalls/ AC	1	\$3500.00	\$135.00
Electrical Repair	4	\$4500.00	\$220.00
Fencing	1	\$500.00	\$30.00
Mechanical Repairs	7	\$67,175.00	\$385.00
Misc. Building Repair	2	\$6,000.00	\$200.00
Misc. Plumbing	2	\$8,000.00	\$110.00
Residential Alteration	1	\$8,500.00	\$115.00
Miscellaneous Zoning	1	\$0.00	\$30.00
	<b>19</b>	<b>\$98,175.00</b>	<b>\$1,225.00</b>

*Dates to Remember:*

*Board of Commissioners – May 12<sup>th</sup> (6:00 PM)*

*Beach Litter Sweep – May 15<sup>th</sup> (9:00 AM)*

*BIS Committee Meeting – May 20<sup>th</sup> (2:00 PM)*

*Budget Workshop – May 18<sup>th</sup> - (9:00 AM)*

*Planning Board/ Parks and Rec. Meeting – May 26<sup>th</sup> (10:00 AM)*

*TISPC Meeting – May 27<sup>th</sup> – (2:00 PM)*