



# TOWN MANAGER'S NEWS AND NOTES

July 2020




## ADMINISTRATION

### CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Governor Cooper extended the regulations for Safer At Home Phase 2 until July 17<sup>th</sup>. In addition, new requirements for wearing face coverings in public areas were also enacted. Detailed information on the Executive Order, including *Frequently Asked Questions*, can be found on our website. The Town of Topsail Beach will continue to monitor COVID-19 and the impacts it may have on our community. At this time, Town offices will remain closed to the public, but our staff is still working and ready to serve. You can always reach us by telephone or email, and we can make appointments if on site visits are needed. The Board of Commissioners will continue to meet via ZOOM, but we encourage everyone to send your comments to [publiccomments@topsailbeach.org](mailto:publiccomments@topsailbeach.org).

We are committed to protecting the health and safety of our residents, property owners, and visitors as well as the economic wellbeing of our businesses. **Remember Your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash**

## If you leave home, know your Ws!

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <br><b>WEAR</b><br>a cloth face covering. | <br><b>WAIT</b><br>6 feet apart. Avoid close contact. | <br><b>WASH</b><br>your hands often or use hand sanitizer. |
| <b>@NCDHHS</b>   |  | <b>#StayStrongNC</b>  |

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Last month we highlighted what you should include in your *Hurricane Emergency Kit*. It is also important to have a plan for when a disaster may hit. Try the website <https://www.ready.gov/> for a great resource to help you and your family prepare. Some highlights include:

✓ **Put a plan together by discussing the questions below with your family, friends or household to start your emergency plan.**

1. How will I receive [emergency alerts and warnings](#)?
2. What is my [shelter](#) plan?
3. What is my [evacuation](#) route?
4. What is my [family/household communication plan](#)?
5. Do I need to update my [emergency preparedness kit](#)?
6. Check with the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) and update my emergency plans due to Coronavirus.
  - Get cloth face coverings (for everyone over 2 years old), disinfectants, and check my sheltering plan.

✓ **Consider specific needs in your household.**

As you prepare your plan tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Discuss your needs and responsibilities and how people in the network can assist each other with communication, care of children, business, pets or specific needs like operating medical equipment. Create your own personal network for specific areas where you need assistance.

✓ **Download and fill out a family emergency plan or use it as a guide to create your own.**

- [Emergency Plan for Parents](#) (PDF)

✓ **Practice your plan with your family/household.**

## BEACH SAFETY

July means beach Sun and Fun! But remember with sun can come sunburn...or worse. Topsail Beach wants you to enjoy every bit of your time here, so remember a few helpful hints to PROTECT ALL THE SKIN YOU'RE IN!

**RUB IT ON!** Remember to bring sunscreen everywhere, not just to the pool or beach. Many burns occur when outdoor activities last longer than expected. Use a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15, generously apply it 30 minutes before going outdoors and

reapply it frequently throughout the day, especially after swimming or exercise. For people who don't like lotions, there are other varieties: creams, gels, wipes, and sprays

**USE YOUR HEAD!** Not all sun protection comes in a bottle. So it's smart to use your head when you're out in the sun. Up to 80 percent of skin cancers occur on the head and neck, so a wide-brimmed hat is a great way to shade your face, ears, scalp, and neck from the sun's rays. A hat with a four-inch brim provides the most protection. If you choose a baseball cap, also use a sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15 to protect your exposed ears and neck.

**SHIELD YOUR SKIN!** When you're enjoying your favorite outdoor activities, it's important to shield your skin. A shirt, beach cover-up, or pants with a tight weave are all good choices for cover. Keep in mind, however, that a typical T-shirt usually has an SPF that is much lower than the recommended SPF 15. So add some shade or sunscreen – especially if your clothes don't completely cover your skin.





**GRAB YOUR SHADES!** Grabbing a pair of shades is more than cool, it's also the best way to protect your eyes from harmful UV rays. Sunglasses protect the tender skin around the eyes and reduce the risk of developing cataracts. For maximum protection, look for sunglasses that block both UVA and UVB rays. And try wrap-around lenses, which keep UV rays from sneaking in at the sides.

For more ways to protect yourself and your loved ones, visit [https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic\\_info/sun-safety.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/sun-safety.htm)

## LIVING SHORELINE PROJECT

The Town is excited to have our Living Shoreline/Storm Water Protection Project underway. The Town has contracted with the North Carolina Coastal Federation and LDSI Engineering to help identify, design, and develop a feasibility plan to address concerns along the sound side of our island community. Living shorelines are a suite of measures used to protect tidal shores from erosion. Unlike traditional techniques such as jetties, groins, and bulkheads, living shorelines use natural elements like oyster shells and/or native marsh grasses. These natural elements are often combined with structural elements, re-grading of the bank, and upland/riparian plantings. These natural elements work to stabilize the shore, protect uplands and coastal resources from flood and storm damages and provide critical habitat at the same time. Other materials used in living shorelines may include wood/vinyl, limestone, granite or other stone, bagged oyster shells, pre-cast structures, constructed oyster domes, etc. Protecting and/or restoring coastal marshes and riparian buffers are integral to the design and effectiveness of living shoreline projects.



Living shorelines offer many benefits, including:

- Providing food and shelter for many creatures
- Serving as critical nurseries for important marine species
- Filtering pollutants from stormwater runoff, the top source of pollution along the coast
- Protecting the land from wave energy and storm surges
- Providing aesthetic value, enhanced views, and a sense of place

While the project includes the potential for living shorelines at four locations; Haywood Avenue, Rocky Mount Avenue, Nixon Avenue, and Sidbury Avenue, it also includes storm water mitigation efforts. LDSI will assist the Town in identify potential projects where street and area flooding occur frequently including Carolina Boulevard, South Anderson Boulevard, and several other sites.



## POLICE

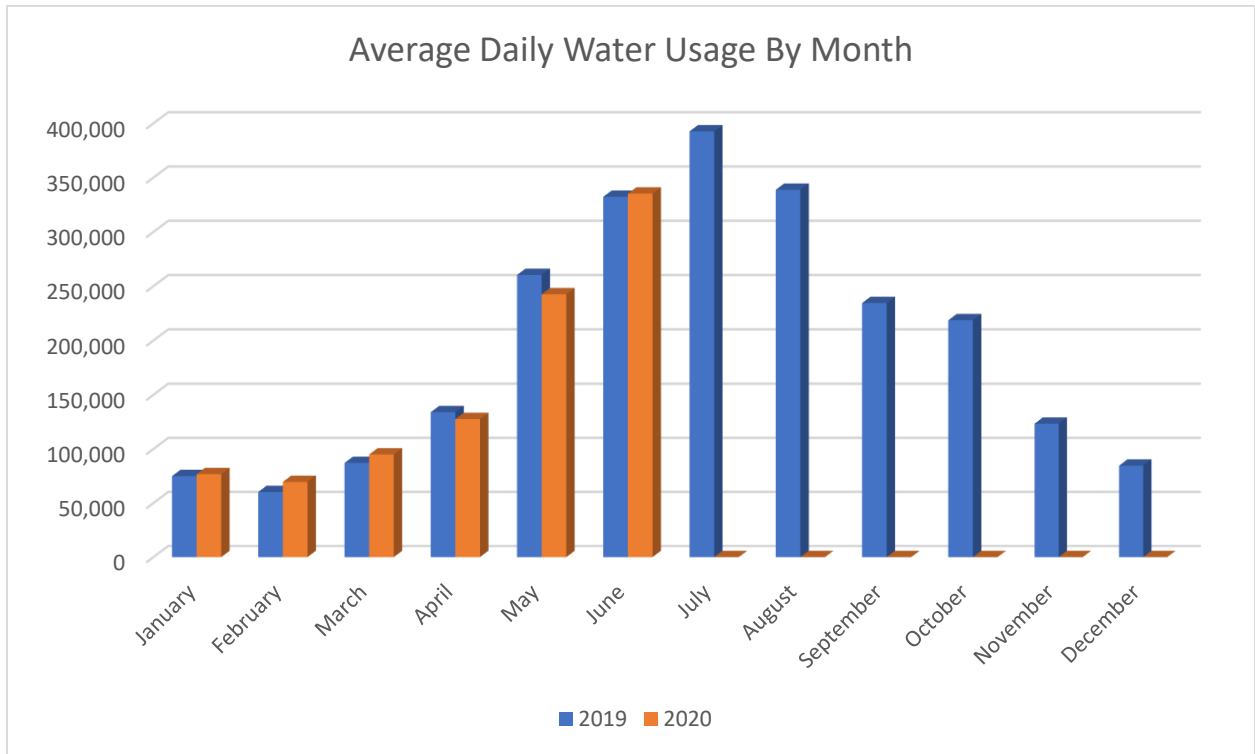
|                                   |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>ACTIVITY LOG EVENT SUMMARY</b> |  |  |  |
| <b>JUNE 2020</b>                  |  |  |  |

|                            |    |                             |     |
|----------------------------|----|-----------------------------|-----|
| ARREST MADE                | 7  | ASSIST TO FIRE/RESCUE       | 1   |
| ALARM CALL                 | 2  | CALL FOR SERVICE            | 52  |
| BEACH PATROL               | 1  | BEACH WHEELCHAIR            | 0   |
| CIVIL CITATION             | 16 | BOAT RELATED CALL           | 1   |
| DEATH                      | 0  | DISTURBANCE CALL            | 5   |
| DOG RELATED CALL           | 6  | LARCENY REPORT              | 1   |
| MESSAGE DELIVERED          | 1  | MISSING PERSON              | 1   |
| OPEN DOOR FOUND            | 1  | PARKING COMPLAINT           | 18  |
| SCHOOL ATTENDED            | 0  | SECURITY/BUSINESS CHECK     | 154 |
| SPECIAL WORK               | 50 | STATE CITATION ISSUED       | 52  |
| SUSPICIOUS PERSON          | 5  | SUSPICIOUS/UNLOCKED VEHICLE | 19  |
| TRAFFIC ACCIDENT           | 3  | TRESPASS CALL               | 1   |
| TOPSAIL ASSISTED SURF CITY | 0  | WARNING CITATION ISSUED     | 75  |

# PUBLIC WORKS

## WATER USAGE

Below is a look at the average daily water usage for June 2020, and a comparison of the data to 2019. This June the distribution for the water system was a total of 10,393,280 gallons of water for an average of 335,267 gallons a day, slightly more than June 2019 (332,320).





# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## PLANNING AND ZONING

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The Planning Board met on July 1, 2020 with the following actions taken:

1. Continued discussion of the regulation of damaged tarps on rooftops
2. Began discussion of establishing rules of procedure for the Planning Board and directed Town Planner to prepare a proposed draft.
3. Rescheduled the Planning Board Training workshop for July 22, 2020, beginning at 2:00 p.m. prior to the regular Planning Board meeting.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met on July 1, 2020 with the following actions taken:

1. Held joint meeting with the Citizen Advisory Committee to discuss the field survey conducted June 19, 2020 for the purpose of viewing marked examples of the proposed multipurpose pathways along both North and South Anderson Boulevard to create visual information to assist in prioritizing options. The Board and public are encouraged to visit the marked sites.
2. Motion to recommend the multi-purpose path option (5 foot grass strip with 8 foot paved pathway) from the Walk/Bike plan and to retain an engineering firm to prepare the plans and cost estimates to begin south of the Town Hall at Crews Avenue to Trout Avenue along the east side of South Anderson Blvd.
3. Discussion of the status of the repair to the pickleball courts, shrubbery trimming and sprinkler head location in the Town Center



## BUILDING PERMIT SUMMARY

A total of 44 permits were issued at a valuation of \$2,003,244.00 with three new construction and four substantial improvement/repair. Meter Base change outs and HVAC repairs remain the largest percentage of the permits. We are now steadily experiencing an increase in review/discussions related to remodel and new construction activity and anticipate permit valuations and fee revenues to continue increase over July and August.

## JUNE 2020 BUILDING PERMITS

| PERMIT DESCRIPTION       | NUMBER    | VALUATION          | PERMIT FEE         |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Docks/Decks/Seawalls/ACC | 4         | \$48,720.00        | \$455.00           |
| Electrical Repair        | 11        | \$17,150.00        | \$605.00           |
| Gas Piping               | 1         | \$1,500.00         | \$55.00            |
| Land Disturbance         | 1         | \$2,000.00         | \$30.00            |
| Mechanical Repairs       | 13        | \$84,339.00        | \$715.00           |
| Res. Alteration/Addition | 1         | \$150,000.00       | \$880.00           |
| Misc. Building Repair    | 2         | \$115,000.00       | \$820.00           |
| Roofing Permit           | 1         | \$45,712.00        | \$165.00           |
| Res. Single Family (New) | 3         | \$1,519,323        | \$13,083.60        |
| Res. Storage Building    | 1         | \$2,500.00         | \$30.00            |
| Shed                     | 1         | \$2,500.00         | \$30.00            |
| Zoning for Driveway      | 5         | \$14,500.00        | \$150.00           |
|                          | <b>44</b> | <b>\$2,003,244</b> | <b>\$17,018.60</b> |

## CENSUS 2020

According to the Census Bureau website, the Topsail Beach response rate is 17.0%.

You Can Still Respond.... And we NEED you to respond. Census results will play a major role in planning and funding for the next decade and we do not want to be left behind!

If you haven't already, please go to <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html>. It's easy and quick...and IMPORTANT!



*Dates to Remember:*

*Board of Commissioners – July 8<sup>th</sup> (6:00 PM)*

*BEACH SWEEP – July 11<sup>th</sup> (8:00 AM)*

*BIS Committee – July 16<sup>th</sup> (10:00 AM)*

*Planning Board – July 22<sup>nd</sup> (3:00 PM)*