



TOWN MANAGER'S NEWS AND NOTES

February 2020

ADMINISTRATION

RETREAT/BUDGET UPDATE

The Board of Commissioners Annual Retreat has been rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts. The new schedule is:

Tuesday, February 18th and Friday, February 21st from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM each day.

The focus of the Retreat is to discuss the short and long-term goals of the Board including policy, infrastructure and capital needs, and operational levels of the Town. Information gathered during the Retreat will allow staff and the Board to prepare a budget that will help meet these goals and priorities.

RIP CURRENT WARNING SYSTEM

Commissioner Morton Blanchard and Town Staff met with representatives of Pender County EMS to review last season's Rip Current Warning System and to discuss moving forward with efforts for the upcoming season. The purpose of this program is to educate and bring awareness to the public on the dangers of rip currents, as well as to provide daily updates on the presence of rip currents along our beach. Flags are posted at all public beach accesses and beach conditions are monitored throughout each day. Flags will change based on the conditions. Each access will also include signage with an explanation of the color-coded system (see below).

Staffs of both the Town and Pender County EMS will work together to improve upon the system and hopefully extend the season. Pender EMS employees will be responsible for monitoring conditions and placing the appropriate flags at each location, and the Town will provide supplies and the use of an ATV.



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's 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, don't swim alone, and know what to do if caught in a rip current. If you're 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 the water. Those entering the water should use extreme caution.

HURRICANE FLORENCE MARINE DEBRIS RECOVERY PROJECT

The North Carolina Coastal Federation has received funding from the NC General Assembly and the NOAA Marine Debris Program to remove marine debris from North Carolina's coastal waters and public trust properties. The debris will be collected from areas of the coast that were impacted by Hurricane Florence. The project will focus on public islands and marshes, including state parks, dredge spoil islands, and public waterways. The Coastal Federation has contracted a crew of commercial watermen to implement the clean-up.

As part of this project, NCCF approached the Town about the use of one of our Sound Side Accesses for a temporary location for a dumpster for debris removal. The best location for the work is the Scott Avenue access. NCCF will have a dumpster delivered on Monday, February 10th, to be placed on the grassy area of the street end. NCCF and the crew will rake out and repair any ruts in the grass if any are made from the dumpster. They are using one boat, and they offload the debris by hand. They are very careful and conscientious about getting all the debris in the dumpster and maintaining a clean site. NCCF will regularly inspect the site and work closely with the town to ensure everything runs smoothly.

It is anticipated the work will be completed in approximately one week.

STAFFING

Topsail Beach is excited to welcome aboard Jessica DeRoche to our staff as our new Deputy Clerk. With our recent promotion of Christina Burke to Assistant Manager, Jessica is a welcome addition to the team. Jessica comes to us after her time in the Air Force which brought her to the area.

The Town will soon be filling our Account Technician position. We have received many qualified applications and look forward to having a new face join us. The Account Technician position will help with the day-to-day accounting functions and assisting our Finance Director, Connie Forand.

POLICE

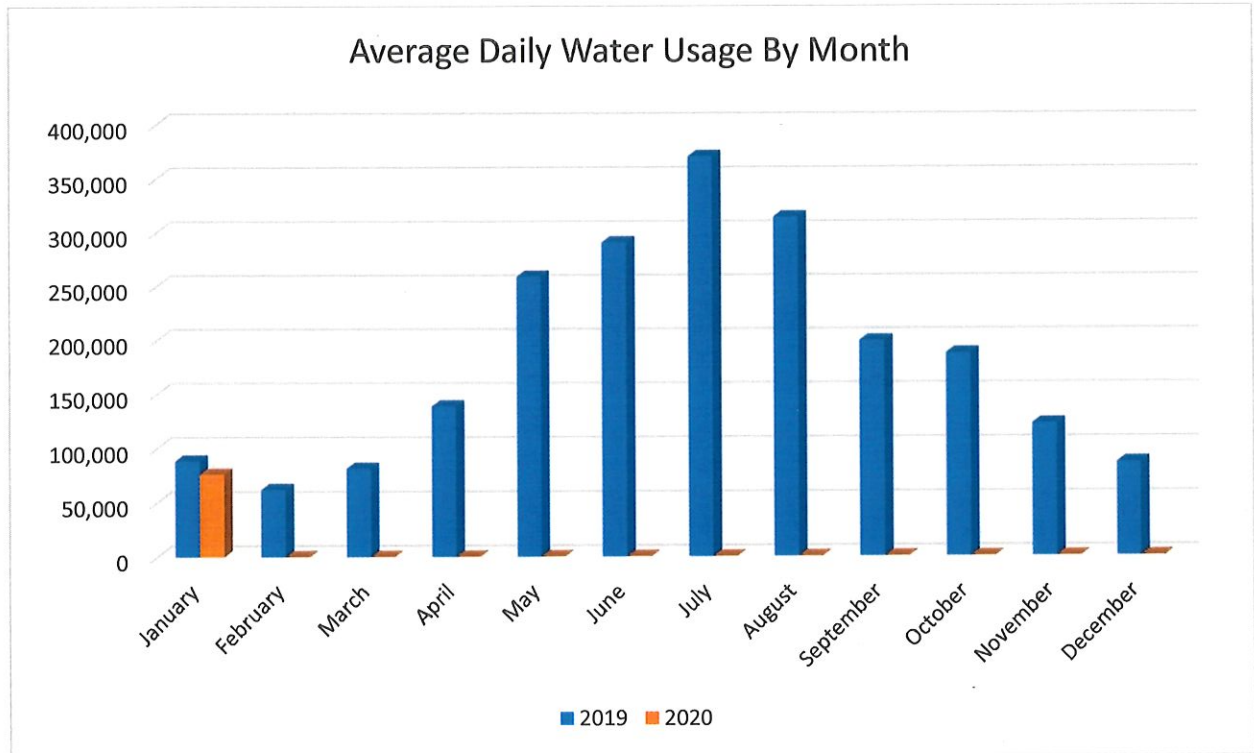
ACTIVITY LOG EVENT SUMMARY JANUARY 2020
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ARREST MADE	3	ASSIST FIRE DEPARTMENT	1
BOAT RELATED CALL	1	CALL FOR SERVICE	11
CIVIL CITATION	1	DEATH	1
DOG RELATED CALL	1	FUEL	39
OPEN DOOR FOUND	1	PARKING COMPLAINT	1
SCHOOL ATTENDED	23	SECURITY CHECK	326
SPECIAL WORK	53	STATE CITATION ISSUED	24
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	3	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	4
TOPSAIL ASSISTED SURF CITY	1	WARNING CITATION ISSUED	25

PUBLIC WORKS

WATER USAGE

Below is a look at the average daily water usage for January 2020, and a comparison of the data to 2019. This January our four wells generated a total of 2,358,910 gallons of water, for an average of 76,094 gallons a day. Well #4 generated the largest amount for the month, at 873,350 gallons.



WATER AND WASTEWATER STUDIES

Both our water and wastewater Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) approved by the Board in January are underway. Mike Gallant will work on comparing five alternatives for potential water source in the future, and Wayne Zeigler will lead efforts to study the potential for wastewater treatment facilities on the island. We expect the reports to be completed over the next few months.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

NEW FACILITY

We are excited to announce that the Town of Topsail Beach now has a new office building located at 810 S Anderson Blvd (the old Cora's Deli building). This new office space will house both the Community Development department and the Public Works Supervisor's office. The Community Development department consists of the Building Inspector, William Rivenbark and the Planner and Code Enforcement Officer, Linda Vescovi. This department will be your contact for all things related to buildings and land use in Topsail Beach (permitting, inspections, zoning, floodplain, code enforcement etc.).

The Community Development phone number is 910-328-5194 and the office hours are as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9am - 1pm

Tuesday and Thursday 1pm - 5pm

or by appointment

We appreciate your patience as we make this transition and welcome you to stop by to see the new building.



BUILDING PERMIT SUMMARY**JANUARY 2020 BUILDING PERMITS**

PERMIT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	VALUATION	PERMIT FEE
DOCKS/DECKS/SEAWALLS/ACC	1	31,000.00	210
ELECTRICAL REPAIRS	16	14,500.00	880
MECHANICAL REPAIRS/CHANG	3	20,745.00	165
RES ALTERATION	3	112,000.00	780
RES SINGLE FAMILY	4	1,066,160.00	16,571.00
TOTAL PERMITS	27	1,244,405.00	18,606.00

2020 CENSUS

The 2020 Census is upon us. Efforts are underway by the staff to help promote participation in the upcoming Census to highlight the importance to the Town and the nation for an accurate count. We will be working with other communities as well, possibly including a *Response Rate Challenge* amongst the four towns. As we learn more, we will keep you informed.

Dates to Remember:

Board of Commissioners – Feb. 12th (6:00 PM)

Annual Retreat – Feb. 19th & 20th

LTMOA Meeting – Feb. 19th (10:00 AM)

Planning Board – Feb. 26th (3:00 PM)

TISPC – Feb. 27th (2:00 PM)

CFCOG Annual Meeting – Feb. 27th (6:00 PM)

Contact Town Hall for more information

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

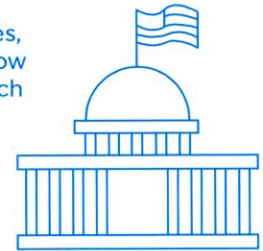


It's in the constitution.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

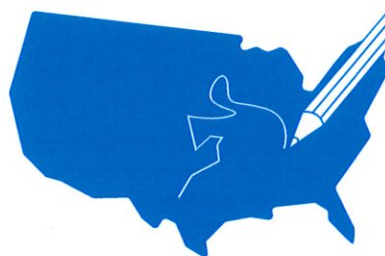


It's about \$675 billion.



The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.



It's about redistricting.

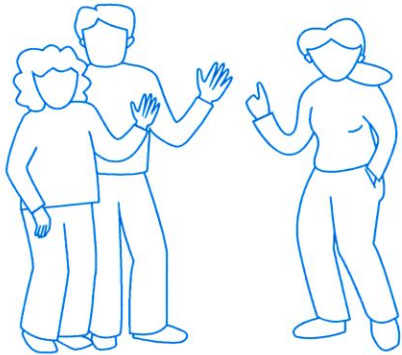
After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

Taking part is your civic duty.

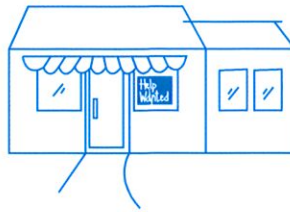
Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



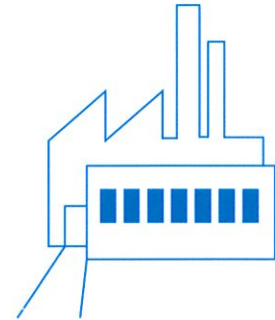
Census data are being used all around you.



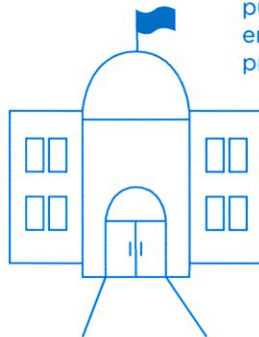
Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.



Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, which create jobs.



Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.



Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.



Your privacy is protected.

It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.



2020 will be easier than ever.

In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.



You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.

