



TOWN MANAGER'S NEWS AND NOTES

February 2021

ADMINISTRATION

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It's Budget Season - The Town of Topsail Beach, like all local governments throughout North Carolina, prepares, adopts, and administers its budget in accordance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (LGBFCA). This Act establishes responsibilities in the adoption of the budget and most importantly, requires that the budget be *balanced*. In other words, the estimated revenues must equal the proposed spending. North Carolina local governments operate under a July 1 - June 30 fiscal year. A budget must be adopted by June 30th of each year, or interim provisions must occur.

Preparing a budget is a very detailed process as the Town looks to be good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars while providing a high level of quality services. The Town has already begun preparation for the upcoming FY 2022 Budget as staff reviews current and past spending trends, and the Commissioners establish the goals and priorities for the upcoming year. The Board has already held two workshops and plans on holding its Annual Retreat on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 23rd and 24th. Additional workshops are scheduled throughout the next few months.

We encourage our residents and properties owners to give us your thoughts on what is important to you as we build the next budget. Your comments are welcome, and you can email us at PublicComments@topsailbeach.org with your feedback.

CORONAVIRUS

Pender County Health Department will be following [NCDHHS vaccine guidance](#) for priority groups. At this time, they are no longer take names to place on a callback list. If you have been placed on a call list, they will be contacting you to schedule an appointment based on vaccine availability. When their current callback list has been served, they will offer online appointment scheduling and appointments by phone.

To better serve our community Pender County asks that you monitor the County's website or Facebook page and the local news for updates on vaccine availability, <https://www.pendercountync.gov/>. There is a new phone line dedicated to taking calls exclusive to COVID-19 vaccination information. The phone number is 910-663-4200. Personnel are standing by 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday to answer calls regarding the COVID-19 vaccination.

Appointments can be made in Burgaw (Tuesdays) and Hampstead Annex (Thursdays).

IMPORTANT

You cannot receive the COVID-19 vaccine if:

You have tested positive for COVID within the last 30 days

You have received a vaccine of any kind (other than for COVID-19) in the last 14 days

You have pending test results due to an exposure

NCDHHS [released new tools](#) to help North Carolinians get their COVID-19 vaccine questions answered and to find vaccine locations in the state. The newly expanded COVID-19 vaccine help center can be reached at 888-675-4567 Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. The [Find a Vaccine Location](#) search tool lets North Carolinians enter their ZIP code or current location to find nearby vaccine providers. The [Find a Vaccine Location](#) tool will be updated regularly with the latest available data. Users should contact vaccine providers directly to confirm availability and schedule appointments. Vaccine supplies remain very low, and people eligible to be vaccinated may have to wait for an appointment. North Carolina is currently vaccinating health care workers, long-term care staff and residents, and people 65 and older (Groups 1 and 2). Not all vaccine providers may be ready to vaccinate all eligible groups yet. [Find My Vaccine Group](#), launched last week, walks users through a series of questions to determine which vaccine group they are in. People can then sign up to be notified when their group can get vaccinated.



BEACH PROJECT



Progress continues on our Storm Damage Reduction Project as Weeks Marine nears the Jolly Roger Pier in its Beach Nourishment efforts. To date, over 500,000 cubic yards of sand has been dredged and placed on the beach strand, on the southern end of the island. Progress maps are updated weekly and can be found on our website at

<https://www.topsailbeach.org/Departments/Beach-Nourishment>.

Over the next several days, the *Borinquen* will finish dredging the area near the canals and shift to the very northern end of our town limits and begin working south. The dredge will utilize the connection with the Queens Grant pipeline crossing and the beachfill area will progress south towards the Pier until it connects with the existing improvements. Once that is complete the pipelines will be flipped, and beach nourishment will move north from Queens Grant to the town line. Pipes that are currently running from Drum Avenue south along the beach will be removed.

Survey

TI Coastal has completed a quarterly survey of Topsail Inlet, Topsail Creek and Banks Channel which can be found on our website listed below.

For More Information

Weekly progress maps are posted online for everyone to see. We will also periodically post new pictures and videos of the progress. Be sure to visit our website at www.topsailbeach.org and look for the icon below for more information. Also watch for us on Facebook and Twitter!

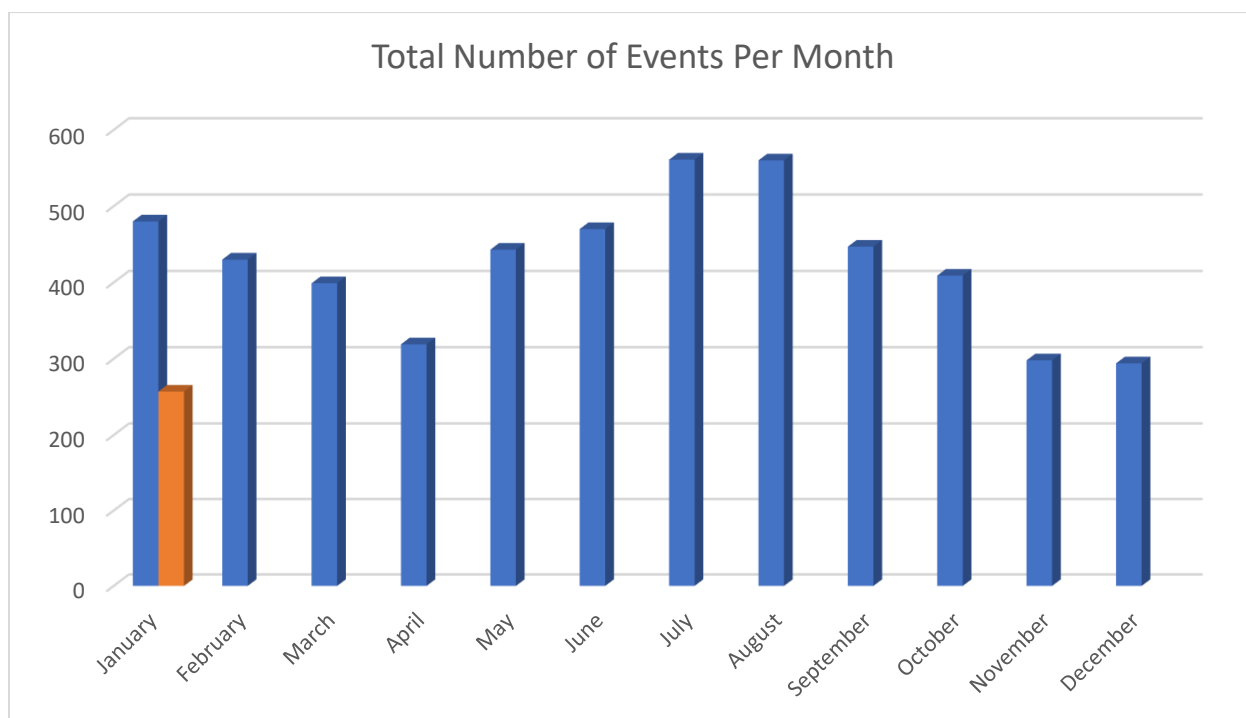


POLICE

ACTIVITY LOG EVENT SUMMARY

JANUARY 2021

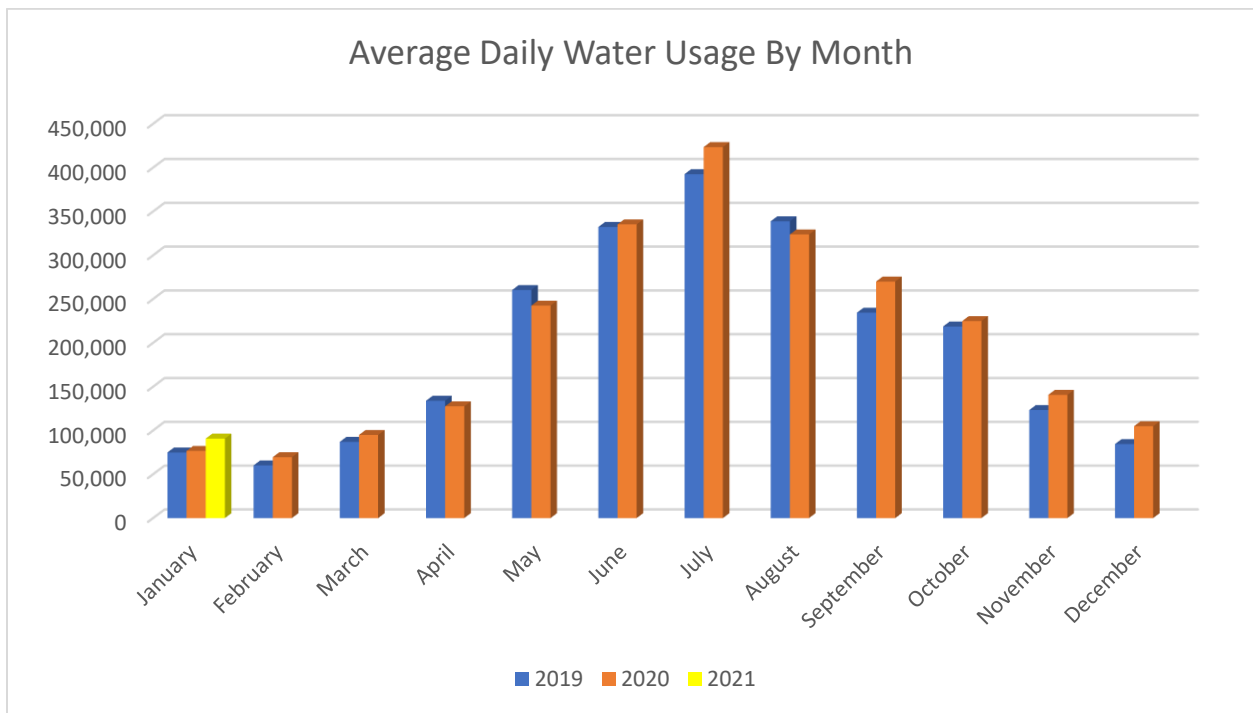
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|--------------------------|----|-----------------------------|-----|
| ARREST MADE | 2 | ASSIST TO FIRE/RESCUE | 1 |
| ALARM CALL | 2 | CALL FOR SERVICE | 12 |
| ASSAULT | 0 | BEACH PATROL | 0 |
| BOAT RELATED CALL | 0 | BEACH WHEELCHAIR | 0 |
| CIVIL CITATION | 0 | DEATH | 0 |
| DISTURBANCE CALL | 0 | DOG RELATED CALL | 2 |
| LARCENY REPORT / B&E | 1 | LOST & FOUND PROPERTY | 1 |
| MESSAGE DELIVERED | 0 | MISSING PERSON | 0 |
| OPEN DOOR FOUND | 3 | PARKING COMPLAINT | 1 |
| PROPERTY DAMAGE | 0 | SURFING VIOLATION | 0 |
| SCHOOL ATTENDED | 24 | SECURITY/BUSINESS CHECK | 110 |
| SPECIAL WORK | 58 | STATE CITATION ISSUED | 16 |
| SUSPICIOUS PERSON | 4 | SUSPICIOUS/UNLOCKED VEHICLE | 8 |
| TRAFFIC ACCIDENT | 0 | TRESPASS CALL | 0 |
| TOPSAIL/SURF CITY ASSIST | 0 | WARNING CITATION ISSUED | 14 |



PUBLIC WORKS

WATER USAGE

Below is a look at the average daily water usage for January 2021, and a comparison of the data to 2019 and 2020. This January the distribution for the water system was a total of 2,812,950 gallons of water for an average of 90,740 gallons a day, an increase of 14,055 gpd over the same period last year (76,685 gpd).



MARINE DEBRIS CLEAN-UP

The N.C. Division of Coastal Management (DCM), in partnership with the North Carolina Coastal Federation, received nearly \$2 million dollars in funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection Program for the removal of marine debris and abandoned and derelict vessels deposited in public trust waters and lands from the remnants of Hurricane Florence along the southeast and central coast of North Carolina,

Between the start of the current project and January 31, 2021 a total of 299.58 tons/ 599,160 lbs. have been collected and removed from 6 sites in Carteret, Onslow, Pender and New Hanover Counties.



- This includes 29.96 tons of debris removed from the Stump Sound, Permuda Island Reserve and Topsail Sound.

- Working out of Topsail Beach since January 5, 2021, the crew has collected 14.1 tons in the adjacent public trust waters.

They are finding a significant number of large debris deposits. This area had not been cleaned

through earlier grant funded projects. The majority of debris continues to be lumber, polystyrene, filter cloth and plastic floats from docks and other waterfront structures. However, there is also a significant amount of debris from residential structures as well.

The Federation will begin working with marine contractors in a few weeks to start removing approved Abandoned and Derelict Vessels. This project will hopefully be able to remove an estimated 25 ADVs, including two that are behind Topsail Island.

This current funding and activity have a May 11, 2021 deadline.

The debris collected through this current NRCS-EWP funded program is in addition to the:

----- 43.43 tons of debris collected from the Topsail Beach area waters and 36.47 tons of debris from the Surf City area waters in late 2019 into spring 2020 with the NOAA Marine Debris Program grant funded project. The total for that project was 115.47 tons/ 230,940 lbs.

----- 75 tons of debris collected from the lower New River, Chadwick Bay, Alligator Bay and Stump Sound area waters between May and August 2019, and 125 tons collected from the waters around Swansboro supported through funding from the NC General Assembly to NCDEQ.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING AND ZONING

The Planning Board met on January 27, 2021 with the following actions taken:

1. Approved Planning Board meeting schedule for 2021 to hold the meetings on the fourth Wednesday of every month beginning at 10:00 am rather than the historical 3:00 p.m. start time.
2. Discussed changes to the Land Development Code to prohibit Floating Structures and recommended proposed ordinance.
3. Discussed the proposed creation of a formal Parks & Recreation Advisory Board separate from the Planning Board. Forwarded recommendation for no change in the current provisions other than holding the meeting for the Planning Board and Parks & Recreation Advisory Board on different days.
4. Discussed the current provisions for paid parking in North Topsail Beach and Surf City, potential impact to Topsail Beach and the need for consideration for the Town. Recommendation to prepare comprehensive parking plan with feasibility to establish paid parking.
5. Discussed proposed changes to the Land Development Code to prohibit Floating Structures and directed Town Planner to prepare a draft ordinance.
6. Discussed the proposed creation of a formal Parks and Recreation Advisory Board separate from the Planning Board. Deferred further discussion to the January meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met on January 27, 2021 with the following actions taken:

1. Directed Town Planner to set a public meeting to obtain public comments on the following six (6) options to provide bicycle and pedestrian pathways along Anderson Boulevard:

North Anderson Blvd (Town line to Town Center)

- a. Eight-foot multi-purpose path along west side.
- b. Five-foot sidewalk along west side with four-foot bike lane on both sides.

Central business district (Town Center to Town Hall)

- c. Angled parking both sides with 7'5" sidewalk.
- d. Angled parking on west side, parallel parking on east side with 7'5" sidewalk.

South Anderson Blvd (Town Hall to Trout Avenue)

- e. Eight-foot multi-purpose path along east side.
- f. Five-foot sidewalk along east side with four-foot bike lane on both sides.

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| BUILDING PERMIT SUMMARY |
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A total of 28 permits were issued at a valuation of \$2,852,734.00 with five (5) new single-family construction and four (4) residential alterations/additions.

JANUARY 2021 BUILDING PERMITS

| PERMIT DESCRIPTION | NUMBER | VALUATION | PERMIT FEE |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Docks/Decks/Seawalls/ AC | 3 | \$68,600.00 | \$480.00 |
| Electrical Repair | 4 | \$5,100.00 | \$220.00 |
| Gas Piping | 1 | \$2,900.00 | \$55.00 |
| House Move | 1 | \$10,000.00 | \$250.00 |
| Mechanical Repairs | 2 | \$16,500.00 | \$160.00 |
| Misc. Building Repair | 3 | \$52,000.00 | \$380.00 |
| Misc. Plumbing | 2 | \$17,000.00 | \$165.00 |
| Residential Addition | 2 | \$154,000.00 | \$871.00 |
| Residential Alteration | 2 | \$55,248.00 | \$466.00 |
| Residential Remodel | 1 | \$220,000.00 | \$11,120.00 |
| Residential Single Family | 5 | \$2,250,386.00 | \$22,603.00 |
| Zoning Permit for Septic | 2 | \$1,000.00 | \$60.00 |
| | 28 | \$2,852,734.00 | \$26,830.00 |

Dates to Remember:

Board of Commissioners – February 10th (6:00 PM)

BIS Committee Meeting – February 18th (10:00 AM)

BOC Annual Retreat – February 23rd & 24th (9:00 AM)

Planning Board/ Parks and Rec. Meeting – February 24th (10:00 AM)

TISPC Meeting – February 25th – (2:00 PM)