



# TOWN MANAGER'S NEWS AND NOTES

October 2021

## ADMINISTRATION

### CORONAVIRUS

#### If you leave home, know your Ws!



We are continuing to monitor the trends related to COVID-19 as data suggests greater impact to our area and our State. The Town will take the steps necessary to protect our residents, visitors, and staff as we work through the Delta variant. Here are some

things you need to know:

#### Symptoms

Symptoms can include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, fatigue, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea. Some people with COVID-19 may not have symptoms, but they can still spread it to other people. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

**The CDC recommends you stay home and separate (quarantine) yourself from other people in the home as much as possible if:**

- You are sick with COVID-19.
- You believe you might have COVID-19.
- You are experiencing mild symptoms of COVID-19.
- You have been in close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more) with someone who has COVID-19, unless you are fully vaccinated, or if you are fully vaccinated but are now showing symptoms of the virus.

Seek emergency medical care immediately if you have trouble breathing; persistent pain or pressure in the chest; new confusion; inability to wake or stay awake; or pale,

gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone. In the event of an emergency, call 9-1-1.

If you are not fully vaccinated, you should continue to take steps to protect yourself and others, including practicing the 3 Ws – wear a mask, wash hands frequently, and wait 6 feet from others.

If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask in all indoor public spaces.

Topsail Beach is committed to protecting the health and safety of our residents, property owners, and visitors as well as the economic wellbeing of our businesses.

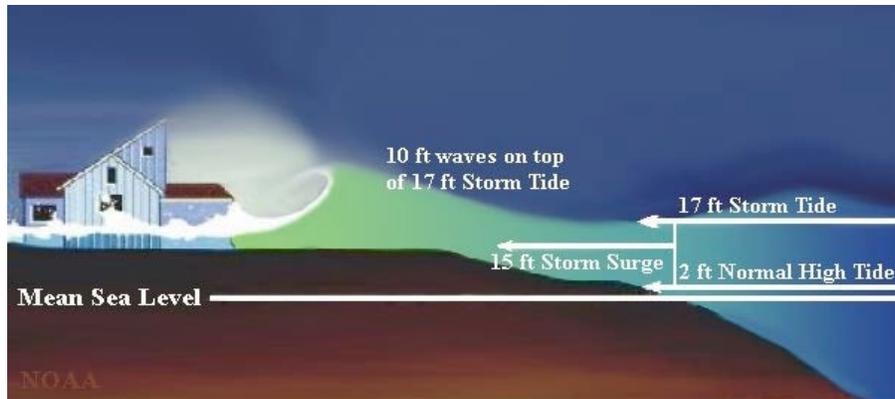
**Remember Your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash**

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Hurricane season is still upon us and we continue to prepare as best we can for the possibility of a storm at Topsail Beach. Previous monthly reports provided tips for you to get ready, and we encourage you to visit <https://www.ready.gov/> for a great resource to help you and your family prepare. Also, please remember **to have your reentry information close by for quick access**. This will make it easier for you to return when it is safe to get back on the island. Once a State of Emergency is declared, the Town will not issue any new passes until after the storm, so check today to make sure you have one. If not, please contact the Town Hall.

We often talk about the impacts of wind and rain in a hurricane, but we also must plan for dangerous storm surge. A storm surge is water that is pushed onto shore by a hurricane. It is rarely a "wall of water" as often claimed, but rather a rise of water that can be as rapid as several feet in just a few minutes. The storm surge moves with the forward speed of the hurricane – typically 10-15 mph. This wind-driven water has tremendous power. One cubic yard of sea water weighs 1,728 pounds – almost a ton.

This means a one-foot-deep storm surge can sweep your car off the road, and even a 6-inch surge is difficult to stand in. Compounding the destructive power of the rushing water is the large amount of floating debris that typically accompanies the surge. Trees, pieces of buildings and other debris float on top of the storm surge and act as battering rams that can cave in any buildings unfortunate enough to stand in the way.



## Staying Safe

If you receive an evacuation order for a hurricane storm surge, it is a good idea to get out sooner rather than later. The storm surge can begin to rise a day before the storm hits, cutting off escape routes when low-lying highways are flooded. Living near the ocean, the storm surge is the most dangerous part of a hurricane's hazards.

## Contributing Factors

There are three mechanisms that contribute to the storm surge

1. The action of the winds piling up water (typically more than 85% of the surge)
2. Waves pushing water inland faster than it can drain off. This is called wave set-up. Wave set-up is typically 5-10% of the surge
3. The low pressure of a hurricane sucking water higher into the air near the eye (typically 5-10% of the surge)

The storm surge depends greatly upon the size and intensity of a hurricane, the angle that it approaches the shore at, how deep the water is close to shore (the slope of the seabed at the coastline) and how fast the hurricane is moving.



## NEW EMPLOYEES

It has been a busy summer for Topsail Beach, including adding new employees as we continue our efforts to improve services to our residents and property owners. We are excited to add new family members to our staff and it is important that we have the right people working to meet your needs. We feel our new additions to the staff will allow us to better serve you. Please help us give them a warm welcome.

### ADMINISTRATION



Rochelle Jagst joined the Topsail Beach staff as our newest Deputy Clerk. Rochelle comes to us from Liberty University, where she not only received her undergraduate degree and her MBA but has also worked for the University in an administrative setting. Rochelle brings with her knowledge in human resources, project management and communications.

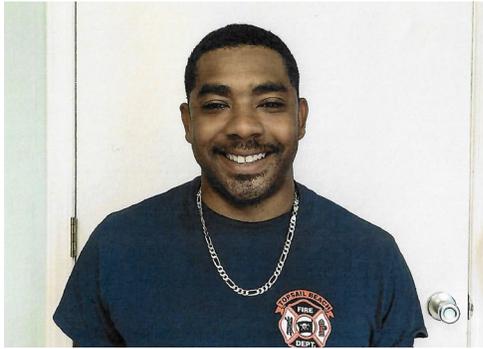
Coming to Topsail Beach has allowed Rochelle to come back home to North Carolina and be closer to family. We are happy to have her as part of our family. Welcome Rochelle!



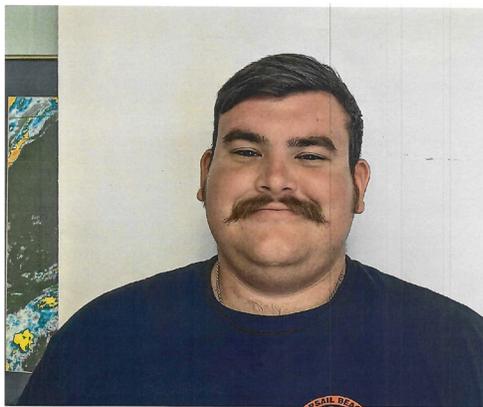
Our new Planner/Code Enforcement Officer is Stephanie Moore. Stephanie is a longtime resident of this area, most recently working for the Town of Burgaw in a very similar capacity. Stephanie brings the experience we need in permitting, code enforcement, and zoning. She also has experience floodplain ordinances. Stephanie has successfully completed the School of Government courses in Community Development and Planning and Development Regulation.

Welcome aboard Stephanie!

## FIRE DEPARTMENT



Frank Morant joined our Fire Department on July 22, 2021 as one of our newest Fire Fighters. Frank brings to us a committed and experienced firefighter who most recently served with the Brunswick County Fire Department. His desire to be closer to home brought him to Topsail Beach, and we are grateful! Welcome Frank!



Nick Hubbard joined the Fire Department on July 18, 2021. Nick is an experienced Fire Fighter, serving previously with Pender County and Surf City Fire Departments. His familiarity with the Town and this region will be a great asset for our staff.

Welcome to Topsail Beach Nick!

## PUBLIC WORKS



Mike Gschwind joined the Town's Public Works Department this summer. Mike and his family come to us from Long Island, but has been visiting the area since the early 1990's. Mike and his wife Morgan and their two daughters decided to make this area home.

We are happy they chose to join our family! Welcome Mike.

## POLICE



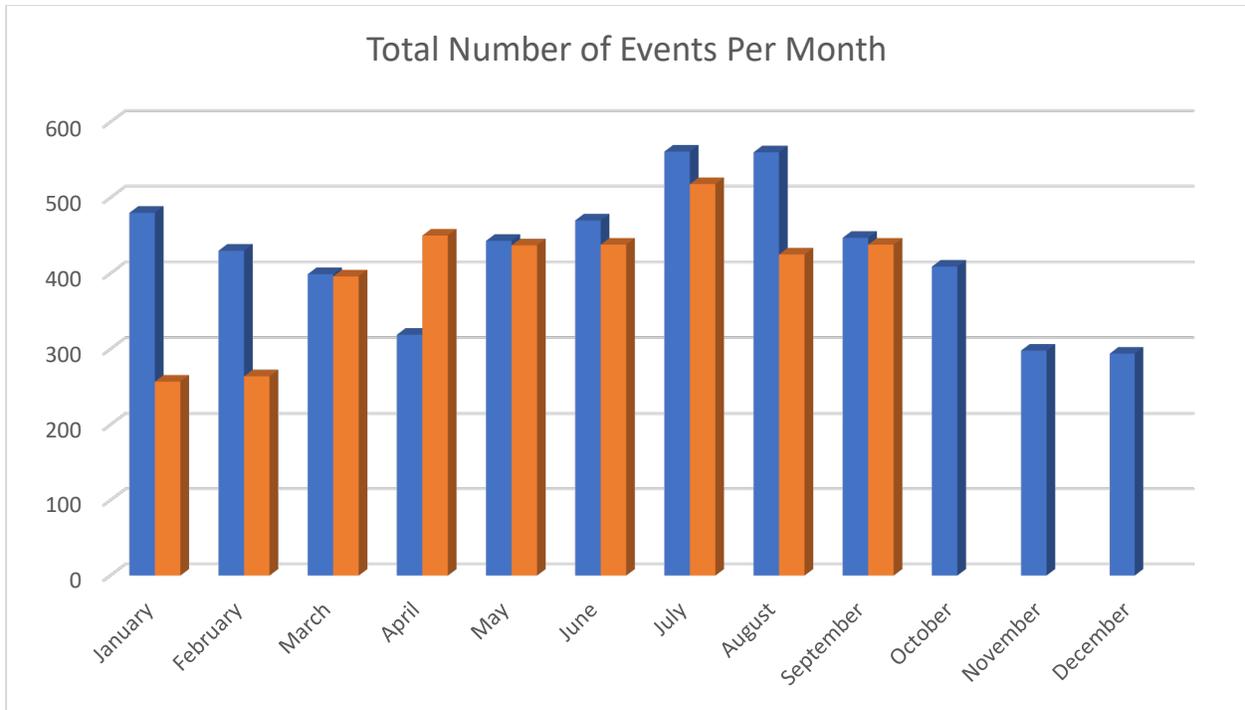
Justin Nichols joined the Police Department in September. Justin has been in law enforcement since 2012, most recently with Southern Pines. Justin is married with 6 children. He holds a Masters in Divinity and has served in ministry since 2000. Justin is currently working on his Ph.D. He became intrigued with law enforcement and has been able to combine both skills. Welcome Justin!

## POLICE

### ACTIVITY LOG EVENT SUMMARY

#### SEPTEMBER 2021

ARREST MADE	6	ASSIST TO FIRE/RESCUE	2
ALARM CALL	3	CALL FOR SERVICE	31
ASSAULT	0	BEACH PATROL	0
BOAT RELATED CALL	0	BEACH WHEELCHAIR	0
CIVIL CITATION	12	DEATH	0
DISTURBANCE CALL	2	DOG RELATED CALL	2
LARCENY REPORT / B&E/ DRUGS	2	LOST & FOUND PROPERTY	2
MESSAGE DELIVERED	0	MISSING PERSON	1
OPEN DOOR FOUND	0	PARKING COMPLAINT	12
PROPERTY DAMAGE	0	SURFING VIOLATION	0
SCHOOL ATTENDED	0	SECURITY/BUSINESS CHECK	208
SPECIAL WORK	60	STATE CITATION ISSUED	36
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	1	SUSPICIOUS/UNLOCKED VEHICLE	6
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	0	TRESPASS CALL	1
TOPSAIL/SURF CITY ASSIST	0	WARNING CITATION ISSUED	51

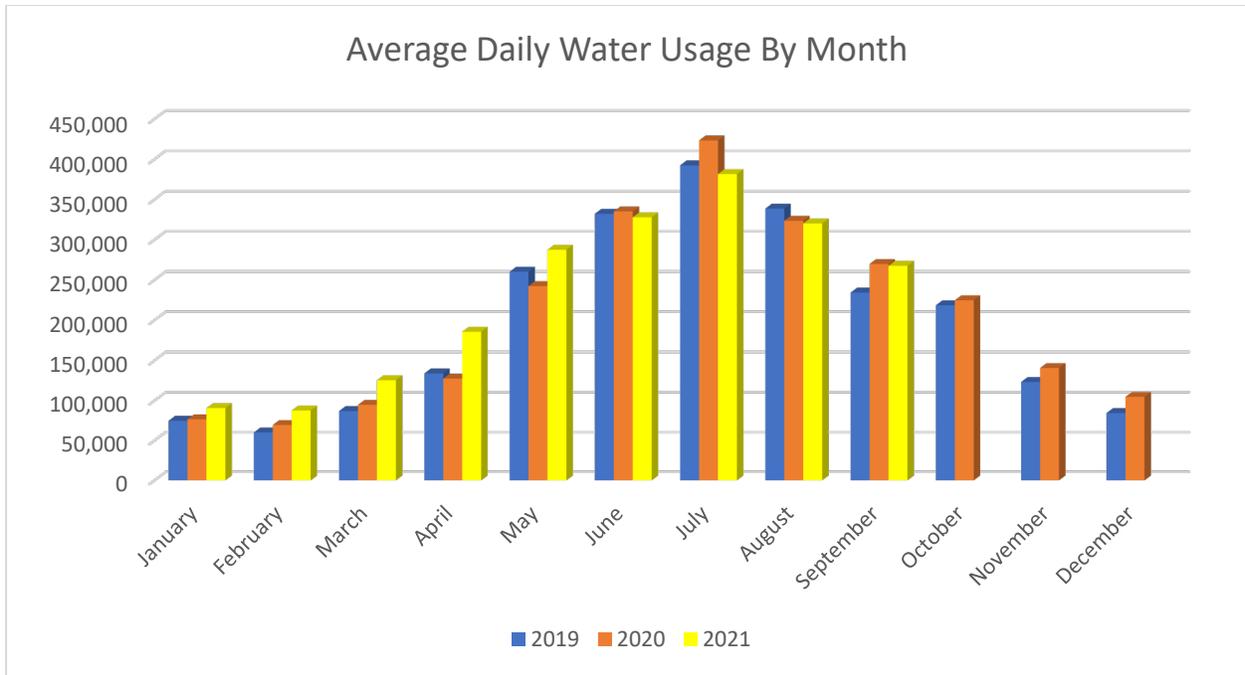


## PUBLIC WORKS

### WATER USAGE



Below is a look at the average daily water usage for September 2021, and a comparison of the data to 2019 and 2020. This September the distribution for the water system was a total of 8,030,570 gallons of water for an average of 267,686 gallons a day, a slight decrease of 2,252 gpd over the same period last year (269,938 gpd).



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### PLANNING AND ZONING

The Planning Board did not meet in September. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday October 27, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

### PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board did not meet in September. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday October 27, 2021 immediately following the Planning Board.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

October 15-17 - Autumn With Topsail

November 27 - Kris Kringle Christmas Craft Show

November 27 - Topsail Beach Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting

<b>BUILDING PERMIT SUMMARY</b>
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A total of 10 permits were issued in the month of September at a valuation of \$654,600.

## SEPTEMBER 2021 BUILDING PERMITS

PERMIT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	VALUATION	PERMIT FEE
Building Repair	1	\$10,000.00	\$105.00
Docks/Decks/Seawalls/AC	3	\$52,300.00	\$405.00
Electrical Repair	1	\$1,000.00	\$55.00
Fence	1	\$0.00	\$30.00
Mechanical Repairs	3	\$16,300.00	\$165.00
Residential Addition	1	\$575,000.00	\$4,564.40
	<b>10</b>	<b>\$654,600.00</b>	<b>\$5,324.40</b>

*Dates to Remember:*

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

*BIS Committee Meeting – October 21<sup>st</sup> (2:00 PM)*

*Planning Board/ Parks and Rec. Meeting – October 27<sup>th</sup> (10:00 AM)*

*TISPC Meeting – October 28<sup>th</sup> (2:00 PM)*