



## TOWN MANAGER'S NEWS AND NOTES

April 2020

### ADMINISTRATION

#### CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

At the time of this writing, Pender County has been fortunate to report zero positive tests for Coronavirus (COVID-19). This does not mean we are safe or that we will not see any cases in our Town. The likelihood is that at some point, we will all know someone who has been infected by this virus. Like any emergency it is imperative that we plan now to minimize the impacts of COVID-19 and take the best precautions possible.

#### WHAT IS TOPSAIL BEACH DOING?

Town officials and staff are constantly monitoring the situation and are working with our partners with the State and Federal Governments to put into place safeguards to help slow the spread of the disease. We are in daily contact with representatives from Pender County, Surf City, and North Topsail Beach to coordinate efforts and practices wherever possible. Our website includes updates on all the changes to our State of Emergency, the Governor's Executive Orders, and any federal guidelines. We have reached out to all area realtors and representatives of both VRBO and AirBnB to advise them of our short-term rental ban. Our staff is working diligently to maintain our Town services while keeping the safety and well-being of our residents the Number 1 Priority!

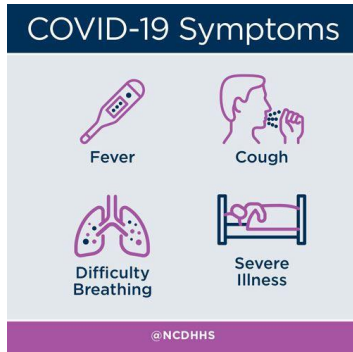
#### WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Most importantly, following the guidelines of the CDC and the NC Department of Health and Human Services. Their websites as well as other resources can be found on our website.

Follow the statewide [Stay at Home Order](#), which went into effect at 5 p.m. March 30<sup>th</sup> until April 30<sup>th</sup>. The order directs people to stay at home except to visit essential businesses, to exercise outdoors or to help a family member or friend. **Any travel**

**should be limited to only what is essential!** The order also bans gatherings of more than 10 people and directs everyone to stay at least six feet apart from others.

Know the symptoms. Our healthcare facilities are stressed at this point, and we don't



want to unnecessarily burden them. COVID-19 typically causes mild to moderate respiratory illness. Most people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms that do not require hospitalization, although there have been reports of severe illness with a small percentage resulting in death. Respiratory symptoms alone are not an indicator for COVID-19. Symptoms may appear two to 14 days after exposure.

But if you have these symptoms, address it with your doctor immediately.

You should follow these [common-sense measures](#) to help protect yourself and others from spreading COVID-19 and other viruses:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at a time.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Do not reuse tissue after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.
- Practice social distancing when you can, staying at least 6 feet away from others.

**Thank you for doing their part to reduce Community Spread.**

**WE ARE TOPSAIL BEACH, AND TOGETHER WE WILL BEAT COVID-19!**

#### **BUDGET UPDATE**

Budget 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 impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is expected to significantly affect the development of the FY 2021 Budget. It may also affect some scheduling and the

preparation of the budget itself as staff reconsiders the impacts on anticipated revenues and expenses, in some cases mandated by the State or Federal governments. In an effort to adhere to Social Distancing recommendations, staff recommends postponing the April 14<sup>th</sup> workshop, instead providing the Commissioners with summary documents of proposed budget estimates. The Board can re-evaluate the May workshop schedules when appropriate.

**BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECT**

Be sure to visit our website for updates on the progress of our Dredging and Beach Nourishment Project! Look for the icon on the main page to see photos, videos, and detailed information on the project. A new survey of the dredged waterways is now included on the website, highlighting deepwaters for improved boating access. Be sure to visit us on Facebook as well.



**POLICE**

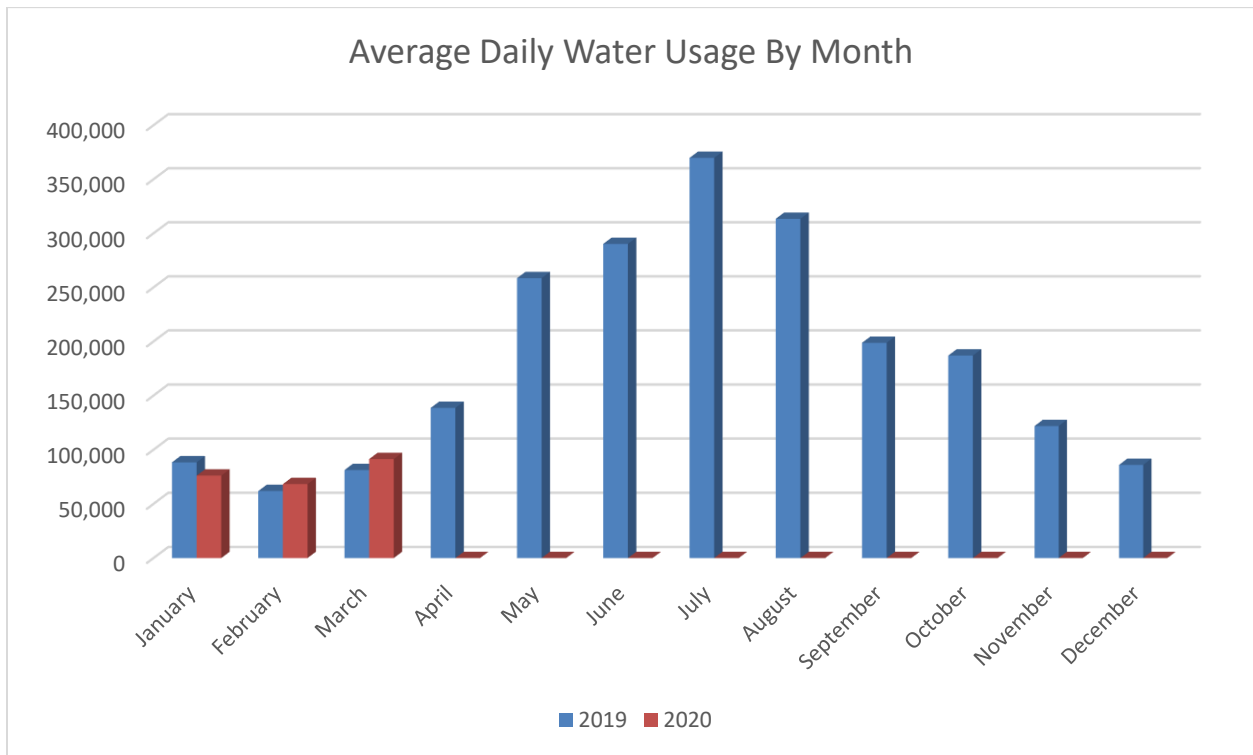
**ACTIVITY LOG EVENT SUMMARY  
MARCH 2020**

<b>ARREST MADE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>ASSIST TO RESCUE</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ALARM CALL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>CALL FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>CIVIL CITATION</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>DISTURBANCE CALL</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>DOG RELATED CALL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>LARCENY REPORT</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>OPEN DOOR FOUND</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>PARKING COMPLAINT</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>SCHOOL ATTENDED</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>SECURITY/BUSINESS CHECK</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>SPECIAL WORK</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>STATE CITATION ISSUED</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>SUSPICIOUS PERSON</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>SUSPICIOUS/UNLOCKED VEHICLE</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TOPSAIL ASSISTED SURF CITY</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>WARNING CITATION ISSUED</b>	<b>20</b>

# PUBLIC WORKS

## WATER USAGE

Below is a look at the average daily water usage for March 2020, and a comparison of the data to 2019. This March our four wells generated a total of 2,831,800 gallons of water for an average of 91,348 gallons a day, an increase from 81,214 in March 2019. Well #5 generated the largest amount for the month, at 998,620 gallons.



### Improvements to Smith Avenue Beach Access



Work is underway to improve the Smith Avenue Beach Access and parking area. Smith Avenue area was one of the hardest hit by Hurricane Florence and we are happy to see it get back to normal. Thanks to Kurt Polzer and his guys for getting it done!

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## PLANNING AND ZONING

The Planning Board meetings are suspended at this time due to our response to COVID-19.

### CODE ENFORCEMENT

Weekly field assessments are now being conducted to determine violations including, but not limited to, construction and other debris, signs and right-of-way encroachment in an effort to improve community appearance. Letters have been sent to the Real Estate businesses as a courtesy reminder to bring non-conforming signs into compliance on or before April 6, 2020. A copy of the Town’s sign ordinance was also provided. Other violations have been addressed by contacting the property owners and building contractors.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings are suspended at this time due to our response to COVID-19.

Improvements to the Town Center Park are underway as our landscape contractor, Sanderson Landscape Services, complete our spring clean-up! New sod is being placed around our bathroom facility and in other areas that need a little extra attention. The irrigation system is being serviced and our bathrooms are getting some new paint and additional touch-up.



We have also improved the Gazebo in downtown, adding seating around the inside. We will be looking at adding tables as well so that we will be ready to take advantage of our public spaces once we BEAT COVID-19!



<b>BUILDING PERMIT SUMMARY</b>
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A total of 31 permits were issued at a valuation of \$2,369,520.00 with two new construction and seven substantial improvements/repairs.

### MARCH 2020 BUILDING PERMITS

PERMIT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	VALUATION	PERMIT FEE
Docks/Decks/Seawalls/ ACC	1	\$983,660.00	\$3,891.00
Demolition	2	\$10,000.00	\$210.00
Electrical Repair	10	\$11,250.00	\$550.00
Gas Piping	1	\$1,500.00	\$55.00
Land Disturbance	1	\$0.00	\$30.00
Mechanical Repairs	6	\$47,080.00	\$330.00
Res. Alteration/ Addition	5	\$573,630.00	\$2,998.00
Misc. Building Repair	2	\$104,500.00	\$490.00
Res. Single Family	2	\$636,900.00	\$6,373.40
Res. Storage Bldg.	1	\$1,000.00	\$30.00
	<b>31</b>	<b>\$2,369,520</b>	<b>\$14,957.40</b>