



# TOWN MANAGER'S NEWS AND NOTES

September 2020

## ADMINISTRATION

### CORONAVIRUS

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



On September 1<sup>st</sup>, Governor Cooper announced that North Carolina would enter into *Safer at Home Phase 2.5*, modifying the orders for business re-openings, mass gathering limits, access to playgrounds, and similar actions. Executive Order 163 still requires

wearing face coverings in public. This new order became effective on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM and will remain in effect until October 2<sup>nd</sup>. A copy of the EO and frequently asked questions can be found on our website at <https://www.topsailbeach.org/Government/Emergency-Information/COVID19>.

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 in full swing and we continue to prepare as best we can for the possibility of another 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 cannot guarantee issuing any new passes until after the storm, so check today to make sure you have one. If not, please contact the Town Hall.



# LOCATE YOUR REENTRY PASSES



Keep your important documents together for quick access



Share your plans with family or designated agent



Stay informed through our Town website, Facebook and Twitter

## What is a reentry pass and where can I obtain one?

A reentry pass is given to every property owner and will allow temporary access to the island after a storm. Only one pass is given to each resident, per household. Passes will not be issued under State of Emergency. If you are unable to locate your reentry sticker on May's utilities bill, please contact Topsail Beach Town Hall today.

## I am a long-term renter in Topsail Beach. Will I be able to access my rental property?

Long-term renters can obtain one sticker from Town Hall by presenting proof of residency and picture ID.

## Am I able to designate someone to check on my property?

Yes. The homeowner will need to fill out a Designated Agent Form prior to a storm. The form can be found on [topsailbeach.org](http://topsailbeach.org) > About Topsail Beach > Emergency Information. Once completed, please drop off at Town Hall or email to a staff member. These forms do not expire, please verify with Topsail Beach Police Department who you have on file.

## What should I do if I misplace my pass and need to get back onto the island?

You will need to provide documentation that shows ownership to property and valid identification at checkpoint.

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.

## CENSUS 2020

A low Census response rate puts NC at risk of missing out on its fair share of more than \$1.5 trillion in federal dollars from census-derived programs. This includes – but is not limited to – critical public services such as hospitals, schools, road repairs, and emergency response services.

### **Five BIG Reasons Why You Should Fill Out Your Census Form.**

**1** *Help Our Community Thrive.* As Pender County continues to grow, we are affected by traffic congestion, quick access to medical facilities, and the potential for overcrowded schools. Census numbers can help our community work out public improvement strategies. Non-profit organizations use census numbers to estimate the number of potential volunteers in communities across the nation.

**2** *Get Help in Times of Need.* Many 911 emergency systems are based on maps developed for the last census. Census information helps health providers predict the spread of disease through communities with children or elderly people. When floods, tornadoes or hurricanes hit, the census tells rescuers how many people will need their

help. When Hurricane Andrew hit South Florida in 1992, census information aided the rescue effort by providing estimates of the number of people in each block.

③ ***Make Government Work for You.*** It's a good way to tell our leaders who we are and what we need. The numbers are used to help determine the distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal and state funds. We're talking hospitals, highways, public facilities and school lunch programs.

④ ***Reduce Risk for American Business.*** Because census numbers help industry reduce financial risk and locate potential markets, businesses are able to produce the products you want. "All the Basic Facts You Need to Know to Start a New Business," a publication of the Massachusetts Department of Commerce, shows small businesses how to use census numbers to determine the marketability of new products.

⑤ ***Help Yourself and Your Family.*** Individual records are held confidential for 72 years, but you can request a certificate from past censuses that can be used as proof to establish your age, residence or relationship, information that could help you qualify for a pension, establish citizenship or obtain an inheritance. In 2072, your great-grandchildren may want to use census information to research family history. Because we've had a census every 10 years since 1790, we know how far America has come.



**MAKE NC COUNT**  
CENSUS 2020

**Safe. Easy. Important.**

Respond online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)  
or by phone at 844-330-2020

#MakeNCCount |    | Follow us @nccensus



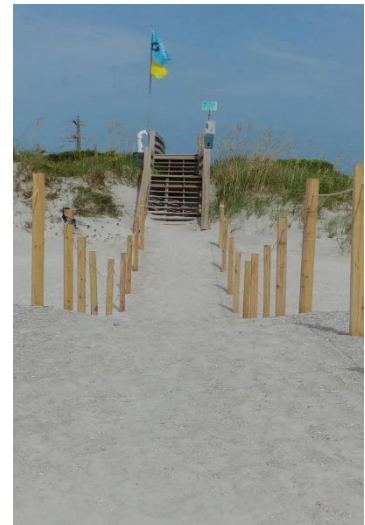
## SEA OATS PLANTING



Our dune planting is well underway!!! Now that the second dune system is in place, sea oats are being planted to help stabilize the dune and create more protection for our beach and our property. While it may seem odd to plant in the summer months, sea oats love the heat! Planting in the summer months will allow the sea oats to become established before the harshest weather conditions arrive in the winter. We are working closely with Coastal Transplants to get the best chance for a successful planting.

We understand there is some confusion on how to access the beach once the dune is planted. Because the sea oats are being mechanically planted along the top of the new dune, it is impossible to skip areas to create a pathway for each property along the shoreline to access the beach. Coastal Transplants is making an effort to clear a path in front of private accesses whenever possible. We ask that each oceanfront property owner use a consistent pathway each time you cross the dune to access the beach. This can be achieved by using flags or stakes to guide the way.

Also, CAMA has given us special consideration to use post and rope pathways based on the following guidelines: Posts cannot be greater than 4X4, no deeper than 5 feet, spaced no closer than 7 feet, only rope railings can be used and it must be at least 3 feet above the ground to avoid sea turtle interactions. Be aware that post and ropes may not be installed until after planting has been done in front of your property. You can also transplant the sea oats from your chosen pathway to another area of the dune. Any method used should be turtle friendly and consistent with CAMA regulations.



We appreciate your patience as we continue to build and maintain our beach strand and dune system to provide the best protection possible for our Town. Please contact Town Hall should you have questions. We are happy to help.

# POLICE

## ACTIVITY LOG EVENT SUMMARY AUGUST 2020

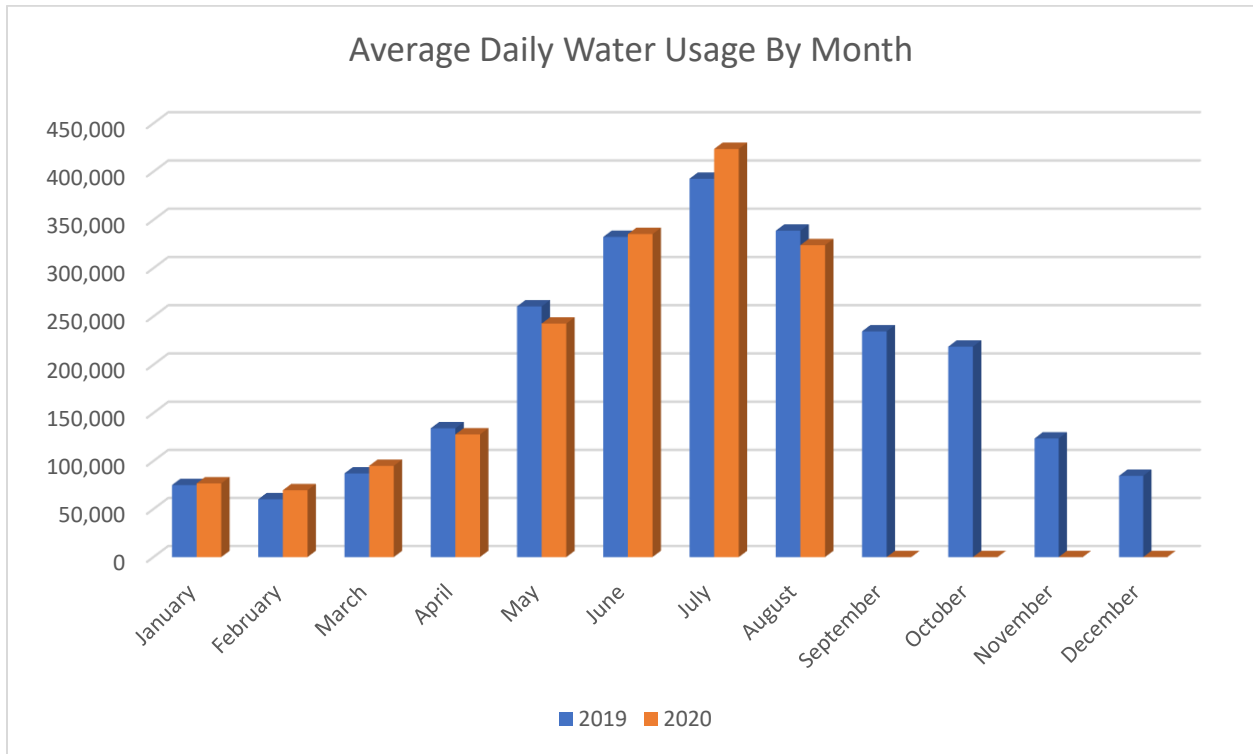
ARREST MADE	6	ASSIST TO FIRE/RESCUE	6
ALARM CALL	7	CALL FOR SERVICE	47
BEACH PATROL	14	BEACH WHEELCHAIR	0
CIVIL CITATION	11	BOAT RELATED CALL	2
DEATH	0	DISTURBANCE CALL	4
DOG RELATED CALL	6	LARCENY REPORT	2
MESSAGE DELIVERED	0	MISSING PERSON	0
OPEN DOOR FOUND	2	PARKING COMPLAINT	15
PROPERTY DAMAGE	0	SURFING VIOLATION	1
SCHOOL ATTENDED	0	SECURITY/BUSINESS CHECK	193
SPECIAL WORK	81	STATE CITATION ISSUED	44
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	6	SUSPICIOUS/UNLOCKED VEHICLE	20
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	1	TRESPASS CALL	8
TOPSAIL ASSISTED SURF CITY	0	WARNING CITATION ISSUED	83

- 1 ASSAULT

# PUBLIC WORKS

## WATER USAGE

Below is a look at the average daily water usage for August 2020, and a comparison of the data to 2019. This August the distribution for the water system was a total of 10,036,230 gallons of water for an average of 323,749 gallons a day, a slight decrease of 15,034 gpd over the same period last year (338,783).



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### PLANNING AND ZONING

The Planning Board met on August 26, 2020 with the following actions taken:

1. Continued discussion of establishing rules of procedure for the Planning Board and direction to the Town Planner to prepare amendments to the proposed draft for further study at the next regular meeting on September 23, 2020.
2. Reviewed proposed draft ordinance to establish regulations for prohibiting walking on and vegetation destruction of the dunes. Recommended adoption with suggested revisions.
3. Established September meeting to begin review of list of revisions to Chapter 16, Land Development Code to address NCGS 160D requirements.

### PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met on August 26, 2020 with the following actions taken:

1. Continued discussion of the Walk/Bike Plan with review and discussion of public comments received.
2. Scheduled joint meeting with the Citizen Advisory Group to begin discussion of options for North Anderson Boulevard on September 23, 2020.

Summer Concert Series - August concert cancelled.

### BUILDING PERMIT SUMMARY

A total of 20 permits were issued at a valuation of \$117,775.00 with one demo and a separate septic review which indicates submittal(s) for new construction will follow shortly. HVAC repairs remain the largest percentage of the permits.



## AUGUST 2020 BUILDING PERMITS

PERMIT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	VALUATION	PERMIT FEE
Docks/Decks/Seawalls/ ACC	1	\$17,000.00	\$135.00
Demolition	1	\$5,000.00	\$105.00
Electrical Repair	2	\$2,100.00	\$110.00
Mechanical Repairs	13	\$73,675.00	\$715.00
Misc. Building Repair	1	\$15,000.00	\$135.00
Septic Install/Repair	1	\$5,000.00	\$30.00
Zoning Permit for Septic	1	\$0.00	\$30.00
	<b>20</b>	<b>\$117,775.00</b>	<b>\$1,260.00</b>

### CAMPAIGN/ ELECTION SIGNS

Autumn is upon us, and that means cooler temperatures, football games, fall decorations, and ELECTIONS!!! We encourage everyone to participate in this very important process for choosing our leadership in this great Country! We do ask that when you show your support for the candidates of your choosing, please remember there are regulations for placing campaign signs on your property. This year, signs can be set up starting on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The following is the guidance set forth in the Town Code of Ordinances:

Political sign placement and duration shall be in accordance with G.S. 136-32 in the NCDOT right-of-way. During the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting under G.S. 163-227.2 and ending on the tenth day after the primary or election day, subject to the following provisions:

- a. *Right-of-way sign placement.* A person must obtain the permission of any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected. Signs must be placed in accordance with the following:
  1. No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.
  2. No sign shall be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.
  3. No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection.

4. No sign shall be higher than 3.5 feet above the edge of the pavement of the road.
  5. No sign shall be larger than six square feet.
  6. No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.
  7. Within the town right-of-way, signs shall only be allowed in the nonresidential districts.
- b. *Private property sign placement.* Signs shall be permitted during the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting under G.S. 163-227.2 and ending on the tenth day after the primary or election day and shall be limited to six square feet in size per lot.

*Dates to Remember:*

*Labor Day – September 7<sup>th</sup> (Town Hall Closed)*  
*Board of Commissioners – September 9<sup>th</sup> (6:00 PM)*  
*BIS Committee – September 17<sup>th</sup> (10:00 AM)*  
*Planning Board/Parks and Rec. – Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> (3:00 PM)*