



**Town of Beaufort Newsletter** 

#### www.beaufortnc.org

February 2023

#### Town Hall

701 Front Street P.O. Box 390 Beaufort, NC 28516 (252) 728-2141

#### **Office Hours**

8 a.m. -5 p.m. Monday-Friday

Town Hall is accessed via Pollock Street.



Mayor Sharon Harker s.harker@beaufortnc.org

Commissioners John Hagle j.hagle@beaufortnc.org Marianna Hollinshed m.hollinshed@beaufortnc.org Bob Terwilliger b.terwilliger@beaufortnc.org Melvin Cooper m.cooper@beaufortnc.org Bucky Oliver b.oliver@beaufortnc.org

> Town Manager Todd Clark t.clark@beaufortnc.org

Newsletter Submissions: Due 5 p.m. Feb. 15, 2023 Send to Rachel Johnson, PIO at r.johnson@beaufortnc.org

## Black History Month Starts with You

During Black History Month 2023, let us remember the way forward starts with each individual. One person can change the course of history. Let's continue celebrating and remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the month of February as there is work to do. Let's remember King not simply to reflect on the life and work of a great man who led a movement that moved this nation forward exponentially; not only to remember Dr. King and the civil rights movement that fought against segregation, poverty, and war; not just to memorialize a man of God who was killed 55 years ago at the young age of 38 for what he stood for. Those are all excellent reasons to celebrate Dr. King, but the real reason is that the work that began in the civil rights movements of the 1950s and 1960s is not yet done. We still have disparities in educational

achievement, health care, housing, poverty levels, and job and business opportunities.

Despite the progress that has been made, we still have work to do. As long as poverty, injustice & inequality persist, none of us can truly rest. It doesn't take much to change a life. Dr. King's philosophy of nonviolent



social change still rings true today. Dr. King grew up in a segre-

Dr. King grew up in a segregated world, but King was raised to speak up against injustice. King witnessed his

father stand up against segregation and various forms of discrimination. In 1936, King's father led hundreds of African Americans in a civil rights march to the city hall in Atlanta to protest voting rights discrimination. Although King's father was an influential role model, it wasn't apparent at that time that Dr. King would grow up to lead a movement that would continue to stand up against segregation and discrimination.

Dr. King may have had doubts about his role as a leader, but it was not his nature to sit back and do nothing. To quote Dr. King, "The time is right to do what is right." A mindset we should all adopt.

King relied on his faith in God to guide him. King once stated, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

Let us think about that statement. We all know that it would be very difficult to decide to step out or off a staircase and not know what is next. But that is how change happens. So, don't be afraid to step when you don't see what's next.

Dr. King was not always seen as a hero during his life. Martin Luther King, JR was an agitator. He was an activist. He made "GOOD" trouble.

He was fighting the problems of what Civil Rights leader, abolitionist, and former slave Frederick Douglass called the "Color Line."

So, what is the "Color Line?" It is the line that separates people based on their color.

Leaders like Martin Luther King fought to abolish the color line, and they paid for it with their lives.

Some of you reading this will remember growing up in a segregated world. Many of us do not share that same story.

If we all shared the same story, it would mean that no progress was made.

But because of Dr. King and millions of others in the

fight for advancing civil rights for people of color in the United States through nonviolence and civil disobedience, our stories today are different.

The shift in our story and how King led the movement to create that change is why we still honor Dr. King and why he is still an inspiration to many across the world. As we witness nations around the world continue to struggle under the weight of violence, hate and poverty, today's social, political, and economic landscape reveals the need to remember Dr. King's philosophy and methodology of nonviolence.

King's legacy is remembered and honored in many ways. There are 955 street in the United States named after Martin Luther King and numerous parks. King's legacy has influenced people across the world. King's work inspired the South African leader (Albert Luthuli), who fought for racial justice in his country during

apartheid. King's legacy inspired many to get involved and be part of the change. I encourage you to ask questions, find your voice in this world and get involved in your community. Regardless of age, staying informed and giving back is essential not only for your growth, but for the growth of



our community and the world. Get involved at your level of comfort.

Many years before I thought of running for office, I served as a Girl Scout leader and on the PTO. I started where I was comfortable, but I was giving back and getting involved. I believe getting involved gave me the courage to run for office. Eventually, I was elected to serve as a commissioner for two terms, and now I am the first African American to serve as the Mayor of Beaufort. If you get involved, it will take you places you only dreamt of going.

King had a dream. In that dream, he saw what it could be. But, Dr. King did not live long enough to see the global impact of his life's work. Look what getting involved can do. You can achieve greatness and not even know it.

On Feb. 4, 1968, at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, King spoke about how he wished to be remembered after his death (which he must have felt was coming sooner than later). King stated:

"I want somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to give his life to serve others. I want somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to love somebody.

I want you to be able to say that day that I did try to feed the hungry.

I want you to be able to say that day that I tried to clothe those who were naked.

And I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity."

I hope you will use King's legacy to inspire you to fight injustice when you see it and when you can, through nonviolence and civil disobedience, get involved, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and try to love and serve humanity.

One day your actions will have a positive impact on someone's story.



**Sharon E. Harker** Mayor, Town of Beaufort, NC

# February Town Meetings

Meetings will be conducted in the Beaufort Train Depot, 614 Broad Street, Beaufort unless otherwise noted. Please visit the Town's website at <u>www.beaufortnc.org/calendar</u> for meeting agendas. Regular Monthly Meetings of the Board of Commissioners are livestreamed on the Town's Facebook page.

**6 p.m. Feb. 7**—Historic Preservation Commission **6:30 p.m. Feb. 2**—Parks & Recreation Advisory Board **6 p.m. Feb. 13**—Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

- 6 p.m. Feb. 21-Planning Board
- 4 p.m. Feb. 27—Board of Commissioners Work Session
- 6 p.m. Feb. 27—Board of Adjustment

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**Sunshine List:** Sign up for meeting notifications by emailing Town Clerk Elizabeth Lewis at e.lewis@beaufortnc.org.

## Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners met Jan. 9 for their regularly scheduled meeting. They took the following actions and heard the following presentations:

- Approved Dec. 8 & 12 meeting minutes.
- Approved Case #22-22 Preliminary Plat- Davis Bay.
- Adopted a resolution accepting the dedication of public improvements for Beau Coast Subdivision: Phases 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B.
- Approved FY 2023 Budget Amendment #6.
- Approved Rezoning Case

## Historic Preservation Commission

The Historic Preservation Commission met Jan. 3 and discussed the following items: **Case # 22-32 Landscaping:** Request to install a wall and variety of landscaping for 615 Ann Street. Approved. **Case # 22-34 201 Front Street Fence:** Request to move an existing Beaufort style fence along the Moore Street side retaining the size, height, picket style and color of existing fence. Tabled due to applicant was not present.

Case # 22-35 211 Orange Street Driveway, Landscaping & Landscape Lighting: Request to install pavers for their driveway and install new landscaping with lighting within the landscaping. Tabled at appli-

#### Are You Covered? Spring showers can bring floods in hours, but flood policies can take up to 30 days to take effect. Visit floodsmart.gov to learn how to

 Approved Case #22-25
Zoning Text Amendment regarding dock roofs as a permitted use.

#22-24 at 457 Hwy 101.

- Conducted a public hearing regarding a future amendment to the Charter of the Town of Beaufort concerning the Mayoral Term.
- Todd Clark shared his Town Manager's report, which can be accessed at: https:// www.beaufortnc.org/ boardofcommissioners/ page/managers-report.
  For more information contact Town Clerk Elizabeth Lewis

at e.lewis@beaufortnc.org.

cant's request. Case # 22-36 305 Moore Street Accessory Structure: Request to delete the previously approved garage door and replace the door with 2 windows and a walk-in door. Approved.

**Case # 22-37 510 Front Street Windows, Doors & New Sign:** Request to install a 14.6 sq.ft. sign made of high-density urethane, install a new door at Front Street entrance to units above and replace four windows on the waterside that open. Approved. If you have any questions about Beaufort's Historic District, please contact Kyle Garner, Planning Director, at 252-728-2142 or at

k.garner@beaufortnc.org

protect your home from flooding this spring. Property specific flood risk information is available online at: https://fris.nc.gov.

# 2023 Golf Cart Registration

Per the Town of Beaufort's golf cart ordi-



nance, safety inspections and registration are required annulid per the saler

ally and are valid per the calendar year in which they are registered (Jan. 1st- Dec. 31st). There is a \$75 registration fee

## NOTICE: Planning & Inspections

The Town of Beaufort's Planning & Inspections department is currently working with Infovision Software to implement Evolve, an electronic permit and plan review software system. Evolve will allow staff to receive electronic permit applications and plans for review through an online, easy-to-use secure customer portal. Citizens can search for building permits and view permit information. Contractors and homeowners will be able to submit applications online. schedule and cancel inspections, view their application status, pay fees, view their plans and print their Certificate of Occupancy along with many oth-

# **Planning Board**

The Beaufort Planning Board met Dec. 19, 2022 and discussed the following items: **Case #22-24 Rezoning:** Request to rezone 457 NC Highway 101 from R-20 to I-W for warehouse space. Recommended Approval. **Case # 22-25 Zoning Text Amendment:** Request to modify Section 2-H-4 of the Land Development Ordinance to allow roofs over docks. Included in the pro-



at time of registration or renewal. All golf carts must pass a safety inspection and be registered with the Town of Beaufort to be lawfully operated within the city limits. Golf cart safety inspections and registration are to be completed at the Beaufort Town Hall located at 701 Front Street. For more information, please call the Town of Beaufort Town Hall at (252) 728-2141 ext. 229.

er features. The customer portal can be accessed from any device and used with any browser. Evolve will streamline the plan review and permit process by allowing Town staff to instantly access the application, plans and their workflow dashboard (to do list) from any device with internet access. Reviews are completed simultaneously by each department instead of waiting for paper plans to be routed which will speed up the review process. Plan review comments and notifications are automated. Other notifications such as power releases to the utility company are also automated and sent at the moment the inspection is approved. The software is anticipated to "Go Live" before spring 2023.

posed amendment are standards that the area under the roof cannot exceed 400 sq. ft., be enclosed and may only be at a maximum heigh of 16 ft. above the decking of the dock. The board conducted a Public Hearing and unanimously recommended denial. If you have any questions please contact Kyle Garner, Planning Director, at 252-728-2142 or at k.garner@beaufortnc.org.

Want to know more about what is going on around Town? Visit www.beaufortnc.org for Project Updates and the monthly Town Manager's Report. Both may be found inside the "Mayor's Corner."



#### **Ground Breaking**

East Carolina Community Development Inc. has started site work for the new Multifamily Housing Project known homes, enhance their ecoas Eastport II on Professional Drive. There will be a Ground Breaking at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15.

ECCDI is a nonprofit (501C.3) and has been building affordable housing in Eastern NC since 1995. Keith Walker is the President and CEO. The Mission Statement is East www.eccdi.org.

# Trash/Recycling Service Questions

For information on signing up for service, changing current services and/or billing. please contact Town Hall at (252) 728-2141 ext. 229. The 2023 trash/recycling calendar is available online at www.beaufortnc.org under the Residential Trash Services

## **Beaufort Town Flags**



12" x 18" gar-den flags (\$30) for sale at Ace Hardware, 1511 Live Oak; Cous-

portunities for all citizens to live in healthy, affordable nomic status, and improve their lives. Eastport II will be a 48 unit multifamily affordable housing at 738 Professional Dr. It will look just like Eastport I. It is scheduled to be completed in 2023.

Carolina Community Develop-

ment Inc. (ECCDI) creates op-

tab or in Town Hall. During inclement weather your schedule may be altered. You can track inclement weather alerts online at www.gflenv.com. For more information or to report issues with pickup, please contact GFL at (252) 223-4176.

Visit online at

ins Bed & Breakfast, 305 Turner; First Citizens Bank, 1501 Live Oak: and online at www.BeaufortWomansClub.org Proceeds benefit the community through the Beaufort Woman's Club.

# 2023 Small Vessel/Kayak are now being accepted for the Lotterv

The Town of Beaufort will have a lottery for small vessel storage

permits at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, 2023. The lottery will be live streamed on the Town's Facebook

page. All applications must be received by 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27, 2023 to be entered into the lottery. All applications must be submitted electronically. If you need assistance, please email r.johnson@beaufortnc.org or call (252) 728-2141 ext. 231. The rental rate for the 2023 lottery will be \$100. Applications

# Beaufort **Emergency** Alerts

Sign up to receive Important Notifications and Emergency Alerts from the Town of Beaufort.

#### For Full Registration:

Scan the QR Code or online at www.beaufortnc.org under the "Residents" tab.

#### **Text Alerts Only:**

Sign up via text by texting "Join beaufortnc-alerts" to 31002 without the quotation marks.

2023 lottery. Please read the rules and regulations carefully for both eligibility and vessel requirements. Spaces will be assigned in the order selected during the lottery. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Rachel Johnson, Parks & Events Coordinator/PIO, at r.johnson@beaufortnc.org or call 728-2141 ext. 231. **REMINDER: ALL VESSELS REGIS-**TERED TO SPACES IN 2022 MUST BE REMOVED BY 1 P.M. ON WEDNES-DAY, MARCH 1, 2023. Read the eligibility guidelines and apply under the "Residents" tab at www.beaufortnc.org.

**Receive Emergency Alerts**, Weather Alerts, Road Closure Alerts and more. You may opt into alerts that are of interest to vou.

For more information on the Emergency Alert system, call (252) 528-8765.



Neuse-Pamlico Sound Women's Coalition, Inc. March for Sickle Cell In Person and Virtual 5K Walk/Run 7<sup>th</sup> Annual SCD RACE Union Point Park - Downtown New Bern, NC Saturday, March 11, 2023

**Register Online:** https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/Anytown/NPSWCMarchforSickleCell

COME JOIN US TO RUN/WALK

# -MEDALS FOR TOP FINISHERS-

## **Queen Street Missionary Baptist Church Community Project**

Please assist us in demolishing the remaining remnants of the Old Queen Street High School at 604 Mulberry Street. The project cost is approximately \$22,000.

Donations may be sent to Queen Street Missionary Baptist Church C/O Pastor William Ellison, 510 Queen Street, Beaufort, NC 28516 or call Pastor Ellison at (252) 728-4245 for more information. All donations and services are welcomed.

## Plastic Free By the Sea

Let's Start 2023 Plastic Free! · Carry your reusable shopping bags to every store you enter.



· Bring a reusable bottle filled with water when leaving the house, rather than buying bottled

water.

· Present your reusable mug/ bottle when ordering a drink from a restaurant or cafe. · Bring reusable containers to restaurants to put leftovers in.  $\cdot$  Give up straws, especially plastic ones.

·Refuse plastic utensils and condiment packets when order-

## to Host Valentine Member Drive Featuring Artist Matt Hirsheimer

How many of you have driven by the Beaufort Historic Site, but have never visited? If you've never been in the buildings, now is the time to



standing tradition where the community gathers to celebrate Valentine's Day a little bit early. This year the party will be 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5. We call this our "membership" party, but we are thrilled to welcome potential members and volunteers to come enjoy and learn more about our historic site and this area's special history. All of the historic buildings on the grounds will be open for you to explore. You'll find beer

ing take-out.

·If you eat take-out away from home, purchase a portable, reusable utensil set to use.

 $\cdot$  Buy loose produce rather than packaged, putting it into reusable produce bags.

· Store leftovers and snacks in reusable containers rather than plastic zip bags.

For more information on Plastic Free by the Sea. a local Environmental Conservation Organization or to contact the group, visit www.facebook.com/ PlasticFreeENC.

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#### 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023 **"STAY PRAYED UP"**

Lena Mae "Mother" Perry, the backbone of her community, cooks for crowds, tends to the needy, and boy, can she sing! After 50 years leading the dynamic, down-home gospel group The Branchettes, the octogenarian powerhouse, armed with her unwavering faith, shows no signs of slowing down. Taking us inside her loving community while following the recording of the group's first album, this film is bursting with warmth, joy, and soul-stirring gospel music. 1hr, 10min | Documentary | 2021 Admission: \$5 (Donations Accepted)

7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023 **"LOWNDES COUNTY and THE** ROAD TO BLACK POWER"

This isn't a story of hope but of action. Through first person accounts and searing archival footage, the film tells the story of the local movement and young Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) organizers who fought not just for voting rights, but for Black Power in Lowndes County, Alabama, a rural, impoverished county with a vicious history of racist terrorism. 1hr, 30min | Documentary | 2022 Admission: \$5 (Donations Accepted) Purchase tickets and reserve your spot at beaufortpictureshow.org.



Beaufort Historic Site and pizza in the jail, apple cider in the Leffers Cottage, and an olive oil tasting in the Carteret County Courthouse of 1796. The most unique aspect of this party is that it's great for adults, children, and even pets. There will also be a featured artist in the Mattie King Davis Art Gallery. Matt Hirsheimer is this year's artist. His pieces are primarily acrylics and are vivid. full of life. and happy -- much like his great personality! Matt is from Cary, but many of the pieces you will find capture familiar coastal scenes as he and his wife are frequent visitors to the area. Be sure to RSVP. and also

invite friends, coworkers and neighbors who have an interest in Beaufort and want to find out more about the Beaufort Historical Association and all of the many activities and events that we sponsor, throughout the year. With a wide range of giving levels from \$25 for students and senior citizens to \$5,000 for the Somerset Circle with each level of membership receiving special benefits, memberships can be purchased online at www.beauforthistoricsite. org.