



In The Midst of COVID-19, The Very Best of Beaufort

Four important topics for you this month: equal treatment, volunteerism during a crisis, signs of COVID-19 recovery, and hunger in Carteret County.

First, The Board of Commissioners and Town Staff treat all citizens, business owners, employees, churches, schools, civic groups, and non-profits of Beaufort equally. While some may have received preferential treatment in the past, we have strived to level the playing field. You will see that equal consideration in action during day-to-day town operations, response to crises, and in our infrastructure and park improvements. At times, some small groups will be extraordinarily vocal. Be assured that it is always the health and prosperity of our entire community that is prioritized.

Second, in the midst of a crisis, you will find the very best of people. In Beaufort, we've had so many citizens step up and help our community and the surrounding area. Last month, I discussed the selfless effort of those that were getting food to students. This month, I'll continue highlighting volunteers helping those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

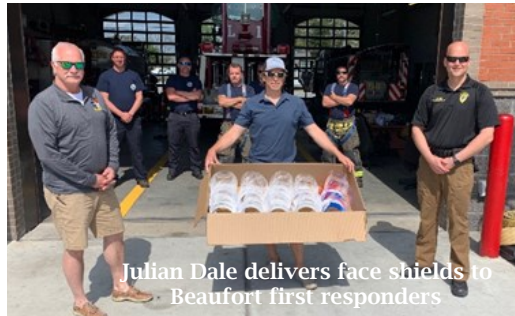
There has been an Army of volunteers producing face masks for town staff, school staff, citizens, and anyone else in need. These volunteers include Lynn Poray, Terri Thomas, Janice Cheek, Janet McLendon, Daria Waples, Heather Walker, Jane Ellis, Barb Backman, Dr. Christopher Lambertsen, his helpers and the crew from Beach Care.



Lynn Poray with a bag of hand-made masks for our school staff.

Duke engineer Julian Dale and UNC engineer Ryan Neve, both Beaufort citizens, used their 3D printing skills to provide face shields for medical professionals and first responders.

These selfless volunteers have filled a critical void in personal protective equipment for those on the front lines of this fight.



Julian Dale delivers face shields to Beaufort first responders

Third, if you need to see some signs of our town recovery, you'll see inspiration in the progress on Randolph Johnson Park, the intentionally safe and incremental opening of the Olde Beaufort Farmers Market (OBFM), and the continued great volunteer work by the Beaufort Garden Club as they keep



Joe Merrell distributes pre-ordered products.



Mike Dunn and Cindy Bunch demonstrate OBFM safety measures.

our amazing community beautiful.

Finally, there are many families that don't have food. We knew there was a deep socio-economic divide in Carteret County.



Jonnell and Giacomo with beautiful flowers along the Boardwalk

Hurricane Florence exposed it, Hurricane Dorian widened it, and this pandemic has expanded the divide even more. For those that want to help, please provide support to the Carteret County Public School Foundation, the Boys and Girls Clubs, Backpack Buddies programs, and your local food bank. Hunger is no longer a hidden secret. It is right here in Carteret County and we need to support those in need.

- Mayor Everett S. (Rett) Newton



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

Please note offices are closed to the public due to Covid-19.

Mayor

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e.newton@beaufortnc.org

Commissioners

Ann Carter

a.carter@beaufortnc.org

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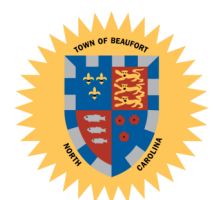
Charles McDonald

c.mcdonald@beaufortnc.org

Town Manager

John Day

j.day@beaufortnc.org



Newsletter Submissions:

Due May 20, 2020 at 5 p.m.
Send to r.johnson@beaufortnc.org

Board of Commissioners

During the April 13, 2020 regular monthly meeting, the Board of Commissioners took the following actions:

- Approved the draft minutes of the March 9, 2020 regular meeting.
- Approved a resolution directing the clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the voluntary annexation request for Old Seaport Development, LLC.
- Approved the FY 2020 audit contract.
- Approved the FY 21 budget calendar.
- Adopted the Carteret County Emergency Operations Plan.
- Approved FY 20 budget amendment #10.
- Approved a residential solid waste fee increase.
- Approved the Crystal Coast Half Booty Triathlon date change to October 11, 2020.
- Approved Case 20-01 Zoning Map and Rezoning of 16 parcels.
- Approved the purchase and budget amendment for a ladder truck for the Fire Department
- Approved a funding request for \$7,500 from the Beaufort Development Association for post COVID-19 advertising.

COVID-19 Resources

Make sure you are getting your information from reliable sources. Links to the following may be found at www.beaufortnc.org/coronavirus

Carteret County Health Department:
www.carteretcountync.gov

Center for Disease Control (CDC): cdc.gov/COVID-19

North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services (NCDHHS): www.ncdhhs.gov
NC COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Call Center -
866-462-3821 or call 2-1-1



World Health Organization (WHO): www.who.int

Paid Parking Season Delayed

Paid parking season has been delayed until a future date. The Board of Commissioners will discuss the topic during their May 26, 2020 Work Session while considering input from the downtown businesses.

Contacting Town Hall Employees

Please note that due to COVID-19, all Town buildings are closed to the public. If you need to reach someone at Town Hall via phone, call the main line, pick the extension and leave a message. Messages are being checked periodically. Emails are listed on the Town website at www.beaufortnc.org.

May Meetings

All meetings will be conducted virtually. Please visit the calendar item for the meeting at www.beaufortnc.org/calendar for meeting login information.

6 p.m. May 11 —Board of Commissioners

6 p.m. May 18—Planning Board

4 p.m. May 28 —Board of Commissioners Work Session

How to Pay a Utility Bill while Town Hall is Closed

To pay a water bill via credit card you will need to make an online payment or call the 1-800 number below. Please deposit checks/money orders into the drop box on the side of Town Hall. No cash payments are being accepted at this time. To pay by phone 1-800-272-9829; online www.Officialpayments.com Jurisdiction code 4394.

New Payment Option for Utility Bills and Permits: Web Inquiry and Payment Portal (WIPP)

There is now a new way to check your balance and pay your bill online. From the town website www.beaufortnc.org, select Residents, Pay My Utility Bill, then scroll down and click the link for WIPP. Using your account number and PIN (printed on your bill, you can check your balance, see your last three bills, and pay by debit or credit card, or by e-check. There is a convenience fee of 2.95% for debit/credit, and \$1.05 for e-check. There is not a transaction amount limit, such as the \$175 limit on Official Payments.

To pay an invoice, go to the WIPP page using the instructions above. You will need to have your customer ID and PIN, which is printed on your invoice.

We hope our residents will be pleased with this new service. If you are used to paying through Official Payments, we think you will find WIPP to be a more enhanced service. Please start using WIPP for your online payments, as we will be transitioning away from Official Payments over the next few months. Official Payments will still be the method to use for IVR (over-the-phone) payments.

If you have any questions, please email billing@beaufortnc.org.

How to Reach Town Hall (252) 728-2141

Extensions:

Water and Sewer Accounts or Bulk Item Pick Up—229 or 228
Parking-232
Inspections and Permitting-224
Planning and Zoning-223
Parks, Events, Public Information Officer-231
Finance-235 or 240
Cemetery-221
Town Clerk-233
Town Manager-230
All other inquiries-221



After Hours:

Sewer emergency: (252) 241-5164
Water emergency: (252) 241-3525

A New Phase in Beaufort COVID-19 Response

The weekend, April 24-26, was calm and controlled in Beaufort, and that is exactly what we need to continue our COVID-19 fight. As many of our residents and business owners have articulated, if everyone would just use social distance and hygiene measures, the additional measures would not be necessary.

In Carteret County, there have been 28 total positive COVID-19 cases and three deaths. There has been a consistent reporting of 5 active positive cases, and that has not shifted much over the last few weeks. This data should be considered a minimum number since only the most severe cases are tested.

On Thursday, April 30, we entered a new phase in this fight. Our March 29 Proclamation expired on April 29, and Governor Cooper's executive orders now provide the framework for our COVID-19 measures. Our Beaufort measures were more restrictive than the governor's. Since Governor Cooper's executive orders are still in effect, this is not a total re-opening. Stay at home, limited travel, social distance, hygiene and essential business criteria are still

defined by Executive Orders 121, 131 and 135. These orders will be enforced by state, county and local authorities. Throughout this crisis, many of our Beaufort businesses have gone above and beyond to protect their employees and their customers. But unfortunately, some have not. It is important to emphasize that Executive Order 131 details requirements for retail establishments to include maximum occupancy, social distance markings and cleaning and disinfection procedures.

COVID-19 is still a substantial threat. Social distancing and emphasis on hygiene will continue for the foreseeable future. If we start to see a significant increase in positive cases or an influx of people that are not taking this threat seriously, we will not hesitate to increase our Beaufort measures to protect our community. Now is the time when we must work together, the citizens, second home owners, business owners, employees, churches, schools, civic groups and non-profits of Beaufort, to ensure everyone in our community is taking appropriate precautions in this fight. Summer 2020 in Beaufort will be a big challenge.

-Mayor Newton



Beaufort's COVID-19

Response Levels

Level 1 - Manageable number of positive cases in Carteret County. Heightened awareness. Open vehicular access through Beaufort's three entry/exit points. Social distancing (including hygiene) and Governor Cooper's executive orders and/or town emergency proclamations are in effect with restrictions imposed that close or limit the operation of businesses.

Town policy on *Work Schedules, Compensation, and Facility Closures During State of Emergency* is activated commensurate with conditions. Town offices and work facilities are closed to the public and work-at-home/essential worker procedures are exercised as long as social distancing requirements are in place. Public restrooms

are open when downtown retail businesses are permitted to open to walk-in public traffic.

Level 2 - Direct threat to Beaufort based on the number of Carteret County positive and active cases and statewide case escalation. Entry checkpoint established on Turner Street. Access limited to permanent County residents and essential business activity only - entry passes or driver's license with a Carteret County address required for entry. Second homeowners will exit town or shelter in place. Visitors (to include non-essential short-term guests) will be turned away.

Level 3 - Significant increase in active COVID cases and hospital resource use. Same as Level 2 with the addition of a curfew from 10 p.m. - sunrise.

Response Levels are updated at
www.beaufortnc.org.

The OLDE BEAUFORT FARMERS' MARKET

is back with modifications.

With COVID-19 precautions in place, we will gather with Farmers, Fishermen, and Foodies only on the courthouse grounds: 9:00AM until 1:00 PM each Saturday until further notice.

Go to oldebeaufortfarmersmarket.org to access vendors thru their websites and FB pages to preorder your food choices for prepackage and pickup on market mornings. Walk-thru shopping will also be available.

SHOP LOCAL
FOR SAFE, FRESH FOOD IN THE OPEN AIR
UNDER THE LIVE OAKS!

We really appreciate your continuing support of our local vendors especially during this unusual time.

More details on our FB page and on our website:
oldebeaufortfarmersmarket.org



BEAUFORT Picture Show

BeauShow's Little Free Theater

BeauShow-2-Go's Little Free Theater/Library is already filled with DVDs for you to enjoy at home! You can browse our collection online, or just swing by Mill Whistle Brewing next time have a hankering to catch a classic. Hang on to the movie for as long as you'd like, and return it (or another disc) whenever you're able -Free. There are no due dates or fines at this

library. And let us know if you're looking for anything particular, and/or anytime you may have questions or concerns! ALL ARE WELCOME.



Carteret County **FOOD RESOURCES**

local information

To locate near-by food sites
Text "FOODNC" to 877-877
(for Spanish text "COMIDA")

For other local resources
Dial 2-1-1 or Call (888) 892-1162

Food Pantries

SALVATION ARMY

Mon - Fri 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
2800 Bridges St., Morehead City, NC
(252) 726-7147
Call upon arrival

MARTHAS MISSION

Mon, Wed & Fri 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM
901 Bay St., Morehead City, NC
(252) 726-1717
May Need Voucher

THE STOREHOUSE

Mon- Fri 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
3114 Bridges St., Morehead City, NC
(443) 956-4633

LOAVES & FISHES

Mondays Only 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
1700 Live Oak St., Beaufort, NC
(252) 504-0123

WILDWOOD PRESBYTERIAN

Thursdays Only 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
276 Wildwood Rd., Newport, NC
(252) 726-9118

HARKERS ISLAND UMC

Thursdays Only 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
603 Cape Lookout Dr., Harkers Island, NC
(252) 728-7015
or call for an appointment

Grab & Go MEALS

HOPE MISSION

Daily 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM
1410 Bridges St., Morehead City, NC
(252) 240-2359

FIRST UMC

Saturdays 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
900 Arendell St., Morehead City, NC
(252) 726-7102

HARLOWE UMC

Saturdays 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
4261 NC Hwy 101, Newport, NC
(252) 447-1779



government services

SNAP/EBT

Department of Social Services
(252) 728-3181

Call for phone/virtual appointment
Application Online @epass.nc.gov

WIC

Carteret WIC Office
(252) 728-8550

Now doing re-certifications and
sign ups via phone

gift cards

FOOD FOR FRIENDS OF CARTERET COUNTY

(252) 241-7823 | www.Foodforfriendsnc.com
Gift cards available for those unemployed due to COVID-19