

OCTOBER 2019



BRUNSWICK COUNTY

STATS & STORIES

## County Manager's October Update

Hello, and thank you for reading our first installment of the Brunswick County Stats and Stories report. The concept behind this resource is simple: We want to provide you with a transparent, informative and relevant snapshot of how your county government is working for you every day.

October saw the Board of Commissioners unanimously approve the appropriation and execution of a series of contracts and notices of bids for the Northeast Brunswick Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion project; this is an important step forward for the project, which will increase the plant's total capacity to support the increasing development we're seeing in northern Brunswick County.

The Board also unanimously voted to appropriate a fund balance totaling \$8,425,021 from the County's savings rather than issue additional debt to help fund the courthouse renovations/expansion project and the landfill transfer station—two projects within our Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

I joined the Brunswick County team as county manager Oct. 21, and I am incredibly impressed with the talented and service-minded team members we have on staff. I'm also looking forward to meeting more of our residents and community leaders across our 19 municipalities in the coming months. It is my hope that this update will complement our team's efforts and provide you valuable insight into how county government plays a part in your life and in our communities—and make us all proud to be a resident of Brunswick County.



**Brunswick County Manager  
Randell Woodruff**



# OCTOBER 2019 STATS SNAPSHOT

## Completed the walking trail at Smithville Park

Operations / Construction Division



# 6,000

Customers visited and used the County Landfill Solid Waste & Recycling

4-H Member Sydney Blair (third from left) is recognized at the World Food Prize – Global Youth Institute event in Ames, Iowa  
Cooperative Extension



# 4,389



Influenza vaccines administered  
Health Services

# 2,115

Deeds and deeds of trust registered  
Register of Deeds

## Board of Elections

- Prepared for the Nov. 5 municipal election in which 64,390 of our 103,026 registered voters were eligible to vote. We prepared to conduct a test of a new voting system on election day in the Oak Island 1 precinct. We plan to have the new system available county-wide for the March primary.
- Approximately 2,025 ballots were cast during one-stop early voting (Oct. 16 through Nov. 1).

## Code Administration

- Code Administration is continuing to work with the programmers to fine tune our Building Inspections App to allow our inspectors to provide more efficient service in the field.
- Inspections eligible for next-day inspections can now be scheduled online. These could only be scheduled over the phone previously.

## Cooperative Extension

- Extension master gardener volunteers completed 89 house call visits to diagnose, identify, and recommend corrective action for homeowners. The extensive and intensive horticulture training course graduated 15 new extension master gardener volunteers.
- A 12-hour NC Safe Plates for Food Safety Managers class was offered in late September with all participants passing the national standards test with scores of 80-95%.
- 4-H member Sydney Blair and 4-H agent Morgan King were invited to participate in the World Food Prize – Global Youth Institute event in Ames, Iowa because of Sydney's recognition in an essay competition and her work on reducing food waste.
- The Voluntary Agricultural District held its annual meeting for the 200+ members in the county who seek to preserve and conserve agricultural and open land in the area as well as serve as a forum for agricultural issues facing our rapidly developing community.

## Emergency Services

- Brunswick County EMS ran 1,961 calls. This is an increase of 469 calls compared to the 1,492 calls ran in October 2018.
- Brunswick County EMS transported 1,036 patients, compared to 901 patients transported in October 2018. This shows a 31.4% increase in call volume from 2018 and a 14.9% increase in transports.

### October Emergency Services Statistics

Action	Total
Average Response Time for Emergent Calls	8:53
Trauma Activations (Trauma 1)	13
Trauma Activations (Trauma 2)	21
STEMI Activations	3
Code Stroke Activations	15

## Engineering

- The new parking lot across from the County Courthouse is scheduled to finish by the end of December. The project is slightly ahead of schedule and within budget. This new parking lot will provide additional parking directly across from the courthouse and will be in service prior to the courthouse addition and renovation project commencing next year. The new pond for the parking lot is the fourth and final pond to be built on the Brunswick County Government Complex site, per the complex's state stormwater permit.

## Finance

- The County received affirmation of its high water and sewer revenue bond credit ratings with S&P Global Rating (AA-) and Moody's Investors Services (Aa3) and received the Local Government Commission's approval for the sale of revenue bonds.
- The County completed its annual audit and submitted its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as of June 30 to the Local Government Commission. The full report is online: [https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/fn\\_CAFR\\_2019\\_Final.pdf](https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/fn_CAFR_2019_Final.pdf)

## Health & Human Services

### Environmental Health

- The Food and Lodging Program inspected and/or visited 393 establishments, reviewed 11 plans for new establishments, and issued 36 permits.
- The On-Site Water Protection Program performed 86 site evaluations and issued 31 improvement permits and 48 construction authorizations for on-site wastewater systems.
- The On-Site Water Protection Program inspected 22 new private wells and sampled 17 private wells.

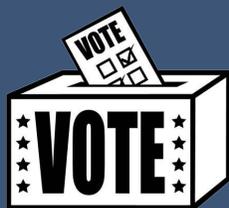
### Health Services

- Conducted eight focus groups for the 2019 Community Health Assessment, which measures the health of the county using surveys, focus groups, and statistical data. Using this information, strategic plans will be made that address the top three community health priorities.
- Health Services nurses gave 663 influenza vaccines at the health clinic at Building A on the Brunswick County Government Complex, 1,982 influenza vaccines at 27 outreach sites and 1,744 influenza vaccines at Brunswick County Schools, for a total of 4,389 shots administered so far this season. This total is trending to match or exceed the total number of shots administered last year, which was the most since 2014.

### Social Services

- Medicaid Managed Care Open Enrollment began Oct. 14 and will end Dec. 13. Social Services has an enrollment broker on site to assist individuals. Individuals who do not choose a plan will be auto assigned to a plan. Anyone unable to visit the Social Services office to meet with the enrollment broker can call 1.833.870.5500 to speak with a broker.

# 2,025



Ballots cast during one-stop early voting (Oct. 16–Nov. 1)  
Board of Elections

# 262

Veteran clients served  
in person  
Veteran Services



**Congratulations to our team members on their recent accolades:**

- Nursing Director **Cherie Browning** (pictured left) | **NCPHA Public Health All-Star Award**
- Lab Technician **Anna leRoux** (pictured below on right) | **2019 NC AWWA-WEA Wastewater Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award**

# 52,616



Books, eBooks,  
audio books, DVDs, and computers  
circulated across library system  
Library



## OCTOBER 2019 STATS SNAPSHOT

See a great stat? Contact the Public Information Officer to learn more.

Phone: 910.253.2995 / Email: [meagan.kascsak@brunswickcountync.gov](mailto:meagan.kascsak@brunswickcountync.gov)



**Work begins on the Charters of Freedom settings in front of the County Courthouse**  
Operations / Building Maintenance, Grounds, & Construction Divisions

360



**Employees attended professional driver training sessions**  
Risk Management

**AA-**

**Brunswick County's high water and sewer revenue bond credit ratings were recently reaffirmed from S&P Global Rating (AA-) and Moody's Investors Services (Aa3) Finance**

**1,961**

**EMS calls in October**  
Emergency Services



**393**

**Establishments inspected and/or visited by the Food and Lodging Program**  
Environmental Health



## **OCTOBER 2019 STATS SNAPSHOT**

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Phone: 910.253.2995 / Email: [meagan.kascsak@brunswickcountync.gov](mailto:meagan.kascsak@brunswickcountync.gov)

## Veteran Services

### October Veteran Services Statistics

Action	Total
New Clients Added	67
In-Person Clients	262
Telephone Calls	667
Email Responses/Sent Emails	197
Faxed Claims/Applications	241
Completed North Carolina applications for license plates, hunting/fishing licenses, and property tax exclusions	49

## Library

- Nathan Phillips was promoted to manager of the Leland Library.
- Students from Cedar Grover Middle School and Longwood Head Start toured the Rourk Branch Library.
- Approximately 2,583 adults and children attended 212 programs this month. Popular programs were Storytime, Robotics, SMArt Kids Club, and Lego Club for children, and Meet the Author, Lifelong Learners, and Movie Day for adults.

### October Library Statistics

Action	Total
Total Combined Door Count	30,416 people
Library Card Registration	429 people
Total Circulation (includes books, eBooks, audio books, DVDs, and computers)	52,616 items

## Operations

- The Building Maintenance, Grounds, and Construction divisions worked together to begin installation of the Charters of Freedom settings in front of the County Courthouse.

### Building Maintenance Division

- Began renovation of the Brunswick Transit System facility in Shallotte.
- Remodeled press boxes at Shallotte Park and began installing new roofs on dugouts at Northwest Park.

### Construction Division

- Completed the walking trail at Smithville Park and began site work for the Waterway Park.

## Mosquito Control / Water Management Divisions

- Mosquito control efforts, such as spraying and site treatments, were completed for the season and staff is preparing for the Beaver Bounty program to begin in November. The Beaver Bounty program coordinates residents with trappers and pays a bounty for each beaver removed from the resident's property. Residents or trappers interested in the Beaver Bounty program can call 910.253.2507.
- Joined Solid Waste and Recycling at the Oyster Festival to provide education and outreach to the public.

## Parks & Recreation

- Maintained parks and ballfields for youth football and soccer seasons as well as senior and Brunswick Community College women's softball seasons.
- Completed fall application of rye grass to athletic fields at various parks and schools.

## Planning & Community Enforcement

- Shared the new Brunswick County–Our County Data Book, which highlights data related to population, growth, economy, and general demographics for Brunswick County. It is available for download online: <https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/planning/demographics/>
- Recognizing that some residents are still working toward normalcy and need their emergency temporary housing, all remaining temporary use permits for emergency temporary housing related to Hurricane Florence were extended for an additional three months until Jan. 28, 2020, per Section 5.5.3.B. of the Brunswick County Unified Development Ordinance.

## Public Information

- Created a LinkedIn company page for Brunswick County to connect with our current employees, potential candidates, community members, and other government and industry leaders in the region, state, and country. View the page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/brunswickcounty/>

### October Public Information Statistics

Action	Total
Media/Open Records Requests	30
Facebook Likes / Follows	9,721 (+43) / 9,891 (+41)
Facebook Reach	43,545
Twitter Followers	3,677 (+23)
Tweet Impressions	43,900
Nextdoor Views	75,196
Nextdoor Email Opens	42,869

## Register of Deeds

### Details of Instruments Recorded (Number Recorded)

Instrument Type	October 2019	October 2018	Difference (+ or -)	Year-to-Date FY 2019-2020
Deeds and Deeds of Trust	2,115	1,936	+179	8,155
Plats	56	54	+2	217
UCCs	46	33	+13	253
Cancellations/ Miscellaneous	1,713	1,382	+331	6,265
Marriage Licenses	102	111	-9	361
Notary Oaths	34	32	+2	145
Instruments with Excise (Included in Above Totals)	815	820	-5	3,297
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,066</b>	<b>3,548</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>15,396</b>

## Risk Management

- Approximately 360 employees attended professional driver training sessions focused on techniques that support successful navigation through changing environments/circumstances in vehicle operation.
- Together with Human Resources, Risk Management introduced Brunswick County's safety culture to 34 new employees and provided direction on administrative procedures and developing a public service outlook.
- Hosted a districtwide safety review team meeting with active participation among leaders and managers in various occupations to identify and eliminate workplace hazards throughout the County.

## Solid Waste & Recycling

- The landfill served approximately 6,000 customers in October.
- Landfill staff ground yard debris to create mulch, which is available to the public at no cost.
- The County Commissioners signed a proclamation of support and participation in the Recycle Right NC anti-contamination campaign that runs Sept. 9 through Nov. 15. The Keep Brunswick County Beautiful Facebook page has seen an increase in followers (+161) and likes (+72) since the beginning of the campaign.
- Solid Waste and Recycling and Keep Brunswick County Beautiful were present at several festivals, including Sunset at Sunset (Sunset Beach), NC Oyster Festival (Ocean Isle Beach), NC Festival by the Sea (Holden Beach), and the Wooden Boat Show (Southport).

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## Looking for more stats?

Check out these links for information available online.

### Board of Elections

- Weekly voter registration and other statistics:  
<https://public.tableau.com/profile/brunswickcountyboe#!/>

### Code Administration

- Monthly reports: <https://brunswickcountync.gov/permit-reports/>

### Finance

- Monthly financial reports with summary information for general and enterprise funds, key indicators of revenues and expenditures and cash and investments:  
<https://brunswickcountync.gov/finance/reports/>

### Tax Office

- Property record cards and collections information: <https://tax.brunsko.net/itsnet/>

**See a great stat?** Contact Public Information Officer Meagan Kasczak to learn more.

- Phone: 910.253.2995 / Email: [meagan.kasczak@brunswickcountync.gov](mailto:meagan.kasczak@brunswickcountync.gov)
- Sign up to receive this monthly newsletter via email at  
<https://brunswickcountync.gov/info/email/>