

DECEMBER 2019



STATS & STORIES

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

County Manager's December Update

We hope that you had a safe and memorable holiday season and started off the new year well. We are thankful to all of you who volunteered your time at local charities or donated gifts, food, and other resources these past few months to help our fellow residents in need.

In an effort to get to know each of our communities better, I have started to visit our county's town managers and administrators to learn about their current projects, answer questions, and find out more about the unique traits each of our 19 municipalities has to offer.

One of the major topics we are discussing with our municipal partners are the County's ongoing Public Utilities water and wastewater projects. The top priority among all our projects is the Northwest Water Treatment Plant project, from which all our customers receive either all or part of their water.

We are currently accepting bids to add a low-pressure reverse osmosis system and expand the water capacity at the plant through March 5, and we anticipate that the Board of Commissioners will decide which bids to proceed with in April and issue a notice to construct in May. The low-pressure reverse osmosis system is expected to go online 30 to 36 months from the start of construction, depending on the bid alternate selected. Low-pressure reverse osmosis is the most protective treatment system available and will allow us to remove PFAS, GenX, and other contaminants that have been polluted into the Cape Fear River.

We encourage you to visit our website, follow our social media channels, and sign up for emails from the County to stay in the loop on this project's progress and other county news that we routinely share.



**Brunswick County Manager
Randell Woodruff**



DECEMBER 2019 STATS SNAPSHOT



The Tidings of Joy Program delivered Christmas gifts to over 50 children
Sheriff's Office



31

Commercial buildings started construction
Code Administration



211

Residential homes started construction
Code Administration

Meet our new **recycling mascot!**
Solid Waste & Recycling



Board of Elections

- We had 2,736 voter registration transactions, including 1,326 new voters added to the voter rolls.
- We received final approval to purchase a new voting system from Hart Intercivic and placed an order to receive 45 precinct tabulators and 28 accessible voting devices.
- Board of Elections Director Sara Knotts attended a national training conducted by the Defending Digital Democracy Project. The session provided tools to increase situational awareness and optimize decision-making in preparation for the 2020 elections.

Code Administration

- 2019 was another busy year for the Brunswick County Code Administration Department. Here are some notable highlights for 2019:
 - Full-time building inspector staff increased from 12 to 14 due to increasing demand for inspections.
 - Brunswick County Code Administration's full-time building inspectors performed 50,754 building inspections in 2019 compared to 32,217 in 2018.
 - There were a total of 1,217 new home permits issued and 141 commercial building permits issued for the year.

December Countywide Commercial & Residential Construction Statistics

Construction Type	Building Starts	Construction Costs
Commercial Construction	31	\$33,775,046
Residential Construction	211	\$47,949,376

Cooperative Extension

- At the hands-on 4-H annual Moravian Sugar Cake Workshop, led by Extension volunteer Jane Kuleza, six local youth learned new baking skills, measuring math, and cultural traditions. The event brings youth into the Extension Demonstration Kitchen to roll up their sleeves and bake as a team while learning the science behind the sweet-smelling pastry they produce by the end of the day. This workshop is a highlight for the year for our youth participants as well as staff and volunteers.
- The 4-H office held a community event planning meeting with the Empowering Youth & Families fall cohort and the final meeting of the year for the 4-H youth volunteers. Foodcorps service members held a schoolwide taste test of healthy vegetables, continued working in classes, and partnered with Boiling Spring Lakes Parks and Recreation to deliver after-school programming to youth.
- Extension Master Gardener Volunteers are beginning work with an affordable housing organization to install edible plants in the landscape and help these new homeowners maintain their yards and gardens.
- The 2020 Bee School starts Jan. 25. The Brunswick County Beekeepers Association leads this entry-level educational effort on Saturdays through the end of February with local beekeepers sharing their experiences and best management practices for apiculture with anyone interested in honeybees. A field day in the spring will put participants' new knowledge to the test as they perform basic tasks in active honeybee hives. Registration and cost information is available through Cooperative Extension (call 910.253.2610).

Emergency Services

- Brunswick County EMS responded to 1,908 calls for service. This is an increase of 404 calls (26.8%) compared to December 2018.
- Brunswick County EMS transported 1,042 patients. This is an increase of 206 transports (24.6%) compared to December 2018.

December Emergency Services Statistics

Action	Total
Average Response Time for Emergency Calls	9:06
Trauma Activations (Trauma 1)	5
Trauma Activations (Trauma 2)	13
Code STEMI Activations	7
Code Stroke Activations	14

24,074



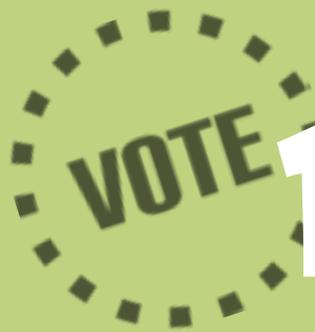
Visitors at the
Brunswick County Libraries
Library

165

Faxed claims/applications sent
in December
Veterans Services



Local **4-H youth** participated in the annual
Moravian Sugar Cake Workshop
Cooperative Extension



1,326

New voters added to the voter rolls
Board of Elections



259

Establishments inspected
by the Food and
Lodging Program
Environmental Health



DECEMBER 2019 STATS SNAPSHOT

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

Phone: 910.253.2995 / Email: meagan.kascsak@brunswickcountync.gov

Installed a **24-inch sewer force main billing flow meter** at the Oak Island re-pumping station near Sunset Harbor Road to **provide consistent billing sewer flow readings from the Town of Oak Island Public Utilities**



1,908

Calls for EMS Service
Emergency Services

28%

The percentage of restricted days at work due to worker injury reduced in 2019
Risk Management



Staff volunteered at the **Bicycle Man Bike Giveaway** in Fayetteville where **1,500 bikes were gifted to children before Christmas**
Social Services



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Health & Human Services

Environmental Health

- The Food and Lodging Program inspected and/or visited 259 establishments, reviewed 19 plans for new establishments, and issued 12 permits.
- The On-Site Water Protection Program performed 54 site evaluations, issued 20 improvement permits, and 51 construction authorizations for on-site wastewater systems.
- The On-Site Water Protection Program inspected 15 new private wells and sampled four private wells.

Health Services

- The Pediatrics Clinic saw 120 patients during December, including 15 new patients.
- Served over 150 kids with donated toys and bikes donated from community partners. Sharkey's donated 25 bikes and toys. The Red Knights, through collaboration with Walgreens, also donated a large amount of toys.

Social Services

- Thank you to everyone who helped ensure that children and families involved with Social Services had a nice holiday. Thank you to the groups and individuals who adopted children from the Angel Trees to provide gifts. We also thank Brunswick Plantation, River See Plantation, Cambridge Crossing and Duke Energy Progress for their generous gifts, WAVES4Kids for the sponsoring the Foster Children Christmas party at The Barn at Rock Creek, and all of the private donations from clubs and individuals. We are extremely appreciative of the generosity of our community. Donations assisted 261 children, 13 wards, and 22 adults.
- Brunswick County was awarded nine Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs (HUD-VASH) vouchers to help provide veterans in our county with immediate access to permanent housing.
- Members of Brunswick County Social Services were privileged to volunteer at the Bicycle Man Bike Giveaway in Fayetteville where 1,500 bikes were gifted to children before Christmas. They helped check in families and deliver bikes back to Brunswick County.

Veterans Services

December Veterans Services Statistics

Action	Total
In-Person Clients	239
New Clients Added	46
Telephone Calls	627
Email Responses/Sent Emails	171
Faxed Claims/Applications	165
Completed North Carolina applications for license plates, hunting/fishing licenses, and property tax exclusions	54

Library

- Beginning January 24, the Barbee Library and Harper Library will host Senior Technology Workshops in partnership with their Friends of the Library and a Walmart grant. Instructors will help seniors with their technology questions, from new devices to internet security.
- Robotics classes for kids will continue at the Harper and Barbee branches. Organized by the Friends, classes are taught by volunteers from the Kiwanis Club, with laptops provided by the Rotary Club. A generous grant from the St. James Service Club funded the Lego kits. Participants build robots, plug them into laptops, and code their movements. Details are available from Harper (910.457.6237) and Barbee (910.278.4283), and programs are free.
- The Leland Branch (910.371.9442) has been given shelf space for their Friends of the Library paperbacks sale at the Senior Center next door. Funds raised by the Friends support library programs, especially Children's Summer Reading.
- Brunswick County's young readers downloaded 188 eBooks and eAudiobooks from the NC Kids Digital Library last month. Call any branch to learn about this resource, which is free with a Brunswick County Library card.

December Library Statistics

Action	Total
Total Combined Door Count	24,074 people
Library Card Registration	225 people
Total Circulation (includes books, eBooks, audio books, DVDs, and computers)	39,269 items

Operation Services

December Operation Services Statistics

Division	Open Work Orders as of Dec. 1, 2019	Requested Work Orders	Completed Work Orders	Open Work Orders as of Jan. 1, 2020
Building	579	161	556	184
Maintenance				
Housekeeping	6	4	7	3
Construction and Grounds	23	16	22	17
Vector Control	5	1	1	5
All Divisions Total	613	182	586	209



80,133

Views on Nextdoor
Public Information



338

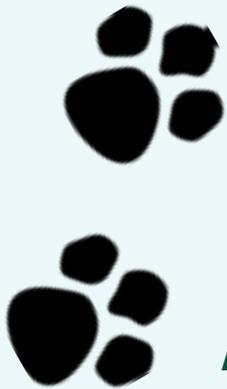
Vehicles repaired in the shop
Operation Services /
Fleet Services Division

586

Completed work orders
Operations Services

3,658

Instruments recorded in December
(includes deeds, plats, marriage
licenses, notary oaths, etc.)
Register of Deeds



102

Animals adopted from
Animal Protective Services
Sheriff's Office

65%

The percentage of mowing
and maintenance of Caw Caw
drainage canal now complete
Operation Services /
Mosquito Control/Water



DECEMBER 2019 STATS SNAPSHOT

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Fleet Services Division

December Fleet Services Statistics

Vehicles in Shop	Assigned to Repair	Finished	Pending
Total	429	338	91

Building Maintenance Division

- Completed renovation of the Brunswick Transit System facility in Shallotte.

Mosquito Control / Water Management Division

- Performing annual mowing and maintenance of Caw Caw drainage canal; 65% of work is now complete.

Public Information

December Public Information Statistics

Action	Total
Media / Open Records Requests	21
Facebook Likes / Follows	9,772 (+11) / 9,981 (+48)
Facebook Reach	28,138
Twitter Followers	3,699 (+15)
Tweet Impressions	29,100
Nextdoor Views	80,133
Nextdoor Email Opens	48,967

Public Utilities

- Issued a notice to proceed for the Northeast Regional Water Reclamation Facility 2.5 million gallons per day plant expansion and offsite sewer force main. Construction on the project started on December 2019 and is slated to be complete by October 2021.
- The Board of Commissioners approved the Town of Navassa and Brunswick County Utilities staff request to consider the concept for a merger of the Town of Navassa's utility system into the County's public utilities system.
- The Board of Commissioners approved the Economic Development Grant Application for construction of a 16-inch water line and 500,000-gallon elevated water storage tank to serve the Mid-Atlantic Rail Industrial Park located along U.S. Highway 74.
- Staff completed the new installation of a 24-inch sewer force main billing flow meter at the Oak Island re-pumping station near Sunset Harbor Road. The new flow meter will provide consistent billing sewer flow readings from the Town of Oak Island. The project was accomplished by Public Utilities staff and included several divisions.

Register of Deeds

Details of Instruments Recorded (Number Recorded)

Instrument Type	December 2019	December 2018	Difference (+ or -)	Year-to-Date FY 2019-2020
Deeds and Deeds of Trust	1,907	1,625	+282	11,932
Plats	47	42	+5	308
UCCs	44	39	+5	352
Cancellations/ Miscellaneous	1,592	1,291	+301	9,340
Marriage Licenses	40	38	+2	437
Notary Oaths	28	40	-12	213
Instruments with Excise (Included in Above Totals)	752	721	+31	4,781
Total	3,658	3,075	N/A	22,582

Risk Management

- Set up training for new employees required to certify and recertify credentials on powered industrial lifts.
- Identified facility and plant safety items for corrective action during the District Safety Review Team meeting.
- Reduced restricted days at work due to worker injury by 28% in calendar year 2019
- Working on a project with broker and actuaries for building valuations.
- Continuing work on a project for recoverable depreciation after major hurricanes.

Sheriff's Office

- 911 Communications Center logged 122,992 in CAD.
- Vice/Narcotics Unit arrested 68 on various drug related charges.
- Animal Protective Services adopted out 102 animals.
- Volunteer Services logged 2,913.5 hours, saving tax payers \$89,578.
- Sheriff's Tidings of Joy Program delivered Christmas gifts to over 50 children.

Solid Waste & Recycling

- The landfill served over 4,667 customers in December.
- Free Christmas tree drop-off at the landfill from Friday, Dec. 27 through Friday, Jan. 31. There will be a \$5 fee for each Christmas tree dropped off at the convenience sites.
- Reminder: Electronics are banned from North Carolina landfills, but they're accepted at the Brunswick County landfill and all four convenience centers for free recycling drop-off.
- Adopted a new recycling mascot.

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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 Kascsak to learn more.

- Phone: 910.253.2995 / Email: meagan.kascsak@brunswickcountync.gov
- Sign up to receive this monthly newsletter via email at <https://brunswickcountync.gov/info/email/>