



# BRUNSWICK COUNTY **STATS & STORIES**

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER



Cooperative Extension's Horticulture team collecting soil samples via kayak



Now under way: The Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority is constructing a parallel raw water line to supply Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties with adequate water supply for the future

# County Manager's Highlights from July 2020

## Brunswick Community College named No. 1 community college in nation in recent report

Brunswick Community College

We are proud to recognize our partners at Brunswick Community College on recently being named the best community college in the nation by SmartAsset. Here's what they had to say about BCC in their report:

Brunswick Community College, located in Bolivia, North Carolina, has the eighth-highest graduation and transfer rate in this study, at 83%. It also ranks 15th-highest for student-to-faculty ratio, at nine to one. The college ranks the 155th-lowest out of all 821 community colleges for its cost of tuition and fees for two semesters of classes, which totals \$2,532.

Brunswick County is proud to support BCC's endeavors to provide quality, affordable education to our county and region. The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners recently increased its Fiscal Year 2021 allocation to BCC by 2.1% to support existing programs and an additional \$350,000 for the Foundation Grant providing tuition assistance through The Brunswick Guarantee Scholarship Program.

Brunswick County high school students who graduate with a 2.3 GPA and BCC GED/ Adult High School diploma recipients may be eligible to pursue a degree, diploma or certificate at Brunswick Community College at no cost. Learn more about The Brunswick Guarantee Scholarship Program at <https://www.brunswickcc.edu/apply/financial-aid/brunswick-guarantee/>

See Smart Asset's Best Community Colleges in America rankings at <https://smartasset.com/checking-account/best-community-colleges-in-america-2020>



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United States®  
Census  
2020

## Make sure you fill out your 2020 Census by Sept. 30!

Administration

The deadline to complete the 2020 Census is Sept. 30, 2020. Census takers (also known as enumerators) are now out in Brunswick County to make sure everyone gets counted in the 2020 Census. If a Census taker does visit your household, know that they are there to help you respond to the Census and support our community's future.

While census takers help cover hard-to-reach areas of our county, you can help the U.S. Census Bureau by self-responding online, by phone, or by mail now. [Learn how at https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond](https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond)

It is estimated that for every North Carolinian not reported in the 2020 Census, [the state will lose \\$16,000 in funding over a 10-year period](https://my2020census.gov/). Take 10 minutes and complete your Census online at <https://my2020census.gov/>

## Brunswick County and Town of Navassa enter into utility acquisition agreement effective July 1

Board of Commissioners / Public Utilities

Brunswick County was proud to work with leadership at the Town of Navassa to finalize an agreement for Brunswick County to accept ownership and operational responsibility of the Town of Navassa's water and sewer systems. The Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the agreement during their regular meeting June 15, which came into effect July 1.

This agreement was an important step toward improving the Town's utility infrastructure and furthering the County's commitment to providing a strong regional option for the benefit of the county's utility systems and customers. We appreciate the Town of Navassa's partnership in this endeavor.



**Brunswick County Manager  
Randell Woodruff**



# JULY 2020 STATS SNAPSHOT

# 97

New Home, Modular, and Townhome Permits Issued  
Code Administration

## Way to go, Thad!

Level 1 Certified  
Reverse Osmosis Specialist  
Public Utilities



# 94,669

Minutes read during  
Kids Virtual Summer  
Reading Program  
Library

# 647

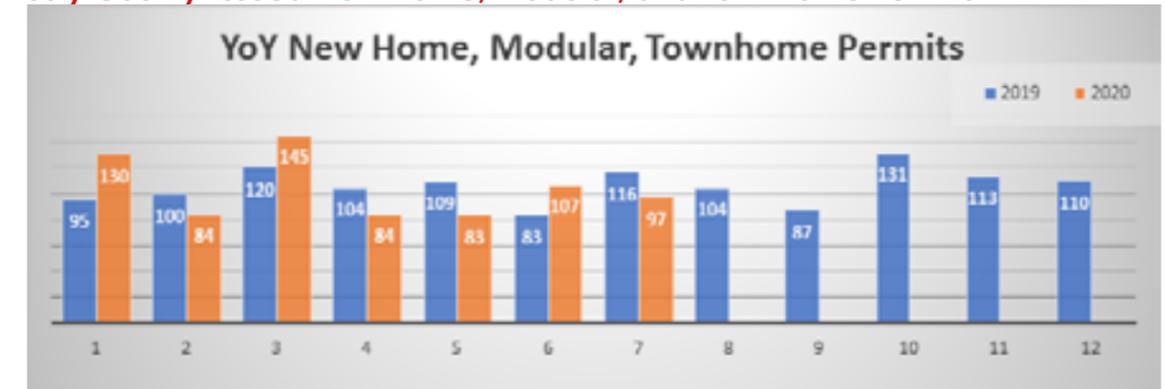
Telephone Calls with Veterans  
Veterans Services

## Code Administration

### July Countywide Commercial & Residential Construction Statistics

Construction Type	Building Starts	Construction Costs
Commercial Construction	28	\$10,107,734
Residential Construction	261	\$54,082,843

### July County-Issued New Home, Modular, and Townhome Permits



## Cooperative Extension

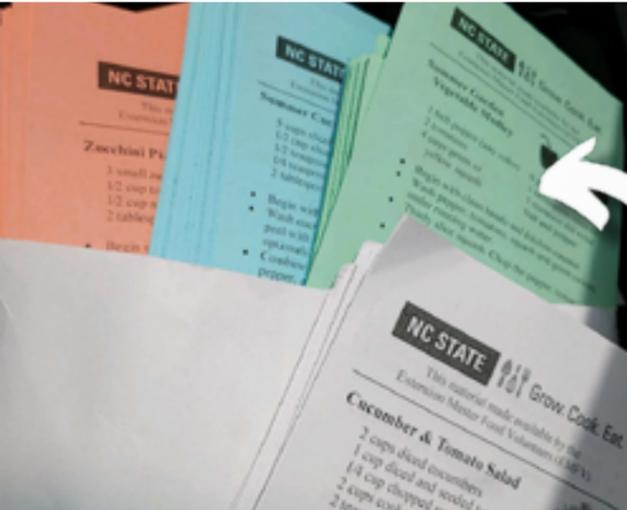
- July was a month for getting out in the lawn and garden, which means it's Soil Sample Month. Soil sampling helps to understand the pH and nutrient level of your lawn and garden in order for you to take corrective action as necessary. The Horticultural Team from the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension worked tirelessly and sometimes in unusual ways, to address the soil sampling needs of our residents. Via phone, in person, and even by kayak, we helped homeowners understand the soil sampling process and procedure. In this case, and soon thereafter, this homeowner's soil sample was received and sent off to the Agronomic Lab in Raleigh.
- The landscape planning was completed for the second and third Habitat for Humanity homes in Brunswick County. The plants will be provided and planted at these two sites in August. The training session for all 65 Habitat for Humanity home owners in the County was cancelled in compliance with pandemic direction. It will be rescheduled for later this year. The pandemic phase will determine whether it is a Zoom or Live training session.

# 243

Family and Children's Medicaid Applications  
Social Services

# 14,500

Books Checked Out  
Library



**Extension Master Food  
Volunteers designed and  
distributed hundreds of produce  
fliers to local food pantries**  
Cooperative Extension



**The Horticulture Team  
collected soil samples in  
a variety of ways—  
including by kayak!**  
Cooperative Extension

## Cooperative Extension (continued)

- The Extension Horticulture team continues to average over 200 contacts per month, supporting homeowners, nurseries and homeowners and property owners associations. Contacts have been via in-person, email, phone, Ask an Expert on our Cooperative Extension site, and Facebook. The areas of discussion range from soil sampling to problems with turf, insects and diseases, vegetable growing, plant identification, pond/irrigation water and a wide variety of plant health issues. For example, this photo shows a declining palm tree, most likely due to improper irrigation (not enough water) and a mulch bed of crushed brick that is retaining too much heat on the roots. It was recommended that the homeowner increase the irrigation and replace the mulch with an organic mulch.
- The Extension Master Food Volunteers (EMFV) assisted the Brunswick Wellness Coalition by maintaining contacts with food pantries in Shallotte, Leland and Town Creek to update the county's food assistance list and help determine pantry needs. The volunteers also promoted food drives for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and the Camp United Methodist Church in Shallotte.
- The EMFV developed four produce fliers and distributed 200 of each at three local pantries. These fliers were for cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and zucchini and included simple recipes, how kids can help, storage and nutrition information. Plans are to develop more fliers in the future featuring additional produce items distributed at the pantries. Volunteers also received in-service training on how healthy food pantries in anticipation of getting back into the pantries to do food demonstrations and taste testings in person.
- A delegation of four Brunswick County 4-H members attended NC 4-H Congress, which was held virtually this year. Autumn Apple, Sydney Blair, Marissa Lussier, and Mason Marshall represented Brunswick County at NC 4-H Congress. This year's 4-H Congress, held July 20-23, attracted more than 300 youth and adults representing 4-H programs across the state. Conference delegates participated in general sessions, learned together in workshops, recognized award winners and elected State 4-H Officers for the upcoming year.



## Emergency Services

- In cooperation with Health Services, the Emergency Services team has been actively responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts include: full activation of the Emergency Operations Center; organizing donations of personal protective equipment (PPE) and assisting local medical providers and congregate living settings obtain necessary PPE; hosting routine conference calls with community partners to address questions and provide health guidance.
- Emergency Services worked with county and state government partners to develop its 2020 sheltering plan in the event of a natural disaster.



## JULY 2020 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 progresses on Phase 1 of the Brunswick County Courthouse Project Engineering**

**284**  
Completed Work Orders  
Operations Services



**Health Services launches a new COVID-19 case count dashboard Health Services**



# JULY 2020 STATS SNAPSHOT

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## Engineering

- July was the fourth month of construction for the Courthouse addition and renovation. The work is moving along well with concrete poured for the new structural pilings and pile caps as well as ongoing interior. Demolition and renovation of selected areas also took place as part of Phase 1 of the project.

## Health & Human Services

### Health Services

- In cooperation with Emergency Services, the Health Services team has been actively responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts include: contact tracing; operating a Public Health call line and email for questions; routine conference calls with local hospitals, medical providers, and long-term care facilities to provide health guidance and infection control; provide screening for COVID-19 among individuals 17 years or younger; provide information and guidance on local COVID-19 screening sites to the public.
- Health Services launched a new [COVID-19 case count dashboard](#) to provide an easy-to-use display of the latest case count statistics among residents. The COVID-19 dashboard will also help Health Services track emerging trends in case demographics and where to focus mitigation efforts. Two areas of interest among the public featured on the dashboard include the increase in cases over time related to case status (e.g., isolated, recovered, etc.) and age group.

### Social Services

- WAVES4KIDS is a nonprofit group that raises money for children and families involved with Brunswick County Social Services. Annually they purchase and stuff bookbags for the children in foster care. Visit their website to learn more: <https://www.waves4kids.org/stuffin-book-bags>
- Residents who receive Food and Nutrition Services benefits can now enroll in the Healthy Helping program. Enrolled FNS households receive an additional \$40 per month for three months to purchase fruits and vegetables at any North Carolina Food Lion store. The North Carolina General Assembly provided \$2.5 million to Reinvestment Partners' Healthy Helping program to serve approximately 20,000 FNS households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with the Healthy Helping program. Once the information is received, staff contact the recipient to complete enrollment. Benefits are added to the recipient's MVP card. Funding expires December 31, 2020 and monthly benefits last for three months. To learn more, please visit [www.healthy-helping.org](http://www.healthy-helping.org)
  - Brunswick County FNS recipients should call Brunswick County Social Services at 910.253.2161 and leave the following information on the Healthy Helping phone line (please note, recipients must have a Food Lion MVP card to obtain the benefits):
    - Name
    - Address
    - Phone Number
    - Food Lion MVP card number

# \$54,082,843

Residential Construction Costs  
Code Administration



# 261

Residential Building Starts  
Code Administration

# 28

Commercial Building Starts  
Code Administration



# \$10,107,734

Commercial Construction Costs  
Code Administration

# 5,377

Instruments Recorded (Deeds and  
Deeds of Trusts, Marriage Licenses,  
Notary Oaths, etc.)  
Register of Deeds

# 343

Food Stamps Applications  
Social Services

### July Social Services Statistics

Action	Total
Adult Medicaid Applications	343
Family and Children's Medicaid Applications	248
Receiving Special Assistance	121
Food Stamps Applications	343
Work First Applications	4
Work First Family Assistance Cases Received	99
Child Support Collections	\$571,868
Child Support Cases	3,554
Total Children in Foster Care	150
Children Entered into Foster Care this Month	3
Foster Homes in County	32

### Veterans Services

#### July Veterans Services Statistics

Action	Total
Appointments	159
New Clients Added	43
Telephone Calls	647
Email Responses/Sent Emails	206
Faxed Claims/Applications	109
Completed North Carolina applications for license plates, hunting/fishing licenses, and property tax exclusions	37

### Library

- Brunswick County's Kids Virtual Summer Reading Program ended with 190 children registered: 108 children read a total of 94,669 minutes an average of over 14.5 hours per young reader.
- NC-LIVE, this State's free collection of online resources for library card holders, was consulted by 528 local readers. They ran 2,485 searches and viewed 20,323 pages of information.
- Brunswick County's library staff have noticed an interesting trend this summer: Classics! An unusually high number of books by Jane Austen, Herman Melville, Charles Dickens, as well as biographies and history are being reserved. Maybe fans of beach-reads are needing more of a challenge?



## JULY 2020 STATS SNAPSHOT

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Receive **Food and Nutrition Services benefits?** Enroll now in the **Healthy Helping program** to receive an **additional \$40 per month for three months** to purchase **fruits and vegetables** at any North Carolina Food Lion store.

Learn more: [healthy-helping.org](http://healthy-helping.org)

**159**  
**Appointments with Veterans**  
 Veterans Services

**457**

**NCKids eBooks checked out**  
 Library

**\$571,868**

**Child Support Collections**  
 Social Services

**502,797**

**Views of Nextdoor**  
 Public Information

**12,669**

**Facebook Followers**  
 Public Information

**July Library Statistics**

Action	Total
Book Checked Out	14,500
ebooks Checked Out	4,781
NCKids eBooks Checked Out	457
Curbside Deliveries	5,400
Reference Questions	3,001
Virtual Library Cards Issued	85
Wifi Users	399
Online Program Attendance	4,772 (32 online programs)

**Operation Services**

**July Operation Services Statistics**

Division	Open Work Orders as of July 1, 2020	Requested Work Orders	Completed Work Orders	Open Work Orders as of July 31, 2020
Building Maintenance	184	260	257	187
Housekeeping	6	2	6	2
Construction and Grounds	45	33	20	58
Vector Control	5	2	1	6
<b>All Divisions Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>253</b>

**July Fleet Services Statistics**

Vehicles in Shop	Assigned to Repair	Finished	Pending
<b>Total</b>	472	392	80

**Mosquito Control / Water Management Division**

- Mosquito Control received 141 requests in July. Our current investigation process has changed a bit with the introduction of COVID-19. When a resident makes a request to the Mosquito Division, we follow up by phone initially, then conduct a site investigation on the requestors premises independently. The technician then follows up with a phone call to the resident describing any action taken. Currently, the mosquito program's emphasis is applying larvicides to mosquito habitats. We also apply biological control measures when appropriate.



**JULY 2020 STATS SNAPSHOT**

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# \$355,035

**Total Cost of Employee Injuries  
in Fiscal Year 2020**  
Risk Management

# 62

**Total Employee Injuries  
in Fiscal Year 2020**  
Risk Management

# 315,660

**Pounds of Scrap Metal Recycled  
at Landfill**  
Operations Services

# 5,990+

**Customers Served at Landfill**  
Solid Waste and Recycling

# 423,420

**Pounds of Scrap Tires Recycled at Landfill**  
Operations Services

# 44,180

**Pounds of Electronics  
Recycled at Landfill**  
Operations Services

### Custodial Services

- Custodial Services is continuing disinfecting protocols that allow for increased cleaning of commonly touched items and areas. Hand wash stations or hand sanitizer stands are located at county facilities.

### Public Information

- Public Information continues to assist the Health Services and Emergency Services teams in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Public Information Officer Meagan Kascsak successfully graduated as a member of the 2019-2020 Leadership Brunswick County class. Leadership Brunswick County is a countywide program designed to develop corps of informed, committed, and qualified individuals capable of priving dynamic leadership for Brunswick County.

### July Public Information Statistics

Action	Total
Media / Open Records Requests	32
Facebook Likes	11,966 (+224)
Facebook Follows	12,699 (+265)
Twitter Followers	4,185 (+81)
Tweet Impressions	78,100
Nextdoor Views	502,797
Nextdoor Email Opens	69,474



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**Construction of the LCFWSA parallel raw water line that will supply Brunswick County is under way**  
Public Utilities



141

**Mosquito Control Requests**  
Mosquito Control / Operations Services

5,400

**Curbside Deliveries**  
Library

32

**Foster Homes in County**  
Social Services

### Public Utilities

- The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners approved additional engineering services with W K Dickson Engineering Consultants related to the City of Boiling Spring Lakes Sewer Master Plan. The master plan is a detailed blueprint for how to install a low-pressure sewer collection and transmission system throughout the city as well as required upgrades to existing sewer pump stations and transmission force mains. Cost estimates will be included in the plan for sewer collection, pumping, and transmission infrastructure.
- The Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority is responsible for supplying raw water to our three-county area of Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender counties. LCFWSA has undertaken the construction of a parallel raw water line for the benefit of our three-county region. As of Aug. 17, the parallel raw water line construction has moved through Bladen County and into Columbus County. To date Garney Construction has installed a little over 27,500 feet of 54-inch raw water pipeline. This pipeline will ensure Brunswick County has an adequate raw water supply for years to come.

### Register of Deeds

#### July Details of Instruments Recorded (Number Recorded)

Instrument Type	July 2020	July 2019	Difference (+ or -)	Year-to-Date FY 2020-2021
Deeds and Deeds of Trust	3,016	1,959	+1,057	3,016
Plats	57	54	+3	57
UCCs	51	76	-25	51
Cancellations/ Miscellaneous	2,106	1,476	+630	2,106
Marriage Licenses	88	91	-3	88
Notary Oaths	59	41	+18	59
Instruments with Excise (Included in Above Totals)	1,240	837	+403	1,240
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,377</b>	<b>3,697</b>		<b>5,377</b>



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## Risk Management

### FY 2020 Statistics: Top Five Causes of Employee Injury

Injury	Number of Instances
Privacy	14
Strain/Sprain	11
Struck By/Against	11
Fall/Slip/Trip	9
Motor Vehicle Accident	7
<b>Total Injuries / Total Cost</b>	<b>62 / \$355,035</b>

### FY 2020 Statistics: Employee Ages at Time of Injury

Age	Number of Instances
< 24	5
25-34	23
35-49	25
50-64	9
65+	0

### FY 2020 Statistics: Employee Years of Experience at Time of Injury

Years of Experience	Number of Instances
< 1	20
1-3 years	21
4-6 years	4
7-9 years	3
10+ years	14

## Solid Waste and Recycling

- The regular 2020 Fall Clean-Up Week is Sept. 14-19.
- The Landfill has a large stockpile of mulch available to the public at no charge. Commercial vehicles will be charged \$3 per ton.
- The Landfill is open to all Brunswick County residents and contractors Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### July Landfill Numbers

Action	Total
Customers Served	5,990+
Total Weighed Loads	5,930
Average Weighed Loads per Day	219.63
Average Tons Received per Day	631.55
Total Tons of Scrap Metal Recycled	157.83 (315,660 pounds)
Total Tons of Electronics Recycled	22.09 (44,180 pounds)
Total Tons of Scrap Tires Recycled	211.71 (423,420 pounds)



JULY 2020

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

STATS & STORIES

## 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/>