



**MARCH 23, 2020**

We have made it through the first week of what may be the new normal for a while, and I hope you and your families and friends are adjusting.

The town staff and council are working to decipher and pass on the information you need to navigate these tough times of social distancing to keep your families and neighbors safe.

Ways to help prevent the spread

- Offer to run an errand such as pick up medications.
- Share resources with someone who doesn't have.
- Don't gather in groups.
- Wash your hands often, especially each time you enter your home.

Your action today has a direct effect on tomorrow so be diligent.

### **The Sands**

Over the weekend, there were issues with some of the sand bars in the county, and as we try to keep our little paradise called the Sands open we need your help. Please practices and encourage social distancing, so we are not forced to close it.

### **The Farmers Market**

We worked with the organizer to allow the market to open this past weekend, and I believe it was a safe location to shop for your needs and will work to allow it again next weekend.

### **Town Hall**

Town Hall will be closed to the public; however, staff will still be working. They will be reviewing building plans, inspecting buildings, accepting business license renewals, handling court-related issues, and conducting other town-related business.

If you have applications or other submittals, there will be a bins outside Town Hall doors where documents can be left for review and processing.

Traffic Tickets can either be paid online or processed over the phone. If you are going to pay with cash, Town staff has made arrangement to process those transactions.

If you have questions, please call 843-986-2200. You will be provided a directory of departments.

### **What's New Today:**

- **Change of Policy/Hospital Visitation:** Starting Monday, March 23, there will be no visitation at Beaufort Memorial Hospital. Additionally, Beaufort Memorial Hospital and all associated outpatient clinic facilities will be closed to visitors. The only exceptions will be:

1) Labor and Delivery (one visitor), 2) Pediatric Unit (one visitor) and 3) patients requiring assistance end-of-life care.

- **Toilet/Sewer Reminder:** Beaufort Jasper Water Sewer Authority is reminding all to ONLY flush toilet paper; wipes and other products will clog the sewer infrastructure. This reminder includes wipes which are labeled “flushable.” Only flush toilet paper to avoid clogged pipes.
- **Local Law Enforcement/Compliance with Governor’s Executive Order:** In compliance with Governor McMaster’s executive order, local law enforcement officers will break-up any groups of 10 or more. Please be cooperative with this order for yours and everyone’s health. Please comply with this order and social distancing so our community can be pro-active in containing this virus. It’s your health, plus the health of all those with whom you interact, you may be affecting. We are asking for a short-term sacrifice for the long-term well-being of our community.
- **Donations of Personal Protective Equipment:** The Governor’s office is coordinating donations of personal protective equipment, especially from construction and other trades. If you have a donation, please contact Mary Louise Resch of Habitat for Humanity for logistical coordination via email at [mlresch@habitatsc.org](mailto:mlresch@habitatsc.org).
- **Sale of Beer and Wine/To-Go:** Per a new Governor’s executive order, the SC Department of Revenue is instructed to waive additional regulations in order to allow restaurants to include sealed containers of beer and wine for curbside pickup or “to-go” orders only. This waiver does not authorize or apply to open containers or delivery services. Please support your local restaurants during this time.
- **New SC Tax Deadline:** Governor McMaster has also directed the South Carolina Department of Revenue to align the state’s tax deadline with the federal deadline, which is now July 15<sup>th</sup>. Other state taxes will remain delayed until June 1<sup>st</sup>, as previously ordered.

#### **Community Resources and Reminders:**

- **Federal & State Tax Deadline:** Federal and state tax filing/payment deadline is now July 15.
- **Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans:** SBA is offering loans to South Carolina businesses which are adversely affected during this pandemic. More information: <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>
- **Utility Companies:** While local utility companies will not disconnect service during this COVID-19 phase, representatives of utility companies say meters will be checked and bills will still be sent. Utility companies are reminding customers to pay what you are able to prevent an accumulative bill/disconnection after this phase passes.
- **Lowcountry Community Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund:** The Lowcountry Community Foundation Response Fund has been created. To support this effort, the Foundation will match up to \$100,000 donated to this fund. This fund will deploy resources to community-based, frontline, non-profit organizations addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton and Colleton Counties. For more information or how to donate: <https://cflowcountry.civicore.com/covid>
- **Guide of Local Restaurants:** The Beaufort Regional Chamber has created a page with helpful information, including restaurants that are providing curbside/take out options. It can be accessed through this link, <https://beaufortchamber.org/togetherbft/>.

If you have any specific questions or information during this phase which the Town can answer or forward, please feel free to contact the Town Manager, Van Willis. I will do my best to incorporate your question or information.

Please follow the recommendations on social distancing and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Mayor Joe Devito