

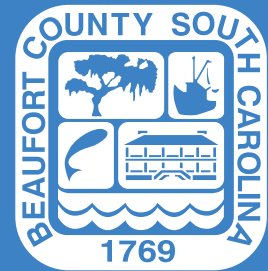
Beaufort County **CONNECTS**

Fall 2024 | Volume One



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Beaufort County Connect represents the outreach campaign for the Beaufort County Government. Currently the effort is comprised of the mobile reporting app (available on the App Store and on Google Play), engagement webpage at connect.beaufort-countysc.gov and now this new, quarterly newsletter.

We hope you will share your feedback with us or your Council Representative.

Your Beaufort County Council



JOSEPH PASSIMENT
CHAIRMAN
District 5
Term: 2022-2026



ANNA MARIA TABERNIK
District 6
Term: 2022-2026



LAWRENCE P. MCELYNN
VICE-CHAIRMAN
District 10
Term: 2022-2026



LOGAN CUNNINGHAM
District 7
Term: 2020-2024



GERALD DAWSON
District 1
Term: 2020-2024



PAULA BROWN
District 8
Term: 2022-2026



DAVID BARTHOLOMEW
District 2
Term: 2022-2026



MARK LAWSON
District 9
Term: 2022-2026



YORK GLOVER, SR.
District 3
Term: 2020-2024



THOMAS REITZ
District 11
Term: 2022-2026



ALICE G. HOWARD
District 4
Term: 2022-2026

We need you to serve on a board or commission!

Learn more about your local government
and get involved by visiting beaufortcountysc.gov

Upcoming Council Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings take place at 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort in Council Chambers. Visit www.beaufortcountysc.gov for the full meeting calendar, agendas, minutes, and more.

Meetings are livestreamed on beaufortcounty.tv.

September 9 at 3 p.m. | Community Services and Land Use Committee

September 9 at 5 p.m. | Beaufort County Council Meeting

September 16 at 3 p.m. | Public Facilities and Safety Committee

September 23 at 3 p.m. | Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee

September 23 at 5 p.m. | Beaufort County Council Meeting

October 14 at 3 p.m. | Community Services and Land Use Committee

October 14 at 5 p.m. | Beaufort County Council Meeting

October 21 at 3 p.m. | Public Facilities and Safety Committee

October 28 at 3 p.m. | Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee

October 28 at 5 p.m. | Beaufort County Council Meeting

November 18 at 3 p.m. | Public Facilities and Safety Committee

November 25 at 3 p.m. | Finance, Administration, and Economic Development Committee

December 9 at 5 p.m. | Beaufort County Council Meeting

Upcoming Events

September 19 at 6 p.m. | Walk in Recognition of National Recovery Month

Battery Creek High School | Free event

September 23 - 27 | Stormwater Awareness Week

We'll be hosting several events throughout Beaufort County, follow us on Facebook for more details!

October 12 at 8 a.m. | The Flying Frog 5K

Beaufort Executive Airport | Sign up now at runsignup.com

September - December | Assessor Community Engagement Events

Various Beaufort County Library Branches | See full schedule online at beaufortcountysc.gov

November 11 | Veteran's Day

County Offices Closed and Annual Veteran's Day Parade

November 28-29 | Thanksgiving Break

County Offices Closed

December 24-24 | Christmas Break

County Offices Closed

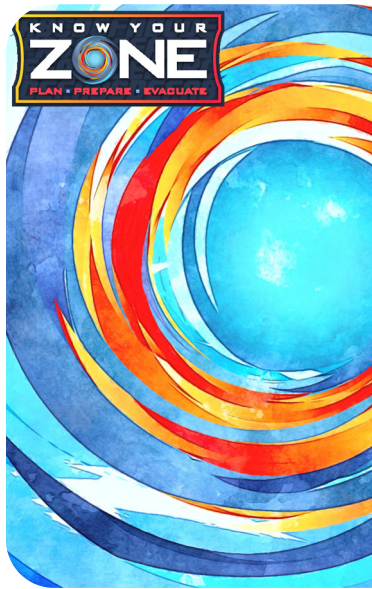


Beaufort County
SOUTH CAROLINA

843-255-2000
www.beaufortcountysc.gov

IT'S HURRICANE SEASON...

are you prepared?



SOUTH CAROLINA
HURRICANE GUIDE
2024

Hurricane Season runs from June 1 – November 30

Beaufort County is urging all residents to prepare **now**, before a storm hits. This is your opportunity to see what long-term storm preparations residents can make now to make sure they are finalized and ready, should a storm head our way.

Know Your Zone

In South Carolina, state and local officials issue hurricane evacuations based on zones in coastal counties. Know your hurricane evacuation zone instantly with the SC Emergency Manager mobile app and Hurricane.sc, South Carolina's online hurricane guide.

Prepare Your Home

Do a safety check to make sure your home is best able to withstand the effects of a hurricane. Have your roof inspected, double check hurricane shutters and make sure your insurance policies cover the types of damages

hurricanes can cause. Make a list and take photos of your belongings as records. Check your insurance policies now to make sure your policies cover what you need them to.

Remember Your Route.

Be aware of the closest hurricane evacuation route ahead of the upcoming hurricane season. This will allow for a more efficient and safer route out of the hurricane's path. Once you've learned your route, stick with it and remember it. Rely on the blue hurricane evacuation signs, not GPS.

Beaufort County Emergency Management Division

The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office is the lead agency for emergencies in Beaufort County. BCSO will operate the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during a critical incident. While the EOC is activated, it is staffed by municipal representatives, county officials, school officials, military bases, and organizations that fulfill critical functions.

Download the Everbridge app to receive up-to-date information on matters of public safety from the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office including evacuation and weather alerts.



Don't forget your pets!

Keep your companions safe during dangerous storms. If you do not evacuate, keep your pets indoors. Tethering outdoors during named storms is prohibited by County ordinance. If you do evacuate:

- Bring them with you
- Plan your destination
- Transport them in a secure carrier and keep larger dogs leashed
- Bring water and food
- Ensure all animals have ID tags
- Keep an eye out for other animals in trouble



NEWS & UPDATES

PROPOSED 2024 SALES AND USE TAX REFERENDUM MOVES TO THE BALLOT

The choice is yours, Beaufort County Voters.

After five public input sessions, multiple committee meetings, and one workshop, Beaufort County Council voted to place on the ballot in November a Sales and Use Tax Referendum. This proposed initiative would fund currently underfunded infrastructure projects, as well as dirt road paving and resurfacing, safety projects, and emergency evacuation improvements. If approved by voters, the Transportation Sales Tax will replace the existing Green Space Sales Tax, and the sales tax rate would remain at 7%.

You can view more information on the proposed referendum question, the Citizen Led Oversight Committee, the project list, meeting resources, and more at www.beaufortcountypenny.com.



Beaufort County staff held numerous public input forums on the proposed plan



Aerial view of current bridges headed into Hilton Head

278 CORRIDOR PROJECT

The Hilton Head Town Council granted municipal consent to the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and submitted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Beaufort County on June 28, 2024. The MOU is currently with Beaufort County Council, to be worked through our established MOU coordination process. Beaufort County will continue to pursue funding for this project through coordinated efforts with SCDOT and the State Infrastructure Bank. Beaufort County Council has also included funds for the 278 Corridor project in the Proposed 2024 Transportation Sales Tax Referendum, which will be on the ballot this November.

These combined efforts are great indications of the partnerships and progress made on this critical project. Beaufort County remains committed to working with all stakeholders towards the best solution for our citizens and residents, and we thank the Town of Hilton Head for their teamwork to get this accomplished.

WELCOMING A NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Beaufort County Council is pleased to welcome Michael Moore as County Administrator. Mr. Moore began work on July 1, and he brings a wealth of experience in public administration and a passion for community service that will undoubtedly benefit our county and its residents.

The County Administrator plays a critical role in managing the daily operations of Beaufort County. The Administrator also works to foster economic development, maintain fiscal responsibility, and promote a high quality of life for all citizens.



Michael Moore



Project partners celebrate the conservation of the Gregorie Neck property

BEAUFORT COUNTY GREEN SPACE PROGRAM

Beaufort County voters decided to fund the very first Green Space Tax in South Carolina at 1% in November of 2022. The purpose of this program is to preserve open space, to protect critical and natural resources, and/or to provide land for recreation. The program allows for the purchase of development rights and fee simple interest in lands that are threatened by development, which, if it were to occur, would have detrimental effects on land use patterns, traffic, public safety, stormwater runoff, water quality or other conservation objectives.

Now that the Program has been collecting funds for almost 2 years, we are seeing projects begin to move through the application process. The very first project was the preservation of Gregorie Neck, a move that ensured 4400 acres at the headwaters of the Port Royal Sound would permanently be protected. The next vital project currently going through the application process is the 26-acre property in Hilton Head known as Mitchelville.

The Mitchelville property boasts vital maritime forests, waterfront acreage, archeological importance, and great cultural significance. The proposed preservation of this land, part of the historically significant Mitchelville Tract, represents a major step toward preserving the Island of Hilton Head's heritage. These 26 acres are adjacent to other Town-owned properties like Barker Field, Fish Haul Beach Park, and Mitchelville Freedom Park, stretches from Fish Haul Road to the beach area along Port Royal Sound.

Mitchelville holds profound historical importance as the first self-governed town of formerly enslaved people in America. At its peak, Mitchelville was home to 1,500 to 3,000 residents, embodying the promise of freedom and opportunity for African Americans of diverse origins.

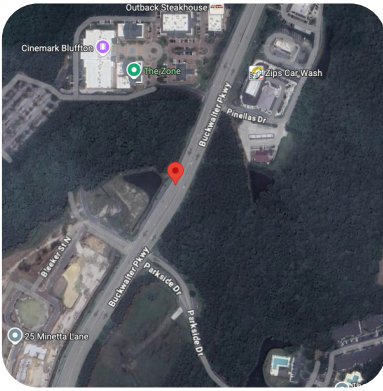
ST. JAMES CHURCH RELOCATION

The St. James Church congregation is currently in the process of relocating due to construction of the planned expansion at the Hilton Head Island Airport. Senator Tom Davis has partnered with Beaufort County to facilitate these efforts through the allocation of state funds in the amount of \$4M. The project is now moving forward after several years of inactivity due to renewed collaborative efforts between church leaders, the FAA, the Airport Board, Town of Hilton Head, Beaufort County Council, and Senator Davis.



St. James Church

WORKFORCE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP PLANNED FOR BLUFFTON



The project is being planned for 333 and 335 Buckwalter Parkway

Beaufort County is excited to announce a groundbreaking partnership aimed at addressing the critical need for affordable workforce housing and medical office space in our community.

The development project will be a collaborative effort between Beaufort County, the Town of Bluffton, and Beaufort Memorial Hospital (BMH) that aims to create 125-150 affordable housing units and approximately 25,000 square feet of medical office space. The property earmarked for the project is located at 333 and 335 Buckwalter Parkway and was owned by St. Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church on Hilton Head.

Over the past year and a half, Beaufort County has been in discussions with St. Andrew By-The-Sea to acquire property for the intended purpose of developing affordable workforce housing. St. Andrew By-The-Sea generously agreed to sell the property at a reduced price to support this vital initiative.

The Town of Bluffton is supportive of the construction of affordable housing units and needed medical facilities. The Town's Affordable Housing Committee has reviewed the proposed use and is supportive of the re-use and partnership. The workforce housing units are intended to be made available to the public and Beaufort Memorial would establish services in the medical office space.

PORT ROYAL BRANCH LIBRARY NOW OPEN TO PUBLIC

The Beaufort County Library opened its sixth and newest branch located in the Town of Port Royal on Wednesday, August 21, at 2 p.m.

A Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Celebration was held on Saturday, August 24, followed by the branch's first storytime. Guests were invited to tour the building, talk with library staff, register for a library card, and check out materials.

The branch boasts child, teen and adult collections of more than 5,000 materials, including books, movies and more. The facility includes dedicated meeting and conference rooms for the community to use and technological resources, including public computers and a self-service scan, fax, and email station.

The branch's regular hours of operation will be Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will be closed on Sundays.

For more information, visit <https://www.beaufortcountylibrary.org/>.



The Port Royal Branch opening had over 300 attendees



BEAUFORT COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS HOSTS STAND DOWN EVENT FOR HOMELESS AND AT-RISK VETERANS

Beaufort County Veterans Affairs partnered with The Connecting Point to sponsor their first-ever Stand Down event on August 16, 2024.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events during which VA staff and volunteers provide food, clothing and health screenings to homeless and at-risk Veterans. In addition, Veterans also receive referrals for health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment, mental health counseling and other essential services.

This was the first Stand Down event to be held in Beaufort County and included food, clothing and health screening for all veterans who participated. Referrals were given for healthcare, mental health, haircuts, employment, housing solutions, substance abuse and showers and other essentials.

Veterans face a unique set of challenges that can contribute to certain risk factors.

BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL RECOGNITIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

August

The Lands End Woodland River Festival Day received a Proclamation from County Council, presented by Council Member Glover.

Lands End Woodland River Festival was founded with the intention of honoring its founding families, this celebration also serves to provide economic support to the mission of preservation



September

The peer specialists of Nexus Care of Beaufort County accepted a Proclamation from County Council recognizing September as National Recovery Month, presented by Council Member McElynn

The entire community is encouraged to celebrate September as National Recovery Month by promoting the message that behavioral health is essential for overall well-being, prevention is effective, treatment works, and recovery is possible.



Members of the South Carolina State Guard were recognized by a proclamation from County Council, presented by Council Member Tabernik.

When serious natural or man-made disasters strike the South Carolina, the State Guard provides “boots on the ground” with the mission to swiftly respond, safeguarding people and property, and to aid community recovery, in coordination with the National Guard, law enforcement, and other state, county, and municipal agencies.





PARKS AND RECREATION PARTNERS WITH BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ON FIELD SHARE AGREEMENT

Beaufort County is excited to announce the approval of a Facility Use Agreement between Beaufort County and the Beaufort County School District, which will allow both entities to share athletic fields, significantly enhancing access to recreational spaces for students and residents alike.

Beaufort County's Parks and Recreation Program is committed to enriching the lives of County citizens by providing exceptional recreational and cultural programs. The County program organizes a variety of sports and activities, including soccer, baseball, basketball, flag football, and lacrosse. The Beaufort County School District likewise promotes a comprehensive athletic program that supports the development of its diverse population of student athletes.

Under the new agreement, both parties will have access to a greater number of athletic fields, enabling the scheduling of practices and games at more convenient times for students and local citizens. This collaboration aims to optimize the use of public resources while fostering community engagement through recreational activities.

For more information about Beaufort County Parks and Recreation programs, please visit bcscrec.com. For more information on Beaufort County School District Athletic Programs, please visit beaufortschools.net.

INAUGURAL YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS LAUNCHES IN BEAUFORT COUNTY

In an exciting development for the community, a new youth soccer program tailored specifically for children with special needs ages 4 to 10 kicked off in Beaufort County this fall. This initiative is a collaborative partnership between SOAR Special Recreation, Beaufort County Public Schools, and Beaufort County Parks and Recreation.

The program started on Sunday, September 8, and will continue every Sunday for five more weeks at a local middle school. The league is designed to provide a nurturing and supportive environment where children can learn the fundamentals of soccer while fostering social skills and building friendships. Each 90-minute session includes various soccer stations designed to accommodate children with physical and cognitive impairments. A key component of the program is the one-on-one pairing of at least one volunteer with each child, ensuring that every participant receives personalized attention and support throughout the sessions. Each session culminates in a fun and engaging scrimmage, allowing children to showcase their skills in a supportive and encouraging atmosphere.

While registration is closed for the current session, Beaufort County Parks and Recreation will look to partner with SOAR and Beaufort County Public Schools to provide additional programs in 2025. For more information about how to get involved, please visit www.soarspecialrecreation.org or contact morgansmith.soar@gmail.com. Volunteers are also welcome and can make a significant impact by helping to support the children during the sessions.

To be placed on interest list for future programs, please email shane.stager@bcgov.net. For more information about Beaufort County Parks and Recreation, please visit www.bcscrec.com.





DID YOU KNOW?

Our Assessor’s Office hosts regular community events to answer your questions about property in Beaufort County.

Beaufort County Assessor Ebony Sanders is hosting multiple community events at County Library Branches to allow the public an opportunity to meet with her staff and share questions and concerns regarding real property. Each community event will be from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The dates are as follows:

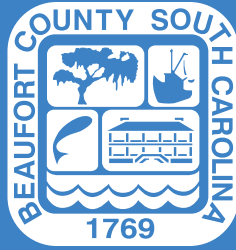
Hilton Head Branch Library (11 Beach City Road)	St. Helena Branch Library (6355 Jonathan Francis Sr. Road)	Bluffton Branch Library (120 Palmetto Way)	Lobeco Branch Library (1862 Trask Parkway)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, 9/10 (SCRoom) • Tuesday, 10/1 (Large Room) • Tuesday, 10/29 (SCRoom) • Tuesday, 11/19 (SCRoom) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, 9/17 (Large Meeting Room) • Tuesday, 10/15 (Small Conference Room) • Tuesday, 11/5 (Small Conference Room) • Tuesday, 12/3 (Large Meeting Room) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, 9/19 (Large Meeting Room) • Thursday, 10/17 (Large Meeting Room) • Thursday, 11/7 (Large Meeting Room) • Thursday, 12/5 (Large Meeting Room) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday, 9/23 • Monday, 10/7 • Monday, 11/25 • Monday, 12/16

In the event of an unforeseeable change in the date, time, or location, the Assessor’s Office webpage will be updated to reflect rescheduling. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Rigg, Appeal/BAA Coordinator at BAA@bcgov.net or 843-255-2404.

Thanks to a partnership between Beaufort County, BJWSA, and Town of Bluffton, residents of the Stoney Creek area can be connected to sewer for no cost?

The Go2Sewer for a Cleaner Stoney Creek initiative is a collaborative effort between Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA), the Town of Bluffton, and Beaufort County. It aims to transition properties from septic and well systems to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly public water and sewer system, enhancing public health, groundwater quality, and the ecological vitality of the Stoney Creek and May River watershed.

Visit <https://www.bjwsa.org/251/Go2Sewer-for-a-Cleaner-Stoney-Creek> for more information or to see if your property is eligible!



2024 TRANSPORTATION SALES & USE TAX REFERENDUM

Yes or No?

THE DECISION IS YOURS, BEAUFORT COUNTY VOTERS

The goals of the proposed 2024 Sales and Use Tax Referendum (the penny tax) are to address Beaufort County infrastructure needs through the completion of transportation and mobility projects amidst growth in our region. According to the latest census data, South Carolina is the fastest-growing state in the nation, and Beaufort County is one of the fastest-growing counties within South Carolina. The referendum question, to be placed on the ballot in November 2024, will ask voters to approve a one percent (1%) sales and use tax in Beaufort County beginning the following year (2025) and continuing for ten (10) years, or until \$950 million in funds are raised, whichever occurs first.



View your Sample Ballot
and find your voting precinct
by visiting
www.scvotes.gov.

Beaufort County Questions
1 & 2 will be at the end of
the ballot.



Visit www.beaufortcountypenny.com
for project lists and more information.



DEPARTMENTS DOING GOOD



Pilot Program Begins with AccessNow to Increase Accessibility Awareness at Beaufort County Passive Parks

Beaufort County has partnered with AccessNow, to complete a pilot project enhancing accessibility awareness at Beaufort County's Passive Parks. This is the first project of its kind in South Carolina, focusing on informing the public about accessibility on three popular passive parks: Widgeon Point, Crystal Lake, and Fort Fremont. AccessNow's mission is to establish a go-to resource for accessibility information. Their platform empowers people to discover a world of accessible opportunities, make better decisions, and remove barriers.

The AccessNow mapping project includes important accessibility information including parking and restroom information, as well as any potential navigational hazards. These park accessibility maps can be viewed from the Passive Parks Department properties webpage, or the AccessNow website.

The Passive Parks Department also offers three all-terrain wheelchairs free for public use. These chairs can be reserved through filling out and submitting a print form available here, and an online registration form will be available soon.

For more information on Beaufort County Passive Parks, to view program schedules, and to stay updated, please visit our website at www.beaufortcountysc.gov/passive-parks.

Beaufort County Announces Rebrand of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services Department into Nexus Care of Beaufort County

As part of its continued efforts to reduce the stigma surrounding alcohol and substance misuse, Beaufort County is excited to announce that the department providing treatment services and programs has rebranded into Nexus Care of Beaufort County.

Since its beginning in 1974, the department has helped families, individuals, and the community overcome addiction and substance misuse. For some, these programs and services are a requirement of the law, for others the programs are a requirement for life. The department's mission is to reduce the negative impact of alcohol and drugs in Beaufort County by providing its citizens with person-centered prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services.

The new logo is intentionally aligned with the Beaufort County Government emblem: the petals comprising the nexus symbol are taken from the waves present in the government seal. Each one symbolizes a facet of the continuum of care offered by the department: prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery. The color scheme evokes our natural surroundings and culture, and the tagline *Healthy People. Thriving Communities. Brighter Futures.* echoes the vital mission of the department.

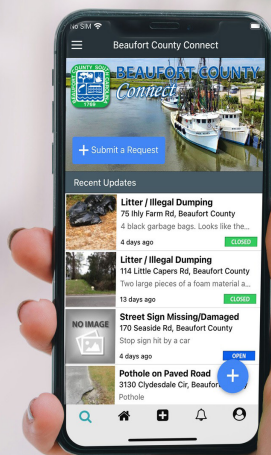
Anyone seeking assistance with substance misuse can learn more at beaufortcountysc.gov or by visiting our offices, located at 1905 Duke Street, Beaufort, SC 29902 and 4819 Bluffton Parkway Bluffton, SC 29910.



live. work. play.

SEE A PROBLEM? REPORT IT!

The BC Connect mobile app is available now.



The Beaufort County Connect mobile app allows citizens to submit non-emergency requests directly to various county departments and receive notifications, status updates and comments in real time from county personnel.

See a Problem?

Report it with BC Connect, the mobile app that lets you submit requests directly to Beaufort County! Available now on the App Store or Google Play!

Stay Informed!

Sign up for our email list at www.beaufortcountysc.gov to have announcements and news from Beaufort County Government delivered to your inbox.

Or follow us on social media!



@ beaufortcountysc



@ bftcountysc



@ beaufortcountysc



@ beaufortcountytv



Beaufort County

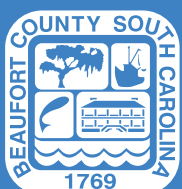


Beaufort County Government

Join the Team!

Looking for a new opportunity? Visit <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/beaufortcountysc> to see all openings and apply today!

New this Year: Internships for students 16 and older!



Beaufort County Government
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