



September 2, 2020

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR RICK CROSS:

As we approach the Labor Day weekend, a sign that summer is coming to a close, there is much to reflect upon. Labor Day is our yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. Although 2020 is presenting challenging times for all of us, these national holidays, with their rich tradition, are an important time for each of us to pause and reflect.

In today's message, I want to provide an update on a few things:

COVID-19 Update
2020 General Election
2020 Census
Around Town

COVID-19 Update

I remain committed to keeping you updated on changes relating to COVID-19 that impact our community. Our state, and our county, has seen stabilization in positive cases, hospitalizations, as well as percentage of cases vs. total tests being given. As a result, Governor Cooper has announced a move from the current Phase 2 re-opening plan to a Phase 2.5, which includes the following changes:

- **Mass gathering** limits will increase to 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors (from the current limit of 10 indoors and 25 outdoors).
- **Gyms and indoor exercise facilities**, such as yoga studios, martial arts, and rock climbing, as well as skating rinks, bowling alleys, indoor basketball, volleyball, etc., may open at 30% capacity.
- **Playgrounds** may open.
- **Museums and aquariums** may open at 50% capacity.
- **Outdoor visitation at nursing homes or skilled nursing facilities** will be allowed. To participate, nursing homes must meet several requirements, including, but not limited, not having a current outbreak, having a testing plan and updated written Infection Control or Preparedness plan for COVID-19, and having adequate personal protective equipment. [Click here for specific information.](#)
- Bars, nightclubs, movie theaters, indoor entertainment facilities, amusement parks, dance halls **will remain closed**.
- Large venues remain subject to the mass gathering limits.
- Restaurants remain subject to capacity limits and other requirements for in-person dining. Restaurants must also maintain 11 pm curfew on alcohol sales

- Personal care businesses such as hair salons, nail salons, barber shops and more remain subject to capacity limits and other requirements.

For additional information relating to Phase 2.5, Click [FAQs for Phase 2.5](#)

Our community continues to be committed to responding positively in dealing with COVID-19. We will persevere in looking out for each other - our family, friends, and neighbors; in supporting our local businesses who have been there for us; and in considering how we can be there for the organizations across our community that have tirelessly worked on behalf of those most in need.

North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services (NCDHHS) and Davie County Health Department continues to encourage adherence to the **3 "W"s**. I know we have stated this a number of times, and it bears reinforcing. Each of us can do our part to make a positive difference:

Wear a face-covering if you will be with other people

Wait at least 6 feet apart

Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds/use hand sanitizer

2020 General Election

As we have communicated, early voting for this year's general election **will not** be held at our Town Hall. As a result of COVID-19 related need for social distancing, and ensuring there are adequate voting sites, Davie County has established 3 early voting locations.

[**Click here for information regarding upcoming general election**](#)

The Chair of Davie County Board of Elections, and Bermuda Run resident, Gary LeBlanc recently provided an overview of this year's election process to our Town Council and has continued to share information across our community via various local social media platforms. Gary has been tireless in working to get the word out about this year's voting process. Thanks to the Davie County Elections Board and the Davie County Election staff for their hard work in preparing our community for the upcoming election.

Over the next several weeks, we will continue to share information as our residents prepare to vote.

2020 Census

It's been a while since I have commented about the 2020 Census. We are reaching the final stage of the 2020 Census count, which will be ending on September 30.

As of now, the response rate for Bermuda Run is 80%. For reference, the US is at 65%, North Carolina is at 61%, and Davie County is at 70%.

The 2020 Census will determine congressional representation, inform hundreds of billions in federal funding every year, and provide data that will impact communities for the next decade. As a community, we want to make sure we are doing our part to receive our fair share of federal funding for infrastructure, schools, housing, roads, healthcare, and public service programs. An accurate census count also provides critical funding for hospitals, disaster recovery, and emergency readiness for pandemics like COVID-19. [**BE COUNTED AND MAKE IT COUNT!**](#)

Around Town

As I have stated before, 2020 is turning out to be different from what any of us would have thought it would be back in January or February. Recently, I reviewed the output from our January 28, 2020, Annual Town Council Planning Session.

During this working session I outlined my proposed agenda for 2020, which included ramping up my engagement across our town, reaching out to residents, businesses, partners, and others who have an impact on our town. I was eager to gather folks together - in small, informal discussions, in town-hall type sessions, at our summer concerts, and yes, even at our monthly Town Council Meetings.

We had laid out a calendar of speakers/presenters and topics throughout the year, which included an update on our town's Comprehensive Plan, 2020 Census, Davie County Parks, Schools, Community College, First Responders, NC Dept of Transportation, Davie Community Foundation to name a few.

We were able to get into a few of these (e.g. 2020 Census, Davie County Parks) before COVID-19 changed things. Rest assured that we continue to conduct the town's business and work on behalf of our residents, businesses, and organizations across the community. And I will continue to seek ways to reach out across our community to work to make sure we all have the opportunity to be informed and knowledgeable about, not only what's going on, but also why, when, and how things are occurring.

So, what's going on around our community?

- Let's begin with the thing that each of us is likely experiencing on a daily basis right now - traffic. As we know, the I-40 widening project has been underway for some time, and for the most part has moved along smoothly. As we have communicated during the past several months, NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has said there will be times when traffic will need to be diverted to complete specific tasks (e.g. re-paving entrance/exit ramps). We are currently in the midst of one of those times - the entrance ramp to I-40 east is closed. The plan was for completion and re-opening by 9/1; however, with the above average rainfall we have been experiencing, the re-opening has moved to Friday 9/4. I know the congestion along the Highway 158 corridor between Highway 801 and the roundabout is challenging. As I am traveling this area multiple times each day, I need to remind myself that this short-term pain will help the town as it continues to work with NCDOT to develop some traffic solutions, especially at the 158/801 intersection. Stay tuned.
- You may have seen or heard about the construction of the new RISE Sports Complex , which is adjacent to the BB&T (soon to be re-named Truist) Sports Park. This project began in 2017, and after a period of working behind the scenes, construction began in earnest this past June. For more information, click on [**RISE Sports Complex**](#).
- On August 6th, our region experienced a significant rainfall event - more than 4 inches in less than 3 hours. As a result, areas of our community - as well as others in our region - encountered flooding in areas not normally susceptible. Thanks to residents who have reached out with specific issues relating to the August 6th rain event. In 2010, The Town Council adopted a [**Stormwater Policy**](#) under the direction of the Town Manager, Lee Rollins and under review of the Town Engineer, John Grey, and Town Attorney, Brian Williams. The policy specifically outlines the issues of stormwater that lie within public rights-of-way and public infrastructure assets. It also outlines those areas of stormwater specific to private property owners. The Town Council has asked Mr. Rollins to research the potential to provide a town-wide assessment of stormwater modeling and its impact on the greater community.
- I can't say enough positive things about our town's business community. Despite the issues surrounding COVID-19, I see their resiliency each day. They have continued to invest in our community, which can be seen in new restaurants, business expansions, new ways to do business, and they are always reaching out across our community to make sure they are here for us. **Please continue to give our local businesses our full support.**

As we go forward, we will continue to keep you updated on things happening around town. In the meantime, if there is something you would like to know more about, let me know. I have sometimes been asked why I don't weigh-in on the local neighborhood social media sites. I do pay attention to what is being communicated - I use them as "listening posts". It helps me be aware of things going on across our community. That said, I believe it is more productive for me to continue to engage across our community through personal contact, email/phone/text, and my periodic messages.

I look forward to the time when we can again gather as a community. I will continue to reach out across our town, and appreciate those from whom I have heard. I want to hear from you. You can reach me at rcross@townofbr.com or **336-391-1992**.

The Bermuda Run Town Council will hold its September Meeting on September 8 at 6:00 pm at Town Hall. We will continue to follow CDC social-distancing guidelines.

As we continue to deal with the issues of our daily lives, I want to take an opportunity to *pause, reflect, and remember* as we approach the 19th anniversary of 9/11.

As I close out this message, I want to wish everyone a safe and happy Labor Day holiday.

We are in this together and together we will emerge stronger.

Rick Cross

Town of Bermuda Run | [Visit our website](#)

