



November 11, 2020

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR RICK CROSS:



Today is Veterans Day, a day to honor all who have served or are serving our country on our behalf. I will say more about this later in my message.

Almost unbelievably, we are fast approaching the end of 2020. Often, it seems hard to remember a time when we were not in a “COVID world”. At other times, it seems as if this year is passing in the blink of an eye.

My message today will cover a few of topics that I hope will be of interest to most everyone across our community.

First, I want to keep you updated on the latest changes relating **COVID-19** that impact our community. As a result of continued increases in the number of positive cases, hospitalizations, and percent of positive cases vs. testing, yesterday [Governor Cooper extended the current pause of Phase 3 re-opening](#) until December 4, 2020, *with one change*. The limit on indoor mass gatherings has been reduced from 25 people to 10. Additionally, the Governor’s office has put out guidance for gatherings during the upcoming [Thanksgiving holiday](#), as well as for [Black Friday shopping](#).

In my October 27 message, I shared that the case numbers across our community continue to increase. This is still the case. As we move into flu season and the holidays, we must continue to be ever diligent in doing our part by remembering the **3 W’s** when you leave home: **Wear** a face covering, **Wash** your hands frequently, **Wait** 6 feet apart.

We remain committed to responding positively in dealing with COVID-19. We will look 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.

Last Tuesday, November 3rd, was the final day of voting for this year’s **General Election**. I say it was the final day of voting, because so many of our county’s residents voted during the one-stop early voting period. Davie County had a 80.1% voter turnout and our own Hillsdale precinct had a 82.3% voter turnout for this election cycle. As a resident of our county, as well as an elected representative, I want to express my gratitude to our Davie County Elections staff, Election Board, and all of the poll workers who gave their time and talent to this year’s election process.

In my September message, I provided a historical perspective of our town's actions relating to **Stormwater** policies. In October, I updated you on actions being proposed by town staff to be taken up by our Town Council, including a proposal for a town-wide assessment for stormwater modeling and a recommended phased approach to analyzing the different drainage systems.

During last evening's Town Council Meeting, the Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal. Work will begin in the near future and is expected to take 6-8 months to perform. This is an important part of our commitment to managing our town's infrastructure and services, now and for the future. We will keep you informed of progress.

As you know, a couple of weeks ago we experienced a significant weather event - heavy rains and high winds - causing some flooding and downed trees. This resulted in many power outages across our area. Residents and businesses across parts of our town were without power for more than two days, as were thousands of others across the area. Yadkin River flooding made it difficult for Duke Energy crews to make repairs quickly.

During that time, Town Manager Lee Rollins was in contact with Duke advocating for our residents. Given that this issue continues to occur, we have challenged Duke representatives to evaluate what can be done to address this situation for a longer term solution. Stay tuned.

Also, our county's first responders very quickly and effectively kept our roads clear of downed trees. As always, they were there when we needed them. I also want to recognize Stacy Cornatzer and his team for the very quick clean up around our town after the storm came through.

As we approach the 2020 holidays, I am really looking forward to enjoying what this season brings. Normally, I tend to believe that decorations go up too early and that retail stores begin playing Christmas music way too soon. Like many with whom I have spoken, that's not the case this year. The prevailing sentiment is "Let's get this party started!" To be sure, this year's holiday season certainly looks and feels different from years' past. But, as I move around our community, I see homes and businesses beginning to put up Christmas decorations. And yes, stores and restaurants are playing Christmas music. I'd like to share some exciting news!

This year, The Town of Bermuda Run and Wake Forest Baptist Health - Davie Medical Center will be joining together for a **Bermuda Run Community Christmas Tree**. The tree will be placed on the rooftop of our own Davie Medical Center for the enjoyment of all in our community. Also, you will be able to be a part of this community celebration by purchasing a light(s) in honor/memory of a loved one, co-worker, or friend. Stay tuned for more details coming very soon.

And since gatherings will look different this year, you will be able to join us on Facebook Live as we "light up the night" with a virtual rooftop Christmas Tree lighting on December 1, at 6pm.

I want to give a special thanks to Roseanne Peacock, Sharon Reid, and Christy Schafer for their tireless work to make this wonderful community experience a reality.

One more thing...

I want to end my message by acknowledging that today, November 11, is **Veterans Day**. I don't believe it would be over-stating things to say that setting aside one day each year to recognize and honor those who have selflessly served our country for

which we are so proud, seems inadequate.

During these often challenging times, it can provide comfort that these men and women have given so much for us to live in this democracy. When I spend time with people across our community, I am so impressed by the number of veterans we call friends and neighbors. Nothing I can say will fully express the gratitude and pride I feel for all who have served our country.

Last Thursday, I had the privilege of participating in Davie County Senior Services' drive-thru Veterans Event. As a member of the Davie County Senior Services Advisory Council for the past few years, I have been able to participate in the Veterans Day programs at the Senior Center. They have always been very well attended, representing all branches of service, and inclusive of all military eras since WWII. It is very inspiring.

This year, given that the Senior Center is not able to gather together as in years past, they adapted and provided a box lunch, provided by *Chick-fil-A*, and a gift bag as veterans drove through. Folks were then encouraged to park, stay in their vehicles, tune in to a local FM radio station, where the Senior Services staff provided a program honoring veterans from across our county. Thanks to Davie County Aging and Adult Services Director Kim Shuskey and Veteran Services Officer Meagan Tomlin who, along with the other members of staff made this special event happen.

As with other holidays this year, Veterans Day looks a bit different. This won't alter the deep sense of pride and gratitude we feel for the service of our country's more than 17 million veterans. **To our Veterans - Thanks for what you have done and for what you mean to our country.**

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. You can reach me at rcross@townofbr.com or 336-391-1992.

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

Rick Cross

