

March 1, 2022



Town of Bermuda Run
120 Kinderton Blvd, Suite 100
Bermuda Run, NC 27006
336-998-0906

[Visit our Website](#)



Town Hall Calendar March

- 3/8 - Town Council Meeting 6 pm**
- 3/16 - Planning Board Meeting 3 pm**
- 3/22 - Council Agenda Meeting 9 am**
- 3/28 - Brush/Limb Pickup**

Message from Mayor Rick Cross

I am going to acknowledge up front that my message this month is rather lengthy. There are topics, timely and relevant, that I want to share.

This month marks two years since we first encountered COVID-19 across our community. On March 13, 2020, I sent my first COVID-related message, followed by updates and encouragements to look out for each other as we acknowledged that we are in this together, and together we will emerge stronger. For me, there are still occasions when it's difficult to remember a time before masks, social-distancing, discussions about COVID testing, and vaccinations (1st shot, 2nd shot, booster,...). It often seems that no conversation is complete without some reference to COVID-19. My hope is that, as CDC continues to relax guidelines, our state evolves its guidance, and our COVID-19 related cases and hospitalizations continue to decline, we are able to move forward with appropriate caution.

Through all of this, and other challenges along the way, our community has continued to be strong, vibrant, and engaged. Coming with this strength and vibrancy is a desire people and businesses have to become a part of our community. Specifically, there are people who want to live here and people who want to invest in our community - opening businesses, developing housing, and creating/expanding amenities. During these past two years, new businesses have joined our community, current businesses have expanded, and people have made our town their home.

As we see this interest in our community, we're reminded of our town's [Comprehensive Plan](#), first developed in 2012, updated in 2017, and is in the process of being updated again in 2022. In this plan, we outlined our Vision:

The Town of Bermuda Run will be a welcoming small town with a diverse economic base and excellent quality of life.

One of the objectives of the plan is to support steady, managed growth with additional residential and retail development; and to have a strategy to support residential growth that attracts the additional retail and service amenities desired by current residents.

A number of years ago our town was laid out in [zoning districts](#). These districts each had established authorized uses. The town is sometimes asked to consider re-zoning portions of these areas. When this is requested, our town staff, county planning partners, town Planning Board, and ultimately our Town Council are engaged to thoroughly understand all implications associated with such a request. The process includes public meetings of the Planning Board, public notifications and hearings, and finally a decision by the Town Council during a Council Meeting.

Often times, there is little impact, real or perceived, of these requested changes and they move through the process with little fanfare. There are times, however, when these requests pique the interest of residents. A recent example is a general use re-zoning request for a section of property just southeast of the Highway 801 and Highway 158 intersection (behind Walgreens) from [Commercial Mixed use to Village Mixed use](#).

Without getting into a great level of detail, after consideration our Planning Board voted to recommend that the Town Council deny the zoning change request - citing concerns for traffic and stormwater. As the request moved through the process, town staff continued to provide relevant information to our Town Council as they prepared for a vote on the matter. On February 8, supplied with the information provided, and having deliberated on the matter extensively during the Annual Planning sessions on January 25 and February 1, the Council voted to approve this zoning request.

This was a general use re-zoning request, meaning it was not an approval of a specific project. That consideration will come during the technical review process when a developer presents specific plans to the town. Please know that, over the years, our town staff, county planning partners, Planning Board, and Town Council have placed great emphasis on ensuring strict design and appearance standards for any development within our town borders. There is a rigorous process in place to ensure these standards are maintained.

Traffic impact on any development occurring in or around our town is always top of mind for us, and as I said in last month's message, we will continue to fight for improvements in those state roads. As progress is made - large or small - I will keep you posted.

One final point that can sometimes be overlooked - Coming out of the 2012 Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Board recommended, and the Town Council approved, a measure allowing no more than 20% of the area within any zoning district can be multi-family housing.

As I have offered many times, our Town Council members and I would enjoy discussing this with all who are interested. I am glad to speak individually, or with groups.

[Blue Heron Trail](#) - As I mentioned in last month's message, we are proceeding with Phase 1 of the trail - along Highway 158. In a recent pre-construction meeting with contractors, we have been informed that the expected construction start-up date is April 11.

During our recent Agenda Meeting on February 22, our Town Council heard a presentation from McAdams Engineering about Phase 2 of the project - primarily focused on the area around Bahnsen Lakes on the north side of I-40. They provided insights into feasibility and options for continuing the Blue Heron Trail.

There are a number of considerations including condition of the lakes and dams, topography of the area around the lakes, proximity of some areas to NCDOT controlled land, potential amenities (like trailheads and recreation areas), overall costs of various options, and potential funding sources. We will continue to share information as we move forward on this important project.

Something that continues to resonate with me as I spend time with residents across our community is people's level of interest and engagement for our town. As I have stated in previous messages, I want to parlay this into action. Part of my role as mayor is to seek

out and engage current and future contributors to our town - Planning Board member, Council member, Mayor, or other ways to become involved.

When talking with people, I sometimes hear “I’d like to be involved, but I’m not certain what I can do or how I can get started.” I work to share my thoughts on various ways to be involved. My hope is that some of this will result in an even greater level of involvement across our community - volunteering with one of the many worthy organizations, becoming involved in your HOA, seeking a position on our town’s Planning Board, or at some point in the future, vying for one of our town’s elected positions of Council or Mayor.

I will continue to reach out, our Town Council members will continue to reach out, and I hope that you, our residents, will continue to engage. There will be a great chance to do this when we all have the opportunity to provide valuable input during our upcoming update to the town’s [Comprehensive Plan](#). Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

I want to encourage everyone across our community to stay in touch with what’s going on around town. The best way to know what’s occurring around town is to sign up (and encourage your friends and neighbors to do so as well) for our [E-Newsletter](#). Also, if you are on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#), please follow us so you can receive up-to-date information. Finally, use our [town website](#) as a source for town-related information. Please spread the word!

Finally, I continue to have the pleasure of spending time with people across our community — often individually, sometimes in small casual groups, and also during larger neighborhood gatherings. Most recently I had the pleasure of spending a bit of time with neighbors during the Fairway Villas Annual HOA Meeting and the Bermuda Run West Social. Thank you for the invitation to share thoughts and to hear what’s on your mind. I am looking forward to being with residents in Kinderton Village later this month.

To all with whom I have spent time, thank you for your time, and for sharing thoughts and ideas with me. I continue to look forward to being with everyone across our community soon. Reach out to me. I want to hear from you. You can reach me at: rcross@townofbr.com or 336-391-1992.

Rick Cross

Bermuda Run Garden Club’s Annual Geranium Sale

Order and pre-pay NOW for April 20th Delivery.

Pick up Wednesday, April 20th , 11 am- 3 pm
Behind the Gazebo on Kinderton Blvd. near
Bermuda Run Town Hall

Choose from Red, Hot Pink, White, Salmon, and
Violet (deep fushia)

10 in. Pots - \$17.00 6 1/2 in. Pots \$12.00



Contact any Bermuda Run Garden Club Member or Linda Ernst (336) 940-6705 or
lernst2@triad.rr.com



**Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 13 at 2 am.**

**Happy St. Patrick's Day -
March 17**



**Save the Date
Saturday, May 7
8 am - Noon**

**Mayor: Rick Cross
Town Manager: Lee Rollins
Town Clerk: Cindy Poe
Accounting: Dora Robertson**

**Town Council: Mike Brannon, Curtis Capps,
Heather Coleman, Mike Ernst, and Melinda
Szeliga**

Quick Links

[Town Website](#)

[Zoning Questions](#)

[Facebook](#)