



February 22, 2021

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR RICK CROSS:



A quick thought before I get into my message:

During the past 10 days, parts of our town experienced more weather-related power outages. I acknowledge the voices of those affected that these occurrences are frustrating and seem to be happening with increased frequency. Know that Town Manager Lee Rollins and I continue to engage with Duke Energy representatives

with a sense of urgency. Last November, I spoke about this in my message to residents.

In December, Mr. Rollins and I were part of a session with Duke Energy to review a number of initiatives to improve service and reliability across the triad (including our town). We impressed on them, on behalf of our town's residents and businesses, the need to quickly move from a break-fix approach to one of greater reliability. We will continue to pursue this issue and keep you posted. Stay tuned.

Welcome to 2021! We're into the 2nd half of February, and it seems that the year is moving briskly along. I'd like to provide a short update on a few things of interest around our community.

2021 Annual Planning Session

As we do at the beginning of each year, our Town Council and Staff recently met for its Annual Planning Session. As always, we use the town's [Comprehensive Plan](#) as the foundation for our work. This year, we decided to schedule our Planning Session for 2 different working discussions, focusing on **Operational Planning** and **Strategic Emphasis**.

January 26th - Operational Planning for 2021/2022

We looked back over the past 12-24 months to help guide our thinking for the upcoming 1-2 years - what initiatives/activities have begun, been completed, or had been delayed as a result of COVID-19.

We reviewed our town's Comprehensive Plan's implementation document, which helps us set priorities and funding requirements, as well as progress against each goal since last year's Annual Planning Session. We agreed and confirmed that the items contained in the plan, as well as the priority level for each, are still appropriate.

This exercise helps the Council provide decisions and guidance to town staff as we move through the next two years.

As a part of our working session, we invited Davie County Manager David Bone, Davie County Economic Development Commission President Terry Bralley, and Davie County Sheriff JD Hartman to join us to provide a perspective, from their individual areas of responsibility, for the upcoming 1-2 years relative to our community.

Our emphasis will continue to be focused on delivering core services and projects currently

underway - including, *but not limited to*, on-going town roads maintenance and repair, solid waste/recycling, Blue Heron Trail Phase 1, stormwater study, and traffic management (with NC Department of Transportation).

February 2nd - Strategic Emphasis (3-5+ years)

We spent some time challenging ourselves to contemplate a “future” Bermuda Run - What does 10 years into the future look like for our town?...What do we, as a community, aspire to be?...As we look through our town’s [Comprehensive Plan](#), do we believe it continues to provide a roadmap to our desired future? (The group is in agreement that it does).

We looked back over the historical timeline of our town to fully understand the town’s trajectory relative to our Vision and Goals, revenue/spending history and projections. It also helps us prepare for a proposed update to our town’s Comprehensive Plan during 2022.

This helped guide us into productive dialogue around our town’s future - *Strategic Imperatives, investments and resource allocation, managed growth and development, and continued quality of place*. This is important as we manage priorities across our community over the next several years.

During 2021, we will continue to share plans and progress.

Update COVID-19

As I continue to talk with people across our community, COVID-19 vaccination is top-of-mind. As we all know, current demand for the vaccine continues to be far greater than the available supply. The state/county is currently vaccinating Groups 1 and 2; and as of this week, selected Group 3 frontline workers are becoming eligible to receive the Covid-19 vaccine.

This will begin with anyone working in child care or in PreK–12 schools on February 24. As a note, Davie County had previously planned for school system employees to be eligible for vaccination, and had conducted a vaccine clinic earlier in February. For those school system employees who have not yet been vaccinated, they will be able to do so beginning this week. If you would like more information, click on the link [Deeper Dive](#).

Like many organizations/communities, due to weather delays Davie County Health and Human Services did not receive last week’s vaccine shipment. As a result, the vaccine clinic on Friday, February 19th had to be canceled. This week, we anticipate receiving the 400 dose allocation from last week, as well as an additional 600 first doses. For up-to-date information click on the link [Davie County Vaccine Clinic Information](#). At this point, given the number of people required to manage the vaccine clinic and the number of doses we are receiving, it is not yet practical to set up a second clinic location in the county. As the hospital systems and other care providers (e.g. Walgreens) come on board, this should provide additional capacity.

Davie County Health and Human Services folks, Davie County Sheriff's Department personnel, and other county partners have been working extremely hard to get our allocated vaccines delivered each week to our residents. We are grateful for all they are doing to get our county’s residents vaccinated.

We will continue to work alongside our county officials and staff to take steps to manage the impact of COVID-19 across our community as we work toward greater levels of vaccination for residents. In the meantime, we can continue in our commitment to the **3Ws** - **Wear, Wait, Wash** - as the thing that each of us can do to reduce risk and potential impact of COVID-19 in our community.

As the year progresses, we will keep you informed of things going on around town. I am also anxious for the time when we can again gather as a community.

In the meantime, I will continue to reach out across our town. I want to hear from you and appreciate those from whom I have heard. 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

