

# Nags HEAD LINES



Town of Nags Head, NC



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## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM MANAGER

Greg Sparks



With Thanksgiving in the rear-view mirror and more holidays in front of us, we need to remain vigilant as a community to slow and stop the spread of COVID-19. Cases continue to rise in Dare County and North Carolina due to many factors such as colder weather and indoor social gatherings, coupled with COVID fatigue. Masking, social distancing, and hand washing are more important than ever before. We know, based on experience from other recent holidays, that we will see an increase after Thanksgiving, unless everyone followed the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

To address the rise in cases, Nags Head has initiated stricter protocols to keep our employees and the people we serve safe. Starting in December, the Board of Commissioners is returning to conducting their meetings via Zoom and limiting in-person attendance, a measure our Planning Board began in November. We are encouraging the public to access Town services to the greatest extent possible through our on-line services rather than in-person at Town Hall.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM MANAGER

*Cont. from page 1*

As an example, water service, taxes, planning permits, trash carts, business license, and registration renewals can be paid for online. Another item we are working on are improvements to the air filtration systems of our public buildings. We will be installing bipolar ionization filtration, which is effective in addressing airborne viruses.

The availability of vaccines for COVID-19 are still a few months away, with priority to healthcare workers and vulnerable populations first. That is why masking, social distancing, and hand washing are going to continue to be essential well into 2021. The sooner that a sense of safety and normalcy can return to our public schools, our businesses, and governmental operations, the better that all of us will be able to enjoy all that the Outer Banks has to offer. We have come through a challenging year, but it was one that saw a record number of visitors to the Outer Banks, resulting in strong sales and lodging tax revenues to fund local government operations. Make no mistake, this pandemic has been very difficult on many area businesses and families. At the Town of Nags Head, we are committed to providing all our residents, second homeowners, and visitors with high quality, consistent services. Although we may experience times over the next several months that will make that difficult, rest assured we are prepared.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM MANAGER

*Cont. from Page 2*

Our Town Hall has remained open throughout the pandemic, while many town halls have been closed to the public in North Carolina. We are striving to stay open while keeping our employees safe. As always, we encourage all residents and visitors to follow CDC guidelines so we can avoid a public health crisis in Dare County.

We wish everyone a great and appropriately socially-distanced Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,  
Greg L. Sparks  
Interim Town Manager



# Holiday Safety Tips



First and foremost, from the men and women of Nags Head Police Department, have a wonderful and enjoyable holiday season!

As you prepare for the upcoming holidays keep in mind your personal safety and the safety of your family and friends. It is very easy to become distracted with the extra demands placed upon us during this time of the year.

**COVID- this adds an additional layer of concern for all as we enter the holiday season.**

- Follow CDC and NCDHHS guidance
- Follow the 3 Ws:
- Wear a mask
- Wait six feet apart
- Wash your hands

**Driving and Travel**

- Be patient, we all know how stressful the season can be with busy roads.
- Remember that most accidents occur within 25 miles of your home.
- Don't Drink and Drive, if you have consumed alcohol seek alternate transportation. Driving while intoxicated is a sure way to ruin the season, your life or someone else's.

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## POLICE

# Holiday Safety Tips

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### Shopping

- When shopping, carry your bag or purse, don't leave it unattended in a cart.
- Use credit or debit cards for purchases. Avoid exposing or using large amounts of cash.
- Place your purchases in a vehicle trunk, if no trunk, conceal your purchases especially if returning to the store.
- When walking to or from your vehicle avoid becoming distracted by using your cell phone.
- Park in a well-lit area, have your keys ready to open your vehicle when you return.
- When shopping online use credit cards at trusted sites.
- Have packages delivered to your business. If delivered to your home think of an alternate drop off location i.e., side of house, or storage room. Have a friend or neighbor pick up your package. Schedule a pick up.

### Safety at Home

- Lock your doors and windows.
- Let a neighbor know if you are leaving for an extended period.
- Leave a light on inside and or use a timer.
- Have your mail delivery suspended if you plan on being away.
- Do not place product boxes by the curb for trash pickup.
- Contact Nags Head Police Department to schedule an extra patrol of your residence. You can do this via phone: 252-441-6386 or email at [police@nagsheadnc.gov](mailto:police@nagsheadnc.gov).



# Resources for Resilience Virtual Listening Hours



Resources for Resilience™, a North Carolina non-profit, understands that this is a time of significant worry and uncertainty for many. As communities continue their efforts to keep people physically and emotionally healthy during the time of COVID-19, we are offering virtual listening hours to foster resilience during this stressful time. These listening hours are available at no cost to all North Carolina residents through the generosity of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Drop in any time to connect with us.

## **What is a listening hour?**

Listening hours are an online forum where you can connect with other adults and talk about what is stressful for them right now. Our trained facilitators then offer concrete tools designed to help them you de-stress and highlight what is getting you through this time of individual and community difficulty.

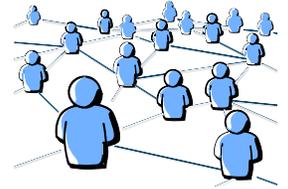
## **When are they offered?**

Listening hours are available Monday to Friday through Friday, December 18. There is no sign-up or pre-registration required, and you can drop in as often as you would like. Feel free to connect with us on your own or invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to join with you!

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# Resources for Resilience Virtual Listening Hours

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## How do I join?

To join a listening hour, simply find the day of the week below and click on the link that says "Connect via Zoom." You can join using any smartphone or internet-enabled device, including desktop computers, laptops, and tablets.

Mondays | 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Connect via Zoom (meeting ID: 832 5320 1084;  
password: 251657)

Tuesdays | 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Connect via Zoom (meeting ID: 868 7613 2477;  
password: 831625)

Wednesdays | 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Connect via Zoom (meeting ID: 848 6004 8945;  
password: 157599)

Thursdays | 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Connect via Zoom (meeting ID: 878 8847 3422;  
password: 784869)

Fridays | 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Connect via Zoom (meeting ID: 870 5709 2320;  
password: 612783)

If you are new to Zoom, you can learn more about how to join a virtual meeting by clicking [here](#).

We look forward to connecting with you soon!

# Improving Our Understanding Through Partnerships



The Town of Nags Head has always supported collaborative research efforts between its many partnerships with academia, non-profit organizations, and state and federal agencies to obtain a greater understanding of the factors related to coastal management challenges. With the assistance and research of outside agencies, it provides the town an opportunity to obtain additional insight into the advancement of management strategies and techniques for the development of a comprehensive and sustainable resiliency planning.

One such ongoing study is a collaborative partnership between the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the U.S. Army Engineer Research & Development Center. The focus of this research work is to determine whether an old dune is more resilient than an artificial dune through the evaluation of ecological processes and the role they play in dune stability.

Sand dunes are the first line of defense from flooding, and commonly protect coastal communities from waves and storm surge. Natural dunes develop slowly and have an internal stabilizing structure consisting of roots and fungi. This may enhance the overall strength of the dune, thereby reducing erosion from storms. However, not all dunes form naturally; they are increasingly being constructed artificially to enhance coastal protection and resilience.



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# Improving Our Understanding Through Partnerships

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Such constructed dunes generally lack vegetation or have vegetation planted on top following construction. As a result, constructed dunes lack the organic “skeleton” of a natural dune, potentially leaving them less stable and more vulnerable to the impacts of storms and longer-term coastal changes.

Study work will explore the trade-offs between constructed and natural dunes across the Outer Banks to inform coastal management decisions. Data acquisition includes collection and analysis of high-resolution lidar data to explore dune location, shape, and changes over time. The internal geological and biological makeup of the dune will be sampled through sediment coring and in-situ monitoring. This collaborative work is being completed at a number of sites, including at Nags Head's Bonnett Street beach access.

Data from these field sites will be integrated into numerical models, which will allow for the exploration of specific applied research and coastal management questions related to dune management.

Improving our understanding of the oceanfront shoreline's response to storms will allow the Town to more effectively plan and develop management strategies by leveraging resources in working towards the advancement of becoming a more resilient community.



# Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning



Do you have gas appliances, space heaters, a furnace, or fireplace in your home? Do you have an attached garage? If so, you need to make sure your home has working carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. It is important to remember that CO is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless gas that can kill you.

Each year, more than 20,000 Americans visit the emergency room for CO related illness. More than 4,000 Americans are hospitalized, and over 400 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning, not linked to fires (CDC). Learn how to stay safe in and around your home.

## KEY FACTS

- Red blood cells pick up CO quicker than they pick up oxygen.
- When you inhale CO, your body replaces the oxygen in the blood with CO.
- People who are sleeping or who have been drinking alcohol, can die from CO poisoning before ever having symptoms.

## SAFETY TIPS

- Have your gas, oil, or coal-burning heating/air system, water heater, and any other appliance serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Install a battery-operated or battery back-up CO detector in your home on each floor, including the basement.
- Check or replace the batteries when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall.



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# Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning



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- Make sure gas appliances are vented properly.
- Have chimneys checked and cleaned every year.
- Never burn charcoal indoors.
- Never use generators inside your home, basement, or garage.
- Keep the generator outside the home, and 20 feet or more from any window, door, or vent.
- Never run your vehicle inside a garage attached to a house; even with the garage door open.
- If you suspect you are being exposed to carbon monoxide, contact your local fire department, natural gas/propane provider, or a certified CO technician for help. DON'T WAIT!

## 2020 Earl Murray Jr. Employee of the Year - Fire Captain John Kenny

At their December 2, 2020 meeting, Nags Head's Board of Commissioners named Fire Captain John Kenny as the Town's 2020 Earl Murray Jr. Employee of the Year. Presented by the Board each December, the award, named after Police Sergeant Earl Murray, who died



in the line of duty in May 2009, recognizes and rewards Town employees who have shown exemplary performance.

The other nominees for this year's Earl Murray Jr. Employee of the Year award were: Police Officer Brandon Bostwick, Tax Collector Linda Bittner, Planning and Development Department Administrative Assistant Kim Thompson, and Sanitation Equipment Operator Anthony Beasley.

### 2020 Earl Murray Jr. EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



Linda Bittner  
Tax Collector



Anthony Beasley  
Equipment Operator



Brandon Bostwick  
Police Officer



Kim Thompson  
Administrative Assistant

# Sand Relocation Program



November 17, 2020 marked the beginning of the ocean sand relocation season.

The Town's Sand Relocation Program allows oceanside properties to relocate accumulated sand back onto the dunes and the ocean beach. Please note there are specific limitations on how much sand can be moved and how much dune and vegetation disturbance can occur.

Work may be completed until April 30, 2021 with a cutoff date of April 16, 2021 for new permits to ensure work will be completed by April 30, 2021.

Beginning this year, permit applications must be filled out online on the [Ocean Sand Relocation page](#) of the Town's website.

If you have any questions regarding sand relocation, contact Environmental Planner Kylie Shephard at 252-449-6047/[kylie.shephard@nagsheadnc.gov](mailto:kylie.shephard@nagsheadnc.gov). You can also visit the Town's [Ocean Sand Relocation page](#) for more information and to view the [Sand Relocation FAQ's](#).





## PUBLIC WORKS

# Meet Interim Public Works Director Terry Haugen

While Nags Head in the winter may be a bit cold and windy for some of us, Terry Haugen likely wasn't worried. As a North Dakota native who has spent much of his professional life working in Colorado, Oregon, and Wyoming, Terry probably thought, how bad could Nags Head be in the winter?

While we get a bit grumpy about the cold and the wind stretching into April and sometimes May here, we think Terry will enjoy spending the next three to four months in our community, working as our interim public works director. Terry's driven across the country, and forgone spending his winter in Arizona, to help Nags Head while we search for a full time public works director to replace Ralph Barile, who recently retired after 38 years with the Town.

Terry retired from his position as the public works director for Grants Pass, Oregon five years ago. Prior to that, he served as the public works director in tourists destinations such as Laramie, Wyoming, and Alamosa, Colorado.

Before he heads home to Oregon this spring to start his yearly bountiful garden, among many initiatives, Terry will be working on two major projects, our waste reduction options and the Town's Public Works Master Plan, which will survey the Town's facilities and provide a long-range roadmap for their future.

Enjoy your time here, Terry. Our winter weather may not always be warm, but our community members always are.



# MASTER PLAN

# Boards and Committees

*"Create a ripple of change by getting your feet wet!"*

Want to get involved in your town, but aren't sure how to start? Get your feet wet by sitting on a Town board or committee.

- [Arts and Culture](#)
- [Board of Adjustment](#)
- [Board of Commissioners](#) (more information about this board can be found on page 14)
- [Community Watch Association](#)
- [Dangerous Animal Appeal Board](#)
- [Personnel Grievance Panel](#)
- [Planning Board](#)
- [Stormwater Committee](#)
- [Waste Reduction Task Force](#)

For more information, visit [nagsheadnc.gov/boardsandcommittees](http://nagsheadnc.gov/boardsandcommittees). A listing of each board and committee is available, along with its members.



# MUNICIPAL INFORMATION

## Board of Commissioners



From left are: Commissioner J. Webb Fuller, Commissioner Kevin Brinkley, Mayor Ben Cahoon, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Siers, and Commissioner Renée Cahoon.

Nags Head's Board of Commissioners meet the first Wednesday of each month at 9 am in the Board Room. An adjourned session is held as needed on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm (October through March) and at 7 pm (April through September). Agendas and more information are available on the Board agenda section of our web site.

### Contact the Board

[allmayorcomm@nagsheadnc.gov](mailto:allmayorcomm@nagsheadnc.gov)

### View Meetings

Live on the day of the meeting at [nagsheadnc.gov](http://nagsheadnc.gov)  
on demand at [youtube.com/townofnagshead](https://youtube.com/townofnagshead)



## Town Management

Interim Town Manager  
Greg Sparks

Deputy Town Manager  
Andy Garman

## Town Offices

### Full Staff Directory

#### ■ Town Hall

5401 S. Croatan Hwy.  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
[252-441-5508/info@nagsheadnc.gov](mailto:info@nagsheadnc.gov)

#### ■ Public Works

2200 Lark Ave.  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
[252-441-1122/publicworks@nagsheadnc.gov](mailto:publicworks@nagsheadnc.gov)

#### ■ Police

Emergency 911/Non-Emergency 252-473-3444

5401 S. Croatan Hwy.  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
[252-441-6386/police@nagsheadnc.gov](mailto:police@nagsheadnc.gov)

#### ■ Fire and Ocean Rescue

Emergency 911/Non-Emergency 252-473-3444

Douglas A. Remaley Fire Station 16 (Headquarters)  
5314 S. Croatan Hwy./24 hours  
[252-441-5909/fire@nagsheadnc.gov](mailto:fire@nagsheadnc.gov)

Fire Station 21  
8806 S. Old Oregon Inlet Rd./24 hours  
[252-441-2910/fire@nagsheadnc.gov](mailto:fire@nagsheadnc.gov)

## Connect with Nags Head

 [nagsheadnc.gov](http://nagsheadnc.gov)  [facebook.com/townofnagshead](https://facebook.com/townofnagshead)

 [instagram.com/townofnagshead](https://instagram.com/townofnagshead)  [twitter.com/townofnagshead](https://twitter.com/townofnagshead)

Nags HEAD LINES is published monthly. For questions and comments contact Public Information Officer Roberta Thuman at [roberta.thuman@nagsheadnc.gov](mailto:roberta.thuman@nagsheadnc.gov). (Note: some of the photos used in this newsletter were taken pre-COVID-19).