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● October 2025

● American-Owned. Free Press.

● Volume V, Issue 10

FREE!

Southport Mass Shooting Suspect Arrested

Press Release from City of Southport

On Saturday, September 27, 2025 at approximately 9:30 PM, members of the Southport Police Department were dispatched to calls of shots fired with multiple injuries at the American Fish Company, located at 150 Yacht Basin Dr, Southport, NC 28461.

A boat with a single occupant opened fire on American Fish Company, fatally wounding three patrons, and injuring five others. The boat then fled the area, towards the Intracoastal Waterway in the direction of Oak Island.

Shortly after 10:00 PM, the U.S. Coast Guard observed a single individual matching the description of the shooter, loading their boat at the public boat ramp at NE 55th Street in Oak Island. The Coast Guard crew assisted local law enforcement who detained the suspect and was

then held by the Oak Island Police Department before being turned over to the Southport Police Department, with assistance from the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation.

The suspect, Nigel Max Edge, has been arrested and charged with three counts of first-degree murder, five counts of attempted first-degree murder, and five accounts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury.

Note from the Topsail Times: Edge's dog was also on the boat with him at the time when he allegedly opened fire and has been taken into the custody of the BCSO Animal Protective Services.

Importantly, there is currently no known further credible threat to the public.

This investigation is still active; however, further updates will be provided directly by the City of

Southport as they become available.

If you were at American Fish Company on Friday, September 26, 2025, or Saturday, September 27, 2025, please call Southport Police Department to share any information, including videos or pictures, you may have at (910) 457-7911.



Get Out and Vote!
Election Date: Nov 4th
Current list of candidates that are running for local municipal elections:

Holly Ridge Mayor
Pirooz (Pete) Parnian – appointed
Dorothy Royal

Holly Ridge Council Member (4 year term) 2 seats available
Gregory Hines (I)
Brandon Longo
Jeff Barton
Rena J. Bragg
Joseph Correia

Holly Ridge Council Member (2 year term – unexpired) 1 seat available
Pamela Hall – appointed
Richard Royal

Town of North Topsail Beach Mayor
Richard Grant
David Benson

Town of North Topsail Beach Alderman 3 seats available
Curtis Anders
Larry Strother
Kip Malcolm
Tom Leonard (I)
Jeffrey Zehner

Town of Surf City Council Member 2 seats available
Daniel Blevins
Hugh A. Cannady – appointed
Jillian Rodrigues de Miranda
Jeremy Shugarts (I)
Andreas (Andy) Pleil

Town of Topsail Beach Mayor
Frank Braxton - appointed

Town of Topsail Beach Council Member 3 seats available
Nancy Kerr Thomason - appointed
John Best – appointed
Tim Zizack (I)
Alex Arab

What is the difference between (I) incumbent and appointed?
A person with an (I) after their name means they were elected to the position originally and are running for re-election
Appointed means the person was selected by the existing council/alderman members to fill a seat that was vacated (for various reasons).
Appointed is not elected and a person who is appointed is technically not running for re-election.

HALLOWEEN

TRIVIA

OCTOBER 30, 6:30PM

Hosted by Smoky Tony's BBQ

511 US Highway 17 N, Holly Ridge, NC 28445

☆ Trivia across movies, folklore, history & fun facts

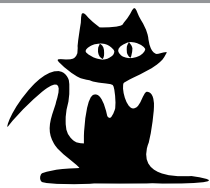
☆ Prizes for the top teams

☆ Smoky Tony's BBQ, drinks & festive atmosphere

☆ Teams up to 6, larger teams may split into smaller teams

☆ Costumes encouraged!

☆ FREE to play



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Topsail Times

Next
Deadline
Date

October 20th



Or send us a text

(910) 526-1060

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TopsailTimesNewspaper@gmail.com



www.TopsailTimes.net

TOPSAIL
TIMES
NEWSPAPER



Publisher

Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC

Contributing Writers

Dorothy Royal

Kim McGahey

Candidate Responses

Richard Royal

Joe Correia

Brandon Longo

Jillian Miranda

Andy Pliel

Jeremy Shugarts

Hugh Cannady

Richard Grant

Kip Malcolm

Larry Strother

Nancy Thomason

John Best

Tim Zizack

Alexander Arab

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**RICHARD
ROYAL**

**For
Holly Ridge
Town Council**

PAID FOR BY RICHARD ROYAL FOR HOLLY RIDGE COUNCIL

Topsail Gun Gal



By Dorothy Royal

Fun with Facts in simple terms:

Did you know in North Carolina you cannot get an NC Conceal Carry permit (CCP) if you:

- a) have a felony or imprisoned for more than a year
- b) been convicted of domestic violence (assault on a female)
- c) renounced your citizenship
- d) been dishonorably discharged from the military
- e) been adjudicated mentally defective
- f) are a fugitive from justice (my favorite)
- g) addicted to drugs or any controlled substance
- h) are an illegal alien unlawfully in the United States
- i) are subject of a restraining order

Of course the requirements go into more detail, but you get the idea.

I have had people contact me and ask, *since they were convicted of armed robbery, can they still get a conceal carry permit.* Ummmm no.

The law has recently changed regarding DWI's (or DUI's) where you are prohibited from getting a CCP for three years reduced from 5 years.

Many people think that since Purchase Permits are no longer required in North Carolina that a

Conceal Carry permit has no value. That is not true. We are not a Constitutional Carry State (yet) and until that happens, a person must have a CCP to carry concealed. We are an open carry state, which allows a person 18 years of age or older and legally allowed to own a firearm to carry open, unless otherwise posted. A CCP is also good for purchasing firearms since no additional background check needs to be done.

How do you get a NC Conceal Carry Permit? Not on the internet, that's for sure. North Carolina requires an 8 hour class that includes shooting a firearm and taking an exam. Once you have completed the course and passed the exam, you make an appointment at your local Sheriff's office and they will fingerprint you and send off your information. If your background check is good, you will receive your CCP permit in the mail, usually 4-6 weeks later. Do yourself a favor and get that thing laminated!

In case you couldn't guess, myself, my husband and both of my children are proud holders of North Carolina Conceal Carry permits.

My father, a veteran of World War II, told me something one day that made perfect sense. He said that when a soldier was being sent home,

they were put on a ship, which may have taken weeks to return to the USA. During that time soldiers had time to grieve, get angry, talk to others about what they had been through, and time to decompress. He said PTSD certainly existed back then, but it wasn't the same.

A concern that we discussed, usually after a news report of an act of violence involving a service member, current or former, was that these soldiers were in the heat of battle one day and sent home and could be sitting on a couch watching football a few days later. No time for healthy decompression.

I know people that have made the military their entire lives, and the day they retire things start going south. They don't have the structure anymore. They feel disconnected from the world they know.

I don't know anything about the two men this past week that committed such acts of violence as shooting into a group on a dock at a social gathering or violating the sanctuary of a church and setting it on fire. I don't know what they went through, what help, if any, they had received. I don't know if somehow the system failed them and why the citizens had to pay the price. I wish I had answers.

I wish I had explanations, but I don't. My only fear is that perhaps we are asking too much and not giving back enough.

Remember knowledge is power, we need to work toward restoring compassion, which seemed to disappear after Covid, and getting a Conceal Carry Permit is still a good thing. I would also like to wish my father a happy 101st birthday in Heaven. Your knowledge was the greatest gift, and I miss you every day.

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Coastal Common Sense



By Kim McGahey

Politics infects every facet of our culture and affects each of us every day from the time we wake up until we go to bed at night. Politics is ever present and unless we live under a rock, there is no getting away from it.

Our daily lives are controlled by constant intrusions from whichever political party happens to be in office at the time. That party creates laws, regulations and policies that are intended to control everything we think, do and say.

George Orwell's novel "1984" portrayed our current government control accurately with his cradle to grave mind control. Nothing happens in our daily lives without Big Brother somehow directing our thoughts and actions.

When the alarm goes off in the morning, you can only take a flush and a shower limited by mandated water conservation devices. When you get in your car to drive to work, you can only use gasoline with an approved government tax included. When you get to work, a government subsidized union controls how long you work, how much you make, when you can eat lunch and how productive you can be. Don't work so hard - you're making the rest of us look lazy.

Meanwhile your kids are in a state

run pre-school meal program at 7:00am where their daily state indoctrination begins. They are hooked up to the government curriculum IV and spend all day being taught they can't survive without feeding at the public trough.

On your way home, the government subsidized NPR station on the radio fills your head with biased political babble making sure you find it difficult to think for yourself. The School Board directed public school bus delivers your kids who arrive at your dinner table with a dazed look in their eyes and refuse to put down their government controlled electronic devices so you can engage in family conversation. They were taught in public schools run by authoritarian state endorsed teachers' unions that parents are a domestic security threat and the Bible is useless. Nobody says grace at the dinner table for fear of offending some impersonal orthodoxy.

Nighttime news and television programming is controlled by FCC rules, regulations and subsidies so that TV shows reflect the party that's in power in the state and federal governments. When a major national tragic event occurs, like the recent Charlie Kirk political assassination, all the coverage is tainted by whichever political ideology controls those media platforms.

Bitter local newspapers that

recently lost funding from the Board of County Commissioners react with hateful disdain and political zealots on late night comedy shows use their propaganda to make fun of serious deadly cultural trends. And on top of all that violent rhetoric, taxes are raised for an unnecessary new town government building. All due to the politics that drive the 24 hour news cycle commentary.

You finally rest your head on the pillow and all the political invasions of the day prevent your brain from getting a good night's sleep. Facts and logic have been pushed aside by one-sided emotional arguments

making it difficult to respond to the world around you with compassion. Truth has become relative to power and control. Politics dictates all the messages you received that day and you are exhausted.

The remedy is to get off the grid and spend more time with your family and friends. Unplug the electronic devices. Go for a walk on the beach with your kids. Read the Bible every day. And VOTE for people who don't want the government to control your life.

*Send in your own thoughts to
topsailtimesnewspaper@gmail.com !*

Kim McGahey

GHOST CRAB DOCKS

(970) 389-4400

kimmcgahey@gmail.com

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KNOWLEDGE, INTEGRITY, SERVICE

New Bus Stop Ahead Signs Around Holly Ridge



Everyone should start to see our new "Bus Stop Ahead" signs popping up around town.

Things you may want to know:

- These signs are being placed near bus stops reported to us by Onslow County Schools Transportation.
- Bus stop locations may change over the years. When they do, the Town will relocate the signs as needed.

This project is designed to improve **safety and awareness** for both drivers and students. We appreciate your cooperation and thank you for driving carefully in these areas!

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Sealed Bids for the Construction of the Surf City Water Resiliency Projects

From the Town of Surf City

Sealed Bids for the construction of the Surf City Water Resiliency Projects will be received by Town of Surf City, at the office of the 214 W. Florence Way Surf City Municipal Complex Hampstead, NC 28443, until 2:00 PM local time on November 4, 2025 at which time the Bids received will be Publicly opened and read. The Project consists of constructing the following:

- Construction of two well pump houses including pumps and associated equipment,
- 12" Raw water pipelines and interconnections,
- Distribution pipelines 8" and 12",
- Some of the above pipelines to be constructed by Jack and Bore, and Horizontal Directional Drilling methods,
- Service connections, fire hydrants, and gate valves, air release valves and other related works.
- Construction of a 10 feet wide walkway, approximately 3,700 ft long, along North Shore Drive.

Bids will be received for a single

prime Contract. Bids shall be on unit price basis as indicated in the Bid Form.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

HIGHFILL

INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING, P.C.

3804 Park Ave, Unit A

Wilmington, North Carolina 28403

Contact: Lizzy Wade

Email: ewade@hiepc.com

Telephone: 910-313-1516

Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office, during the hours indicated above, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment of \$150.00 for each set. Checks for Bidding Documents shall be payable to "Highfill Infrastructure Engineering, P.C.". Upon request and receipt of the document payment indicated above plus a non-refundable shipping charge, the Issuing Office will transmit the Bidding

Documents via delivery service. The shipping charge amount will depend on the shipping method selected by the prospective Bidder. The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. There will be no charge for electronic copies. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 PM local time on October 21, 2025 at the Surf City Municipal Complex 214 W. Florence Way; Hampstead, NC 28443. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders shall submit proof of qualifications to perform the Work as described in the Instructions to

Bidders.

Bidders shall comply with the NC Division of Water Infrastructure's Minority and Women Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) requirements, Davis-Bacon Specifications, and American Iron and Steel Provisions, which are all included in the Bidding Documents.

Owner: Town of Surf City

By: David Price

Title: Director of Utilities

Date: September 29, 2028

Tis the season

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- D. R. Royal

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and more!



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redeem them to get
awesome prizes!



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cream and providing
delivery with
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available for parties.
Wings, Nuggets, Pizza,
and more!

(910) 803-2300
127 Sound Road, Holly Ridge, NC

Candidate for Holly Ridge Town Mayor: Dorothy Royal

1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years?

I would like to see improvement in how citizens are treated by some of the town council members and town employees. I think some of them have forgotten their duties are to the community and not to themselves. This is a very small town, and we should have small problems and lots of festivities and fun. Somewhere along the line there came a great disconnect, and that needs to end.

As with any profession, training needs to be constant to make sure our town staff is providing the best services possible to the community. Our website is outdated, we do not offer on-line features, such as permits and payments. Access to minutes from previous meetings sometimes takes months. Minutes from planning board meetings and committees need to be available as well. We need to catch up to all our neighboring communities when it comes to transparency through having all meetings live and in real time as well as accessible to viewers at a later time. These meetings need to include regular town meetings, special meetings and planning board meetings.

I would like to bring back the Holly Festival, which was held on the 1st Saturday in November and included a parade that concluded with Santa on a Fire Truck to kick off the holiday season. I would like to add a seafood festival to our town. We are now home to the world-famous Atlantic Seafood and we need to take advantage of that. We need to celebrate the history of Camp Davis and I would like to work together to create a historical center, perhaps as a joint venture with Onslow County, creating a Welcome Center that could be located on Hwy 17. A venture like this could be paid for with grants and business sponsorships and would give travelers an opportunity to stop and learn about our amazing area.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms?

I will listen to those that take the time to come to us, in person or via email or letters and I will respond with understanding. Too many people feel as if they have been ignored in this community and because of that, they have lost interest in volunteering or attending meetings. This needs to change. The most valuable thing a community has is its volunteers - people willing to provide their time, skills and knowledge for free. That is what makes a community great. We need to encourage volunteers to join committees and appreciate them for their time and contributions.

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

As someone who deals with the community and public daily, I am already privileged to the concerns of many residents and business owners. It will be my honor to do my best to listen and help provide them the information or guidance they require. If we have the right people in the right positions, both in council and as town employees, our work will become easier and less stressful. We need to become a town of "how may I help you? Let me connect you to the right person to help you get that done." We need to create a win-win situation for everyone.

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

In 2012 after the purchase of the "Paradise Club" dance hall that was built in the early 1940's, I found a booklet inside regarding the 50th Anniversary of Camp Davis. After noting the date, I realized we were a few years from the 75th Anniversary of Camp Davis. I went to the town hall and spoke about this at a town meeting and felt that I didn't get the response I hoped for or the help that was needed. I took this task upon myself and with my family and a group of volunteers from the community, put on the 75th Anniversary of Camp Davis that included a street fair (in front of the Paradise Club) vendor booths in the town park and we were able to get the Military to fly an Osprey onto the old Camp Davis landing strip and allowed us to offer tours. With a

generous donation of a bus from the Museum of the Marines in Jacksonville, we had volunteers drive the bus from the street fair across Hwy 17 and onto the Camp Davis landing strip. Jacksonville Daily News covered this event with two front page articles, and it is estimated that 3,000 people attended on that date.

In 2023, I approached the town manager with the idea of Holly Ridge becoming a Bee City, USA. After council approval, a committee was created, and I was selected as the Chairperson. In our first year, our amazing group of volunteers and town employees organized and put on the first Holly Ridge Bee Festival that was a street fair on Sound Road. Our local newspaper, The Topsail Times, featured this festival on the front page and throughout its publication. I was able to reach out to local radio stations and news agencies to spread the word. It is estimated that 2500 people attended the first Bee City Festival in Holly Ridge. Vendors ran out of supplies due to the large crowds that attended. The weather was perfect, and the street was filled with friends and music. It was a great day for the Holly Ridge community.

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you qualified to serve your community?

My great uncle Harvey Jones was one of the engineers that designed Holly Ridge streets.

When we purchased the Paradise Club building (one of the last standing structures of WWII Camp Davis) I fell in love with the fact that the road on our corner was Cole Street, named after my great Aunt Elsie Cole. My husband and children were born and raised in Holly Ridge. I remember the amazing Holly Fest that was held the 1st Saturday of November and included a parade that required Highway 17 to be shut down for 30 minutes (could you imagine that today?). I know that this town is capable of so much more. We don't need another 2000 plus homes to define us; we need more festivals and family fun events. We need to encourage more retail businesses, restaurants, medical facilities, and shopping. Why does Surf City have five grocery stores, and we have none? As a North Carolina General Contractor, I hear all the other builders complain about the Holly Ridge building issues, this has to stop. As a business owner I can attest to the fact that it is difficult to bring people to Holly Ridge when we are completely avoidable by traffic going down the island or up Hwy 50 toward Maple Hill. As a community we need to work together to encourage people to visit and shop in Holly Ridge. Having a Welcome Center on Hwy 17 would be a great asset to both our military history and our small, family-owned businesses. This town was once the center of local commerce, bringing some of that back will be a goal.

VOTE



DOROTHY ROYAL



HOLLY RIDGE MAYOR



Paid for by Dorothy Royal for Holly Ridge Mayor

Candidate for Holly Ridge Town Council: Richard Royal



1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years?

I would re-institute the Ordinance Review Committee, which I was a member of, to allow those members to complete the work that was being done with oversight from the School of Government. We need to update our zoning ordinances and our requirements for developments. There needs to be a "builder packet" that provides step-by-step procedures that need to be completed before documents are submitted. We need to have on-line permits to keep things standard across the board, this includes online payments for permits.

This will provide fairness and equality in the permitting process.

We need to focus on supporting the Fire Medic program at the Holly Ridge Fire and Rescue. With the current lack of ambulances throughout the county, supporting this program and enhancing it will only benefit those who need emergency medical help and will cut down on response time which could be the difference between life and death.

As someone who has been an active part of this community since 1971, I would like to see more emphasis on the historical element of Holly Ridge and Camp Davis to include signs and building markers and possibly a military display on Hwy 17 that people could stop at and learn about our town's history.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms?

People need to be given a chance to voice their concerns at town events and meetings and to be shown respect by members of the council as well as town employees. Council members and town employees work

for the community first and foremost. We have an obligation to listen and understand and to do our best to assist with any concerns.

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

If I am able to work to update our zoning and permitting, including getting all the ordinances reviewed in the two years I am in office, I will consider my term a success.

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

Years ago, when I was contacted by the Parks and Recreation committee, that was made up of volunteers including Anna Gaskins and Luann Hooper, I was asked to build a large, covered pole barn in the park to be used as a picnic area. It was done on time and on budget. We built it for the price of the materials and volunteered our labor. This was the park where my children were playing almost daily, and I wanted to make it as nice as possible for them and the community.

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you qualified to serve your community?

I have grown up with many of the

people who still live here today and remember when the town had so much more to offer. We had a grocery store, a furniture store, restaurants, a lumber company, a hardware store, an ambulance, sidewalks, streetlights, a dance hall (the Paradise Club) that was used for beauty pageants, square dances, prom parties, town plays and an auction house. We had a water tower that was located behind the current town hall. We had a racetrack located off Hwy 17 (near Evolve apartments). For my first real job as a young teen, I worked at the Camp Davis restaurant that had walls covered in photos and displays of Camp Davis, not to mention the world-famous Clam Chowder (with Mary Elizabeth Ottaway's secret recipe). I remember when Slim Wilson was the chief of police, and we only had one cop. He was a big man, about 6'4" and intimidating. He kept the marines in line and the kids out of trouble. We had a group of about 30 kids that rode bicycles everywhere and the guys wore blue jean jackets with cut off sleeves. We need to bring back that feeling of a harmonious community.

Sample Ballot

Onslow County, North Carolina
November 4, 2025

Precinct HR17_-V0011
Page 1 of 1

NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS

Town of Holly Ridge Mayor

(You may vote for ONE)

☐ Pirooz (Pete) Parnian

☒ Dorothy Royal

☐ _____
Write-in

Town of Holly Ridge Council Member

(You may vote for TWO)

☐ Jeff Barton

☐ Rena J. Bragg

☒ Joseph Correia

☐ Gregory Hines

☒ Brandon Longo

☐ _____
Write-in

☐ _____
Write-in

Town of Holly Ridge Council Member

Unexpired term ending in 2027

(You may vote for ONE)

☐ Pamala Hall

☒ Richard Royal

☐ _____
Write-in

End of Ballot

Candidate for Holly Ridge Town Council: Joe Correia



1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years.

A. Increase citizen participation in committees and workshops.

B. Increased emphasis on improving under developed land/buildings within the current town limits.

C. Develop a concept/plan to make Holly Ridge a tourist destination where all age groups want to come to play, eat and relax.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms.

Implement an online form where citizens can easily fill out and submit through the town's webpage. Receive confirmation that their form has been received and an expected action date. This system will provide question/recommendation/complaint tracking.

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

Smart growth and responsible fiscal care resulting in no tax increases.

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

In my neighborhood I was a member of our HOA Amenities Committee. I was the project lead for improvement to the sports courts. I developed a plan to define the need to add pickleball courts while maintaining the integrity of the existing tennis courts.

I researched and interviewed suitable contractors and produced a recommendation to the HOA covering costs and available warranties. Additionally, although not a project per say, I am an active member with Share the Table Foodbank helping in the distribution of food to our neighbors and assisting in the foodbank's functions. Finally, I am a delivery driver for our local Meals on Wheels program.

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you qualified to serve your community?

As a 20 year retired Naval Flight Officer I learned and developed a leadership style where I seek out collaboration from junior officers and senior and junior enlisted personnel. I will do the same as your council member. I will seek out opinions / recommendations from fellow council members, town staff and

citizens. With your voice we will make a better future for Holly Ridge.

✓ **Community First**

✓ **Sensible Growth**

✓ **Fiscal Responsibility**

✓ **Health & Emergency Services**

✓ **Quality of Life**

✓ **Infrastructure & Safety**



JOE CORREIA For Holly Ridge Town Council



*Your Voice. Our Town.
A Better Future.*

Priorities for Holly Ridge:

- Community First
- Sensible Growth
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Health & Emergency Services
- Quality of Life
- Infrastructure & Safety

✉ joeforhrtowncouncil@gmail.com

☎ 910-466-8044

📘 Joe Correia For HR Town Council

After a 20-year career as a U.S. Navy Naval Flight Officer, my wife, Andrea, and I retired in 2021 and proudly made Holly Ridge home. My services included leading and mentoring young officers and enlisted personnel, multiple combat deployments, and working closely with Marines from Camp Lejeune. These experiences deepened my understanding of the needs of our families and the value of strong, supportive communities. I volunteer with Meals on Wheels and Share the Table. As your council representative, I'll listen, collaborate, and make decisions that reflect the values of our town.



Paid for by Joe Correia for Town Council

Jacksonville • Onslow
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MEET THE CANDIDATES Forums

OCT. 14 & 16

Jacksonville City Hall

815 New Bridge St,
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Meet The Candidates Forum Onslow gives the public an opportunity to meet selected candidates for the 2025 Municipal Elections.

You will get to hear from candidates running for Jacksonville Town Council, Town of Swansboro Commissioners, and Town of Holly Ridge Council Members. At Forum Onslow you can get to learn more about the candidates on your ballot.

Schedule

October 14, 2025

**Candidates for Jacksonville Town Council
9:00AM-10:30AM**

**Candidates for Town of Swansboro Commissioners
11:00AM-12:30PM**

October 16, 2025

**Candidates for Town of Holly Ridge Council Members
9:30AM-11:00AM**

This event is free and open to everyone; no tickets are required.

This event will be broadcast live and later rebroadcast on G10 TV for those who miss the live showing.

Sponsored By:

JBOR

Candidate for Holly Ridge Town Council: Brandon Longo

1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years.

Managed growth with a stern focus on infrastructure. Holly Ridge has seen rapid population growth in recent years, which brings opportunities — but also puts pressure on roads, utilities, schools, and vital public services.

Support for Local Businesses and Workforce Development. Promote small community-based business growth. Holly Ridge is well-positioned between Jacksonville and Wilmington, but many residents still commute for work. Supporting local businesses helps strengthen the local economy and keeps dollars in the town.

Holly Ridge is at a turning point. By planning ahead, investing in people, and protecting the character of our town, we can make sure growth brings **benefits — not burdens** — to the families who call this place home.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms.

An effective strategy involves a combination of transparency, active listening, accountability, and consistent communication. People want to feel heard and understood,

especially when they're upset. Gather all relevant facts before responding in full. Share what you've learned clearly and honestly. Invite continued feedback through forums, surveys, or community meetings. Provide results, not just words. Prove your response isn't just PR!

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

Set clear, measurable goals. Establish specific, time-bound objectives that are in line with your mission. Provide regular progress reports on ongoing work and any setbacks. Create channels for continuous input and review from community members. Show a willingness to adapt based on public input and new data. Mistakes or delays should be met with a clear plan to fix them, not defensiveness.

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

One of the most meaningful community projects I've led recently was implementing Holly Ridge's first full-time 24/7 emergency services staffing program — which included launching our very own paramedic program!

Before this, our town relied heavily on mostly volunteer support, which still plays a critical role in our

response posture but often meant longer response times during emergencies after normal working hours when previous part-time staff was not working. I worked closely with town leadership, county and state officials, developed the operational plan, managed the budget, and helped build the staffing model that allowed us to provide around-the-clock coverage right here in Holly Ridge. The addition of a dedicated paramedic-level service meant faster, more advanced care during critical moments — and ultimately, better outcomes for our residents.

This project wasn't just about logistics — it was about meeting a growing need in a fast-growing community. It took coordination, planning, and the trust of the people I served with. Today, I'm proud to say that the program is saving lives, reducing response times, and giving Holly Ridge the level of emergency care it needs and deserves.

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you qualified to serve your community?

Professionally, I've worked in emergency services for just over 21 years, where I've developed key skills in leadership, budgeting, problem-solving, strategic planning, and community outreach.

I've led teams, managed personnel and resources, overseen complex projects, and handled budgets with accountability and care. In this role, I've worked closely with people from all walks of life — often during their most difficult moments — and I've learned how to listen, act quickly, and make decisions that balance immediate needs with long-term priorities.


These are the same qualities needed in local government. You must be able to lead under pressure, bring people together, manage limited resources, and always keep the community's well-being at the center of your decisions.

My background in emergency services has shown me the importance of preparation, transparency, and trust. I'm running to bring those same values to public service, and to make sure Holly Ridge is not just growing — but growing responsibly, safely, and in a way that benefits every resident.

I'm not a career politician. I'm a neighbor who cares deeply about Holly Ridge's future — and I believe that with the right leadership, we can grow in a way that protects our values, improves our quality of life, and brings real results for the people who live here.

Paid for by Brandon Longo for Town Council

BRANDON LONGO FOR TOWN COUNCIL



I am a lifelong resident of Holly Ridge. My family and I are proud to call this amazing town home. With more than two decades of experience in emergency services, I am committed to public service.

I believe the local government should operate with transparency, fiscal responsibility, and a clear focus on long-term planning. As your representative, I will work to prioritize public safety, support smart growth, and make decisions that protect the interests of Holly Ridge families--both today and for generations to come. Holly Ridge is growing--and with its growth comes the need for strong leadership.

As a dedicated public servant with more than 20 years in fire and emergency services, I know what it takes to make smart, timely decisions that put people first.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- longo.brandon@icloud.com
- 910.800.9335
- Brandon Longo for HR Councilman

WHY I'M RUNNING FOR TOWN COUNCIL:

- Responsible Growth
- Public Safety First
- Transparent, Accountable Government
- Financially Sound Future

Committed to Service. Focused on the Future.

I believe in preparing for the future and protecting what matters most: our families, our safety, and our shared values.

MEET THE CANDIDATES



Holly Ridge Candidates

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dorothy Royal
Richard Royal
Brandon Longo
Joe Correia

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 10TH
6:30pm to 8:30pm

FISHMONGER'S HONEST SEAFOOD

756 East Ocean Rd

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 21ST
2:00pm to 5:00pm

PARADISE AXE & ARCADE

127 Sound Road



Candidate for Surf City Town Council: Jillian Miranda

1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years.

I would like the town council and other government officials to act with transparency and high ethical standards, including disclosing any personal or business benefits and quid pro quo received from serving on the board. There is too much behind the scenes deal making. Transparency in decision-making is important for public accountability.

I would like to reexamine all the building permits that are pending and do a total review and rework of the growth plan for our town. Responsible and sustainable (where possible) growth is something that clearly needs to be reviewed. We need to save room for more green spaces, perhaps picnic areas and playgrounds. Developers should pay a premium to build here, and we need to be careful about who we allow to

build.

It would be beneficial for some residents to adopt a more welcoming attitude toward tourists on our social media pages. Tourists play a vital role in supporting our local businesses. Reflecting on my own travel experiences, I have encountered unwelcoming comments on other cities' Facebook pages, which influenced my decision to visit. I believe such interactions can affect other potential visitors as well.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms.

My main priority would be to have the council more responsive to citizen input. Currently, town council meetings are scheduled at times that limit public attendance. Adjusting the meeting schedule could increase accessibility. Additionally, greater transparency in decision-making is important. Items such as the huge tax increase should not be done in secret

but put up for open public discussion, allowing residents to be informed, ask questions, propose options, and share their opinions. If the council continues to not take questions during regular council meetings, I encourage council members to hold monthly "office hours" where groups of citizens may come to ask questions. Private meetings and emails are fine, but they also can be secretive and easily bent to suit whoever happens to be in that meeting or in that email. This arrangement would also provide an opportunity to learn about community needs. Increasing openness in communication can help support accountability and public trust.

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

The most reliable indicator of an individual's effectiveness in office is the degree of support received from the citizens. This is why I am committed to regular "office hours" for citizens to bring their concerns & needs to my attention.

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

As a semi-retired personal chef, my community work centers on food-related outreach. I've worked in food banks, distributed meals, and created nutritious food bags for the homeless. I led a 200-person volunteer team delivering meals to families facing challenges like bereavement, new births, adoptions, or medical issues. I also work with other chefs to support World Central Kitchen. In addition, I have taught nutritious meal planning and preparation to families with limited resources in elementary and middle schools.

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you qualified to serve your community?

I have owned a successful private cheffing and catering business for over twenty years. During this time, I have trained teenagers with no prior experience to excel in demanding roles. Through this process, I emphasized the importance of hard work and dedication. My goal was to foster a true team spirit, encouraging kindness and respect toward both clients and fellow team members. Many of these young

people went on to support themselves through college, working in the hospitality industry.

Building on my leadership experience in hospitality, I later applied my skills in educational settings. I have worked in public schools, primarily with differently abled and traumatized children, teaching writing and reading skills. This work required tremendous patience and collaboration. Success depended on working closely with school staff and parents to create a supportive learning environment.

Ethics and fairness are central to my approach. I hold a Master's Degree in Divinity and maintain a high personal standard of integrity. For example, when faced with a difficult decision regarding resource allocation in my business, I prioritized fairness and transparency, ensuring all team members understood the process. I do not hold any personal interests that would influence my decisions on the council. My intention is to bring a strong sense of ethics into council chambers and to be a model for those who may struggle with doing the right thing under pressure.

VOTE

Jillian Rodrigues de Miranda

For Surf City Town Council

- ✓ No Agendas,
Just service
- ✓ Responsible
Taxation & growth
- ✓ Preserving our
town's identity

Comunnity***Home***Heart



For more info:

**Jill for Surf City
on Facebook**

Nov. 4th!

**Early Voting:
10/16-11/2**



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Insurance**



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Sharon Jordan
Insurance Advisor

sharonj@sizemoreinsurance.com
O: 910.444.0923
C: 910.262.2029
Hampstead, NC

Candidate for Surf City Town Council: Andreas (Andy) Pleil



1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years?

First, repeal the 30% property tax hike and commit to responsible budgeting that doesn't overestimate expenses and underestimate revenue.

Second, bring transparency and accountability back to Town Hall so residents know that their tax dollars are being spent on their priorities wisely and prudently.

Third, strengthen community involvement by ensuring council decisions aren't buried in consent agendas or made without full opportunity for public input.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms?

The most important thing is to listen first. I plan to hold regular meet-and-greets, make myself available by phone and email, and push for more open dialogue at council meetings. Criticism is part of leadership, and I'll take it seriously, respond respectfully, and use it as an opportunity to improve decisions and build trust.

I plan to continue my detailed analysis of the town budget publicly and share it, so everyone can see the same concerns with the town's past budgeting and spending practices as I do. I think this will go a long way to addressing public concerns over the recent 30% tax hike and how it can be undone.

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

Success won't be measured by what's good for me, but by what's good for Surf City. If we've repealed the tax hike, balanced the budget without burdening families, and created a culture of transparency and accountability at Town Hall, then I'll consider that a success. I'll also look to the residents to evaluate me and that they feel they are being heard and represented — if people feel more included in the process, that's a win.

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

I've worked directly with neighbors to bring attention to important local issues — from budget concerns to transparency in council decisions. Most recently, through this campaign, I've helped organize community discussions, meet-and-greets, and provide opportunities for residents to engage on the issues that matter most, like taxes, parking, and public safety.

I was a member of the Community Adjudication Committee which provided a forum for residents to appeal ordinance violations. It was disbanded by the town. This needs to be restored.

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you qualified to serve your community?

I am an economist by training. I bring that expertise and a resident's perspective. I've managed programs and budgets at a Fortune 100 company, analyzed spending, and know how to ask the tough questions, find creative solutions, and make the hard decisions. Just as importantly, I'm not in this for a paycheck or a title — I've already pledged not to take the town council salary or health care stipend and am self-funding my campaign. I'm running to represent the people of Surf City, to repeal the tax hike, and to restore accountability to local government.

Candidate for Surf City Town Council: Jeremy Shugarts



1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years?

No real changes. I want to make sure that people have all the facts so they can make better assessments. Disinformation is easily spread and we must rapidly, as a city, do a better job by educating those citizens.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms?

Take the high road with hate filled comments on social media and make sure disinformation is corrected with fact and truth. I pride myself on

connecting with the community. Surf City is made up of 10 times more space on the mainland and 5 times the voters, however I am the only council member out of the 5 of us that live on the mainland. Representing that group of citizens is critical!

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

My constituents always say, "Why do you list out all of the things you have done for the community?" I believe it's our responsibility and we do these things because it is why we took the job. Handling issues and being available to your constituents is crucial.

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

The projects I'm currently working on are the Multi Use Path and our Sewage problem. These are close to my heart and I want to get them completed before the next term would be up!

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you qualified to serve your community?

Coming from a background of self employment and managing hundreds of employees gives me a different

perspective in city management as there are many similarities. Coaching football at the high school, college and semi pro level has made me a better leader. Being the father of 6 children has taught me discernment.



Town of
Surf City
NORTH CAROLINA

The new mobile app is a direct line to Surf City right in your pocket!

Search "SurfCityNC" in your app store or scan the QR code below!



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TO DOWNLOAD!

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App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play



Built by:



Vote Andy Pleil for Surf City Town Council



Meet Andy

A neighbor who
loves Surf City as
much as you do!

Andy's roots in Surf City run deep.

He remembers Serenity Point before the condos—
he even has a piece of the old swing bridge.

His parents retired here in the 1990s, & in 2001
Andy's family bought a little piece of paradise here.

A Life of Service & Hard Work

- Detail-oriented pharmacist, economist, & researcher
- Married 43 years, proud father of an airline pilot
- Started at 16 mopping floors in a mom-&-pop pharmacy
- Retired executive from a Fortune 100 company

Support Andy to fight & repeal the tax hike!

Early voting begins
Thursday, Oct. 16th

Election day is
Tuesday, November 4th

Surf City Community Center, 201 Community Center Dr.

SCAN ME



LEARN MORE AT:

ANDYFORSURFCITY.COM

PAID FOR BY ANDY PLEIL

Candidate for Surf City Town Council: Hugh Cannady



1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years?

- Implement a revenue-neutral budget in 2026/2027 to stabilize property taxes and provide relief for residents.

- Improve infrastructure, roads, stormwater, water/sewer, and sidewalks to keep pace with Surf City's growth.

- Continued investment in public safety and beach/waterway protection to ensure Surf City remains safe, resilient, and family-friendly.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms?

My approach is grounded in fairness, accountability, and open communication. I plan to maintain an open-door policy. With 28 years of experience in the Highway Patrol, I understand that listening first and responding with respect is key. I will always provide reasonable, rational, logical and ethical explanations for decisions, even when we may not all agree.

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

Success will be measured in two ways: through tangible outcomes and community trust. Tangible outcomes include stabilizing taxes through a revenue-neutral budget, delivering needed infrastructure improvements, and strengthening public safety services. Equally important, success means residents feel heard, respected, and confident that decisions are being made reasonably,

rationally, logically and ethically.

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

As a current Surf City Town Councilman, I've supported infrastructure planning, budget decisions, and projects that directly improve quality of life, such as expanding sidewalks and investing in beach renourishment. Outside of council, I've also contributed as a longtime volunteer at community events. I've worked to build strong relationships with civic organizations, encouraging their support and, when possible, their contributions of funding to important projects like the multi-use path, which will create greater interconnectivity throughout Surf City. Each effort reflects my commitment to strengthening our town for current residents and future generations.

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you qualified to serve your community?

I bring a lifetime of service and local commitment. I retired in 2022 after 28 years with the NC State Highway Patrol, serving Pender, New Hanover, Brunswick, and Onslow counties. That experience has given me a deeper

understanding of public safety and the challenges that our public safety officers face every day. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Political Science. I completed NC State's Administrative Officers Management Program (AOMP) in 2020, which provided strong training in public administration. I am a 30-year resident of Surf City, husband, small business owner, father of a Topsail High School senior, and HOA president of my neighborhood. I understand the needs of our families and the local economy. Having served on Surf City Town Council since 2023, I know firsthand the challenges and opportunities our town faces. My decision-making approach, which is based on being Reasonable, Rational, Logical, and Ethical, guides me in ensuring Surf City continues to thrive while preserving its coastal, family-friendly character.

- **Incumbent**

- **Serving 2 years 7 months**

- **Appointed February 2023**

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Local Stump Sound Oysters
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Local Pender County Honey & Produce

Open 7 Days A Week!

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GATOR TAIL
FROG LEGS
SNOW CRAB

Hurricane Season isn't Over

Make a Plan

Get a Kit

Stay Informed

CODERED

Candidate for North Topsail Beach Mayor: Richard Grant



1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years?

1. Adopt with input from all Stakeholders a 5 (five) year Strategic Plan with priorities that included implementation of the financial controls to ensure that we are responsible stewards of stakeholders/town resources.

2. Finish permitting and construct

the beaches in Phases 1,2 and 3 so that they are “engineered” beaches and have the same protections as Phase 4 and 5.

3. More open discussions at Alderman meetings and more “forums” with Stakeholders where their issues can be heard.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms?

Implement the 5 year strategic plan with the necessary financial controls and priorities. By setting priorities and understanding the town's resources we can effectively plan and avoid tax increases. Have more forums with stakeholders. I routinely attend HOA meetings, meet and discuss issues with them and give timely responses to questions. We do not do enough outreach and should not rely on the monthly meetings. Having forums in establishing the strategic plan will allow us to

understand our Stakeholder's priorities.

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

The Strategic Plan will lay out the priorities, and will drive the budget process. Each year we will publish a “scorecard” against what we said we were to accomplish and what we did.

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

As Town liaison I have rebuilt the Town's relationship with Onslow County, resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars flowing to the Town each year. Onslow County also granted money to Ocean City and has committed over \$1.5 million for work on County beach accesses this year

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you qualified to serve your community?

Professionally, I have over 30 years of executive experience, as President and CEO of both international and domestic

companies, served on publicly traded and private company boards, and on state, national and international association boards. I've appeared as Counsel before the US Department of Energy, testified before the US Senate and spent thousands of hours in Washington DC meeting with senators, congressmen and government officials. In addition, I've been a small business owner. I'm both an attorney and a civil engineer.



Upcoming Events

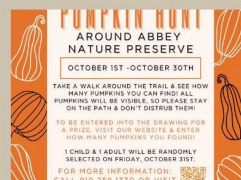
Oct.
4



Reel Housewives of Topsail Island

It's the Pinkest Most Fun you will have while raising funds for local breast cancer patients. Start at Soundside Park.

Oct.
1-30



The Pumpkin Hunt

Pender County Parks and Recreation invites you and your family to visit Abbey Nature Trail for a Pumpkin Hunt. See details www.topsailchamber.org/events

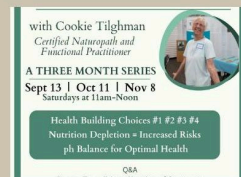
Oct.
10



Movie in the Park

How about a little Hocus Pocus at Soundside Park? Bring the family, lawn chairs, pick up a pizza from Max's, and enjoy a movie under the stars.

Oct.
11



Health and Wellness

Join Cookie Tilghman for a workshop on Health and Wellness at the Chamber's office.

Oct.
11



Candy Drop

Candy will fall from the sky at Hampstead Kiwanis Park. For details, see the Chamber's events calendar.

MORE EVENTS FOUND AT TOPSAILCHAMBER.ORG

Share the Table

Town of
NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH
FOUNDED IN 1990 Historic Tranquil Beauty NORTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 22, 2025 ~ 5PM - 7PM
RICHARD C. PETERS PARK - 465 NEW RIVER INLET RD., NTB

HOWL-O-WEEN
PET PARADE & COSTUME CONTEST
CHECK-IN 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

PRE-REGISTER AT: NORTHTOPSAILBEACHNC.GOV/EVENT
ALL PRE-REGISTERED PETS WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL GOODY BAG COURTESY OF PET SUPPLIES PLUS

COSTUME CATEGORIES:
-CUTEST
-SCARIEST
-MOST ORIGINAL
-BEST HUMAN-PET DUO
-BEST OVERALL
TROPHY FOR BEST OVERALL

ACTIVITIES:
-PARADE OF PETS & COSTUME JUDGING
-PUP CUP TREATS
-50/50 CASH RAFFLE TO BENEFIT PAWS 4 PURPOSE
-PHOTO OPS
-HOT & COLD APPLE CIDER
-NO RULES FOOD TRUCK & REBEL BONES

ENTRY FEE IS A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR SHARE THE TABLE

SPONSORED BY PET SUPPLIES PLUS

PAWS 4 PURPOSE

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Licensed Plumber

910-859-3014

firmfoundationplumbing@gmail.com

www.topsailtimes.net

Candidate for North Topsail Beach Alderman: Kip Malcolm



1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years?

I will be dedicated to a vision for North Topsail Beach that includes these three pillars: public safety and emergency management; coastal resilience; and building a stronger sense of community. As a retired law enforcement officer, and current reserve police officer for the Town, I understand that a proactive approach to public safety is essential - from

daily operations, partnerships with the region, and comprehensive disaster preparedness. This goes hand-in-hand with our need to protect our shores. I will ensure that we are taking the necessary steps to protect our homes and natural resources from our changing environment and constant growth. Finally, I will work to engage and connect our residents, homeowners, and visitors with the Town so that we can build a strong community together by including many voices to build our future.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms?

I believe that every resident, owner, and visitors' voices are valuable to ensuring the success of our Town. I look to increase and improve accessibility, direct engagement, and transparency by meeting regularly with neighborhood groups, homeowners associations, and civic groups in and around our Town. For residents unable to meet in person, my webpage, email and social media channels will all provide accessible platforms for communication and feedback. I'll be proactively listening to concerns and addressing any

criticisms before they escalate.

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

The most effective ways to evaluate success is through tangible results and community feedback. To measure progress, I will ensure timely updates on any planned projects and demand accountability when we fall short of our goals. I will listen to the voices in our community by allowing direct feedback. If, at the end of my four years in office, I have not demonstrated clear progress on issues that matter most to our community, I would not seek re-election thus allowing new voices and fresh ideas to guide our community forward.

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

Being an active member and Vice President of the Ocean City Beach Citizens Council has given me a direct way to support our community. For years, we have worked to preserve the history and beauty of this historic neighborhood through hands-on projects and community events. This includes raising funds to rebuild our private beach crossover and hosting neighborhood gatherings like our annual Labor Day block party. I've also

been a dedicated volunteer for the Ocean City Jazz Festival, an event that not only celebrates heritage and music, but also strengthens our local culture and economy. These actions demonstrate my commitment to bringing people together and directly improving our community.

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you qualified to serve your community?

My long career in law enforcement has instilled a deep commitment to public safety and a practical understanding of how to build trust within a community. I've worked on the front lines responding to emergencies and I have worked behind-the-scenes with local, state, and federal government partners to strengthen our community. Since moving to North Topsail Beach, I've continued my dedication to service by becoming a reserve police officer, serving as the chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and working closely with the Ocean City Beach Citizens Council. My hands-on involvement shows my commitment to our Town and proves I am a leader who is willing to roll up my sleeves to get the job done.

Candidate for North Topsail Beach Alderman: Larry Strother



1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years?

During the next four years I would like to see the completion of our 5 Year Beach Renourishment Action plan. I would like to see continuing

efforts to create long term financial plans for other Town projects i.e. infrastructure, etc. I would like to see the communication improve between the community and the BOA.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms?

I plan to acknowledge and respect the public's concerns and criticisms. If the communication improves as identified in item 1. I believe we can minimize those issues.

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

My success will be measured by the completion of our plans and goals as it pertains to the overall success of the BOA as a whole. We need to be a Board and not just a group of individuals.

4) Can you give an example of how

you have supported a community project in the past?

I was one of the original members of the Beach Inlet Sound Advisory Committee, BISAC, 3 1/2 years ago and have served as the Chairman for 2.5 years. During that time we have developed the 5 year Action Plan and a 30 Year Maintenance Plan.

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you

qualified to serve your community?

I spent nearly 5 decades in the Building, Development, Real Estate, Industries and served as President of the Board of Realtors and the Home Builders Association in Fayetteville NC. During that time spent in the private sector I had to use the majority of the skills needed to qualify to serve the Town of North Topsail Beach for the next 4 Years.



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ALL ABC PERMITS

Candidate for Topsail Beach Council Member: Nancy Thomason



1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years?

1. Focus areas include maintaining our beach, inlet and sound; the impact of growth on our water source; flooding; the future need for sewer; and the increasing traffic challenges. All of these can impact the quality of life we enjoy at Topsail Beach.

2. We have limited financial resources and multiple projects competing for those resources.

The commissioners need to collaborate with the staff to find alternatives or options, as well as grants, and other sources of funding. We need to balance fiscal responsibility with responsible growth as the town must support both the 500 permanent residents but also the close to 10,000 summer population.

3. Increased communication and transparency with the residents and enhanced resident engagement. The residents/taxpayers need to know the decisions that are being made and why and they need to be aware of issues beforehand.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms?

I intend to do more to foster communication and transparency and encourage residents to attend the commissioner meetings so they are aware of current issues. I am out in the community and I welcome communication from the residents

and will work to address their concerns. Listening to the residents is essential to being a good commissioner. I feel the commissioners represent the residents and their needs, not one's own agenda.

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

The residents in Topsail Beach are not shy about voicing their opinions on how things are going. If the level of resident engagement at commissioner meetings increases and our residents are, if not embracing, supportive of our decisions, that will be success!

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

I helped facilitate individual and group meetings between the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust and local individuals to raise the funds needed to preserve the South End. We were very successful in our effort to generate local support as this community truly cares. I also got very involved in minimizing the recent tax increase.

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you qualified to serve your community?

Our family has had a presence at Topsail Beach since 1951... I love this place. I have a strong financial / business management background, skill at researching issues and I am a creative problem solver. During the ten years I have been a permanent resident, I have attended the commissioner meetings and am quite familiar with the challenges our town faces. I have been involved at Emma Anderson Chapel, as a Historical Society volunteer and an AWT volunteer. I was a key contributor to helping the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust preserve the South End.



Candidate for Topsail Beach Council Member: John Best



1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years?

1. Lower our Town Tax Rate. We implemented paid parking in 2025 to help pay for long term beach renourishment projects and add to our Town budget. Pender Co. Property Tax Revaluation Tax Rates will add to our incoming town tax

base in 2026.

2. Collaborate with State and Federal Agencies to find real solutions to street and island flooding due to seasonal king tides.

3. Create and fund long-term plans to improve our small downtown pedestrian, bike and golf cart flows and parking. Create prettier landscaping and townscaping for a more identifiable town experience.

4. Create a new joint "Traffic Control Task Force" between Surf City, N Topsail Beach, Topsail Beach and Holly Ridge. Adding traffic control officers from all local beach communities to alleviate gridlock situations on rental check in check out days and before and after major storms.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms?

TB Commissioners respond publicly to "live" public comments and criticisms during monthly Commissioner Board Meetings. We also respond to written comments by

email or phone call.

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

My last 12 months in Office will be measured by early voting and on November 4th at the ballot box. Our Constituents like to tell us how we are performing regularly via public comments and emails read aloud at our monthly Board of Commissioner's meetings.

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

I attended fundraising events to financially support the NC Land Trust in purchasing and preserving our wonderful and wild South End property.

As Chairman of our Parks & Recreation Board, I supported the study and creation of our Parks & Rec Master Plan to preserve our local environmental beach and estuarine resources for public use and promote recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you

qualified to serve your community?

I founded and grew a Public Safety Uniform Company from 1 employee to 108 employees over a 28 year history of high economic performance and sold the company to a national brand. My wife and I were always paid last. We created a budget, preplanned and paid our tax liabilities, made payroll, and paid for millions in required inventory. My wife and I know our town budget is funded by our residents, property owners and rentals.



Candidate for Topsail Beach Council Member: Tim Zizack

1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years?

1. Phased Multi Use Path - safety of citizens and visitors

2. Increase revenue earmarked for underfunded Beach Renourishment Fund.

3. A Parking Plan that manages the increasing number of residents and visitors.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms?

I will continue to be transparent, sharing my opinions and answering all questions with my social media Facebook page, "Tim Z Commissioner Topsail Beach" and personally engage in open discussions on any topic at "Coffee with the Commissioner" events.

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

As an incumbent, I will continue to self evaluate my shared ideas that have a positive impact with residents and visitors. Measuring cost savings initiatives with accountability.

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

I have and will continue to do all I can to support and maintain our Beach Renourishment Plan.

5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you qualified to serve your community?

Experienced as a Two Term Town Commissioner. Current Mayor Pro Tempore. Collaborating with 4 Mayors, 6 Elected Commissioners, 4 Appointed Commissioners and 3 Town Managers over 8 years. Strong established relationships with all levels of Local, County and State and Federal Government.

Candidate for Topsail Beach Council Member: Alexander Arab



1) What 3 changes, if any, would you like to see in the community you will be representing over the next four years?

a) Control spending and protect affordability. Our property tax rate has nearly doubled in six years, and that is unsustainable for many residents. I will work to curb unnecessary spending and use town reserves responsibly to help limit tax increases.

b) Improve communication. As a retired, full-time resident, I have the time and commitment to listen to neighbors and property owners. I will be accessible and responsive.

c) Preserve our small-town character. Most of us came to Topsail Beach because it is peaceful, historic, and naturally beautiful. I will work to maintain that charm and resist unnecessary growth and overdevelopment.

2) What strategy will you implement to respond to public concerns and criticisms?

I will publish my phone number and email, respond promptly to messages, and host informal gatherings where residents can share ideas directly. This will create open dialogue and reduce the misinformation that sometimes circulates.

3) How do you plan to measure and evaluate your success in office?

My success will be measured by how well I listen and respond. If residents feel heard, if our taxes are stable, and if Topsail keeps its unique character, then I will consider my service successful.

4) Can you give an example of how you have supported a community project in the past?

I've served on the Parks and Recreation Committee, where I proposed improvements to increase use of our pickleball courts. I also volunteer with the Historical Society of Topsail Island. Most recently, as co-chair of Bingo, I helped raise over \$30,000 to support scholarships for local students and maintain the museum.

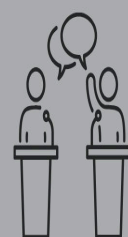
5) What personal or professional experience do you have that makes you qualified to serve your community?

I spent 20 years running my own business, which taught me the importance of managing budgets and making smart financial decisions. My professional background as an analyst sharpened my problem-solving skills, and I have also served in leadership roles with nonprofit

organizations. These experiences have prepared me to serve Topsail Beach with both fiscal responsibility and community focus.



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



MEET THE CANDIDATES Forums

Meet The Candidates Forum Onslow gives the public an opportunity to meet selected candidates for the 2025 Municipal Elections.

You will get to hear from candidates running for Jacksonville Town Council, Town of Swansboro Commissioners, and Town of Holly Ridge Council Members. At Forum Onslow you can get to learn more about the candidates on your ballot.

Meet the Candidates Forums are free and open to the public; no tickets are required. Watch live on G10 TV and our Facebook page, or catch the replay later on G10 TV.

OCT. 14 & 16, 2025

Jacksonville City Hall

815 New Bridge St,
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Schedule

October 14, 2025

Candidates for Jacksonville Town Council
9:00 AM – 10:30 am

Candidates for Town of Swansboro
Commissioners
11:00 AM – 12:30 am

October 16, 2025

Candidates for Town of Holly Ridge
Council Members
9:30 AM – 11:00 am

Scottish Heritage Celebration Launches the North Carolina First in Freedom Festival, Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge

On Saturday October 18, from 10 am - 3 pm, Moores Creek National Battlefield invites the public to step back in time and experience the rich traditions of Scottish culture during a special Scottish Heritage Day celebration. This immersive event will offer a full day of music, dance, crafts, and history for the whole family and will serve as the launch of the North Carolina First in Freedom Festival, part of the 250th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge. Highlights of the day include:

- Featured Events:
- 11 am** – Dr. Kimberly Sherman will present on the Highland Scots in North Carolina
 - 11 am** – Scottish Dance performance by the Annandale Center from Cary, NC
 - Noon** – Announcement of the Launch of the North Carolina First in

Freedom Festival

12:15 pm – Wilmington Police Pipes and Drums Performance

1 pm - Catherine Fort, President of the Scottish Society of Wilmington will highlight the Cape Fear Immigration Memorial, which will be dedicated in November at Brunswicktown.

1 pm – Scottish Dance performance by the Annandale Center from Cary, NC

2pm – Wilmington Police Pipes and Drums Performance

Additionally, a variety of hands-on colonial crafts such as candlemaking, corn husk doll making, and many other activities will be offered.

In addition to the day's festivities, park staff and partners will officially unveil the North Carolina First in Freedom Festival, which will feature a week-long series of events across southeastern North Carolina,

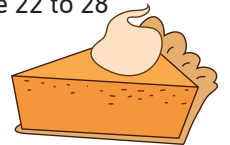
culminating in the 250th anniversary of special celebration! The event is FREE the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge on and OPEN to the public. February 26-28, 2026. The launch will include the announcement of a special guest who will headline the February Facebook: commemoration. For a full listing of event details, please stay connected to us on www.facebook.com/moorescreeknps or visit our website: www.nps.gov/mocr.

Caramel Filled Pumpkin Bars Recipe

Filling
11 oz caramel bits
1/4 cup heavy cream

Batter
3/4 cup salted butter, softened
1 cup brown sugar, packed
2 large eggs
2 tsp vanilla
1 cup pumpkin puree
2 cup flour
1 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp salt
1 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp allspice
3/4 tsp nutmeg

Preheat the oven to 350F. In a microwave bowl, combine caramel bits and cream. Microwave in 30-second increments, stirring in between until smooth. Set aside. Combine butter and sugar and beat until fluffy. Beat in eggs, vanilla, and pumpkin. In a separate bowl, stir together remaining ingredients and add to pumpkin mix. Stir until just combined. Spread 2/3 of the batter onto the bottom of the greased 9" x 13" pan. Pour caramel mixture over the top. Drop the remaining batter over the caramel in dollops and spread out evenly. Bake 22 to 28 minutes.








Purchase the tickets at the door or via PayPal (@SurfCityRotary) or CashApp (\$SurfCityRotary)
Put the type of admission and quantity in comments if using app.

General Admission:
\$20 for both days

VIP:
\$30 for both days



OCTOBER 10TH & 11TH

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20+ films shown from several countries; UK, France, Spain, Portugal, and Chile as well as US films.

Music videos, shorts, documentaries and feature films.

October 10th Schedule

Red Carpet: 5:00 - 5:30pm
Event start time: 5:30pm
End of Event: 9:00pm

October 11th Schedule

Event start time: 9:00am
Film Makers workshop: Noon - 1:00pm
Event end time: 5:00pm
After-Event Social: 5:00pm - 7:00pm



www.SurfCityIFF.com

For questions, email: SurfCityIFF@gmail.com

Word Search: Halloween

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Night
Face painting
Werewolf
October
Autumn
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