



# NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release**

**Friday, June 5, 2015**

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## **Primary entrance re-opens to downtown Beaufort's Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park**

Beaufort's renovations to the West Street Plaza entrance at the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park are substantially complete and pedestrians are welcome.

"It's a beautiful project that adds a lot to the downtown streetscape," Beaufort City Manager Bill Prokop said. "The new design is cleaner, brighter and certainly a lot safer with the new brick pavers instead of the uneven concrete. We are proud of this project – and glad it's complete."

Some punch-list details on the project will be addressed in coming weeks along with minor clean-up. A raised planter on the western side of the plaza will be filled and planted and a hatch cover will be installed over the access point under the Bay Street Jewelers and Common Ground building. This work will occur after necessary structural improvements are made to this building by the owners.

The plaza connects busy Bay Street to the Waterfront Park, and provides a unique view to the Beaufort River. It also is well-used by shoppers, tourists and locals as the easiest way to move from the shops and restaurants to the landscaped park.

In recent years, tree roots lifted up sections of tabby sidewalk along the plaza, creating potential trip hazards.

To address the uneven sections of sidewalk, the City contracted for removal of the trees and the Public Works Department removed the old tabby concrete. Southern Palmetto, contractor for the project, installed a combination of brick pavers, concrete and granite cobbles, planted 10 Sabal palms, installed irrigation and feature lighting on each tree, and corrected the storm drainage.

“This project is like many others in a 300-year-old city in that once we started digging up the sidewalk, we discovered things that weren’t on the plans, such as gas lines and drainage issues,” Hill said. “Everyone took their time to do the job right, and the final results are beautiful.”

During the construction and while the sidewalk paving was removed, city crews renovated the electrical connections to the historic clock at the West Street and Bay location. The city updated the clock with the purchase of a new digital clock controller and chime. These will be installed in the near future and the clock, which hasn’t chimed in more than two years, will be calling out the hours again.

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