

# THE BEACON

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE CITY OF BEAUFORT

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# THE BEACON



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## Investing in Play: Enhancing Beaufort's Parks

The City of Beaufort has invested more than \$1 million in our community playgrounds and we're not done yet! From maintaining our current facilities to designing and installing the new inclusive playground at Southside Park and replacing aging equipment at Pigeon Point Park, we're committed to creating safe, fun spaces for all. Our Public Works team plays a vital role, continually inspecting and maintaining equipment to ensure our parks remain welcoming and well cared for.

# A note from your City Council



**Mayor Phil Cromer**

As we approach 2026, City Council and staff are working to complete several stormwater projects that will help relieve flooding issues in our community. As with any construction project, there will be some inconvenience and disruption involved. Progress is also being made to open the Day Dock to boaters while options for replacing the relieving platform are being explored. The public will have the opportunity to provide input on these options and whether commercial vessels (cruise lines/shrimp boats) should be allowed to dock at the park. Please stay engaged, we value your input.



**Mayor Pro Tem Mike McFee**

As we kick off several major drainage improvement projects throughout the downtown area, I want to thank our residents, businesses, and stakeholders for their continued support and patience. These projects are essential investments in the long-term resilience and health of our city's infrastructure. Additionally, I remain hopeful that we will soon reach definitive resolutions for the Waterfront Park repairs. Once secured, we can move swiftly to obtain the necessary funding and begin restoration efforts.



**Councilmen Mitch Mitchell**

Charles Lind Brown Community Center: aka Green Street Gym  
"A diamond in the rough" is how former Beaufort County Coroner Ed Allen once described the Charles Lind Brown Community Center (CLBCC), aka Green Street Gym.  
Thanks to supportive citizens and community advocates working in partnership with County and city leaders, I am happy to share that much of the glimmer has returned to this prized community asset. Improvements are ongoing to the basketball court, bleachers, backboards and scoreboards.  
The CLBCC is located at 1001 Hamar Street, at the corners of Hamar and Green Street. I encourage everyone to visit the center to see first-hand the improvements ongoing and completed, and to take advantage of the programs being offered.

## Public Works Tip

### DID YOU KNOW?

**When leaves are blown or raked into storm drains, drainage ditches, or roadways, they can clog the system and lead to street flooding, water damage, and environmental issues. Leaves may seem harmless, but in large amounts they block the flow of water. Instead, compost them, mulch them into your lawn, or bag and bundle them and Capital Waste will pick them up!**



# A note from your City Council



**Councilmen Josh  
Scallate**

With gratitude, I share a quick City of Beaufort update. Major drainage projects on Charles and King Streets begin this fall through June 2026, a temporary inconvenience for lasting resilience. The Waterfront Advisory Committee continues shaping recommendations for Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park. Our new agenda software streams and archives meetings on the City's YouTube channel. Explore our GIS Capital Projects Portal for project details, use SeeClikFix to report non-emergent issues, and sign up in the Agenda Center for meeting alerts. Stay involved and informed. Thank you for the opportunity to help build a stronger, more resilient Beaufort.



**Councilmen Neil  
Lipsitz**

It's an honor to serve you on City Council, and I'm grateful every day to call Beaufort my hometown. What makes our city truly special isn't just the history or beauty — it's the people. This fall, I'll focus on projects that strengthen neighborhoods and keep Beaufort moving forward, while protecting the character we all love. Thank you for your ideas, conversations, and the many ways you give back. Your commitment makes a difference every day. Beaufort shines brightest because of you.

## Thank you for your service

As many in our community know, I announced earlier this year that I will be stepping away from my role as Deputy City Manager at the end of October. I'll be returning to my hometown in Western North Carolina to be with my family, and after 22 years of public service, to pursue a new opportunity in the private sector. Serving the citizens of Beaufort has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I can't think of another community I'd want to conclude my public service career with.

Over the past several years, I've had the privilege of working alongside talented staff, passionate Council members, and dedicated community partners to advance major infrastructure projects, strengthen public transparency, and build systems that will serve Beaufort well into the future for generations to come.

There is still much more work ahead though. Beaufort faces both opportunities and challenges that will require continued collaboration, open communication, and genuine community engagement. The success of Beaufort's next chapter will depend not only on the leadership within City Hall, but also on the shared commitment of its residents, businesses, and organizations. Thank you for the trust and support you've shown me during my time here. It has been a privilege to serve this remarkable city and to be part of its long and rich history.

-John "JJ" Sauve



# WATERFRONT PARK UPDATE

## Planning for Beaufort's Future

Following the City's five-year structural inspection in mid-2024, engineers identified accelerated aging in parts of the riverside promenade. To ensure safety, the promenade along the water's edge remains temporarily closed, while lawns, playgrounds, pavilion spaces, parking, and nearby businesses stay open.

## Recent Progress

- Engineers launched Phase 1A structural and geotechnical studies to define repair options.
- Field work and modeling are underway to test alternatives.
- The promenade was closed June 30, 2025, to ensure public safety.
- The Waterfront Advisory Committee (WAC) continues to review findings, gather input, and advise City Council.

## What's Next

Engineers are refining a short list of design options for cost and environmental review. The WAC and City Council will hold public meetings to select a preferred plan, while staff pursue funding opportunities.

 The WAC wants to hear from you!

Please scan the QR code below to take a quick community survey and share your ideas for the future of Waterfront Park.

- Open your phone's camera, point it at the code, and tap the link that appears.

The City will continue sharing updates through social media, the Agenda Center, and public meetings. Thank you for your patience and partnership as we work toward a resilient, long-term solution that keeps our Waterfront the heart of Beaufort.



# SHRIMP FESTIVAL: BEHIND THE SCENES



## The Heart of the Beaufort Shrimp Festival: The City of Beaufort Downtown Operations Team

Every October, the savory scent of Lowcountry shrimp fills the air as thousands of residents and visitors gather in Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park for one of Beaufort's most beloved traditions, the Beaufort Shrimp Festival. This year marked the 31st annual celebration, bringing an estimated 12,000–16,000 people downtown over two unforgettable days.

For most festivalgoers, the event feels effortless with live music, delicious food, laughter, and local charm at every turn. But behind that smooth experience lies months of planning, coordination, and hard, physical work led by the City of Beaufort's Downtown Operations Team. What started more than three decades ago as a community thank-you event organized by the Shrimpers Association has grown into a full-scale festival hosted by the City each year. And while the event lasts just a weekend, the work begins in January, barely two months after the last tent comes down.

## Planning a Festival of This Scale

The planning process touches nearly every aspect of city life. Bands are booked, sponsors secured, and every logistical detail down to tables, tents, lights, and fencing, is handled by the Downtown Operations staff. This year, the team lined up 12 food vendors, each offering a unique dish featuring local shrimp only. Vendors must even bring receipts proving their shrimp were caught right here in local waters, keeping true to the festival's origins and supporting our local shrimping industry.

In addition to the food, the team books sound and stage crews, coordinates with the emcee, and organizes community favorites like the Run Forrest Run 5K (a fundraiser for the Beaufort Digital Corridor) and the Rotary Club's Shrimp Race, two local traditions that make the weekend more than just a festival, but a source of local giving.

# SHRIMP FESTIVAL: BEHIND THE SCENES



Downtown Operations Team  
Sarah Sutton, Linda Roper, and Jennifer Pointer



## **The Week of the Festival: All Hands on Deck**

By Monday, the Downtown Operations Team is in full motion, loading trailers with merchandise, sodas, signage, and supplies that have been stored away since last year.

By Wednesday, Public Works crews install fencing and electrical panels in the park.

On Thursday, the stage and tents rise, and by Friday morning, food and craft vendors arrive to set up for the 5:00 p.m. kickoff.

This year's event once again featured the Shrimp Showdown, organized with the Beaufort Area Hospitality Association, where judges sampled dishes from local chefs to crown the "Best Shrimp Dish." The craft market, managed by Jane Webb since 2009, added even more local flavor and artistry to the waterfront.

## **Teamwork That Makes It Happen**

While Downtown Operations leads the charge, they rely on the dedication of Public Works, Police, and staff from every department who volunteer in tents, manage logistics, and keep the park secure and spotless.

By 10:00 p.m. Saturday night, just hours after the festival ends, the park is back to its beautiful normal, a remarkable feat of teamwork and pride. And even as cleanup wraps up, Downtown Operations continues its regular duties and begins preparing for the Halloween event, held just two weeks later in the same park.

## **More Than a Festival**

The Beaufort Shrimp Festival is more than a celebration, it's a showcase of the teamwork, tradition, and dedication that make Beaufort special. It unites residents, visitors, and city staff in a shared love for community and for the local waters that feed it.

Next October, when you're enjoying live music and a plate of local shrimp, take a moment to thank the crews in Staff shirts who make it all look easy. Behind every smile and song is a team that works year-round to bring The City of Beaufort's favorite festival to life.

# Washington Street Park

Exciting progress continues at Washington Street Park as the City moves closer to completing Phase 1 by the end of November.

Phase 1 represents a major investment in the park's future. Funding for the park includes \$250,000 from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), \$80,000 from the Parks and Recreation Development (PAR) grant, and a City contribution of \$764,527.

Looking ahead, Phase 2 will focus on completing permeable sidewalks, landscaping, benches, mural walls, and playground mounds—enhancements designed to create a vibrant, accessible community space for all residents.

Once finished, Washington Street Park will serve as a dynamic and inclusive gathering place, reflecting the spirit and creativity of the Beaufort community.



## Pigeon Point Park Playground

We're excited to share a recent improvement that's already making a big impact — the installation of new, safer, and more modern playground equipment at Pigeon Point Park!

Thanks to the hard work of our Capital Projects and Public Works teams, families can now enjoy updated play structures in a space that still preserves the natural beauty and shade of our iconic live oaks.

This project is part of our continued investment in enhancing Beaufort's community spaces. Over the past six months, the City has been working on a range of improvements — from park upgrades to infrastructure and beautification projects — all aimed at creating a better quality of life for our residents.

Come out and play — and see for yourself how we're building a better Beaufort, one park at a time!

### A COMMUNITY SPACE REIMAGINED



# CAPITAL PROJECTS



## INVESTING IN BEAUFORT'S FUTURE: MAJOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

The City of Beaufort is moving forward with two major infrastructure projects on Charles Street and King Street as part of our ongoing effort to strengthen stormwater systems, reduce flooding, and protect our coastal environment.

### Why These Projects Matter

As a coastal city, Beaufort faces increasing pressure from rising sea levels and more frequent, intense storms. Our aging stormwater systems are being upgraded to:

Prevent chronic street flooding

Protect our rivers, marshes, and Port Royal Sound

Reduce polluted runoff entering local waterways

Support safer streets and a cleaner environment for generations to come

### Charles Street Drainage Project

Work is already underway along Charles Street, beginning near Waterfront Park in the Contemplative Garden area. This project will improve drainage, enhance water quality, and help safeguard Beaufort's historic downtown.

Construction will move northward in phases toward Craven and North Streets. A temporary detour plan will be in place during active construction, especially near key intersections.

While we understand the temporary inconvenience, this work is essential to protect our waterfront, local businesses, and historic neighborhoods from future flooding.

### King Street Drainage Project

The King Street Drainage Project, stretching from Hamilton Street to West Street, will begin soon and proceed in phases to reduce disruption. This initiative is designed to handle heavy rainfall more effectively and protect nearby homes, streets, and waterways.

Each section of work will include clear signage, detours, and restoration once construction is complete.

### ♥ Thank You, Beaufort

These improvements represent a long-term investment in the health, safety, and resilience of our city. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue building a stronger, more sustainable Beaufort.

# Learn CPR Help Save a Life

The City of Beaufort/Town of Port Royal Fire Department is proud to offer CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) classes to our community. Knowing CPR can make the difference between life and death in an emergency, and we believe everyone should have the opportunity to learn this vital skill.

Whether you're a parent, teacher, caregiver, or simply want to be prepared to help a friend, neighbor, or stranger, our CPR classes are designed to give you the confidence and knowledge to act when it matters most.

Classes are open to the public and cost \$35 per person. Our certified instructors will guide you through hands-on training and answer any questions you may have. It's a small investment for a skill that can have a lasting impact.

To register or learn more, please call us today. You never know when you might be called upon to save a life—and being prepared can make all the difference.



## Partnering with Purpose: OPFOB

Beaufort PD is proud to call Operation Forward Operating Base (OPFOB) one of our valued community partners. Their mission goes far beyond events, it's about creating a safe and welcoming space where veterans, active duty military, first responders, and their families can come together to relax, reconnect, and find support.

From appreciation events to everyday outreach, OPFOB plays a vital role in strengthening the bonds within our community and supporting those who dedicate their lives to service. We're grateful for their partnership and the positive impact they continue to have.

Learn more about their work at [OPFOB.org](http://OPFOB.org)

Photo: Ofc. Thompson, Chief Price, and Captain Day at the 3rd Annual First Responder Appreciation Day at OPFOB



# ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS

## New Digital Tools for Beaufort

The City of Beaufort is committed to improving transparency, accessibility, and efficiency for our residents. We're excited to announce two new digital programs that make it easier than ever for citizens to access public information and stay informed about city business without having to send multiple emails or duplicate FOIA requests.

### New Agenda & Minutes System by CivicPlus

Our new CivicPlus Agenda and Minutes system streamlines how the public views City Council agendas, packets, and meeting minutes. The updated platform offers a cleaner, more user-friendly design, making it simple to:

- View upcoming and past meeting agendas
- Access supporting documents with one click
- Download files directly from the agenda packet

This upgrade helps ensure everyone can easily follow and participate in the decisions that shape Beaufort.

### Simplified FOIA Requests with NextRequest

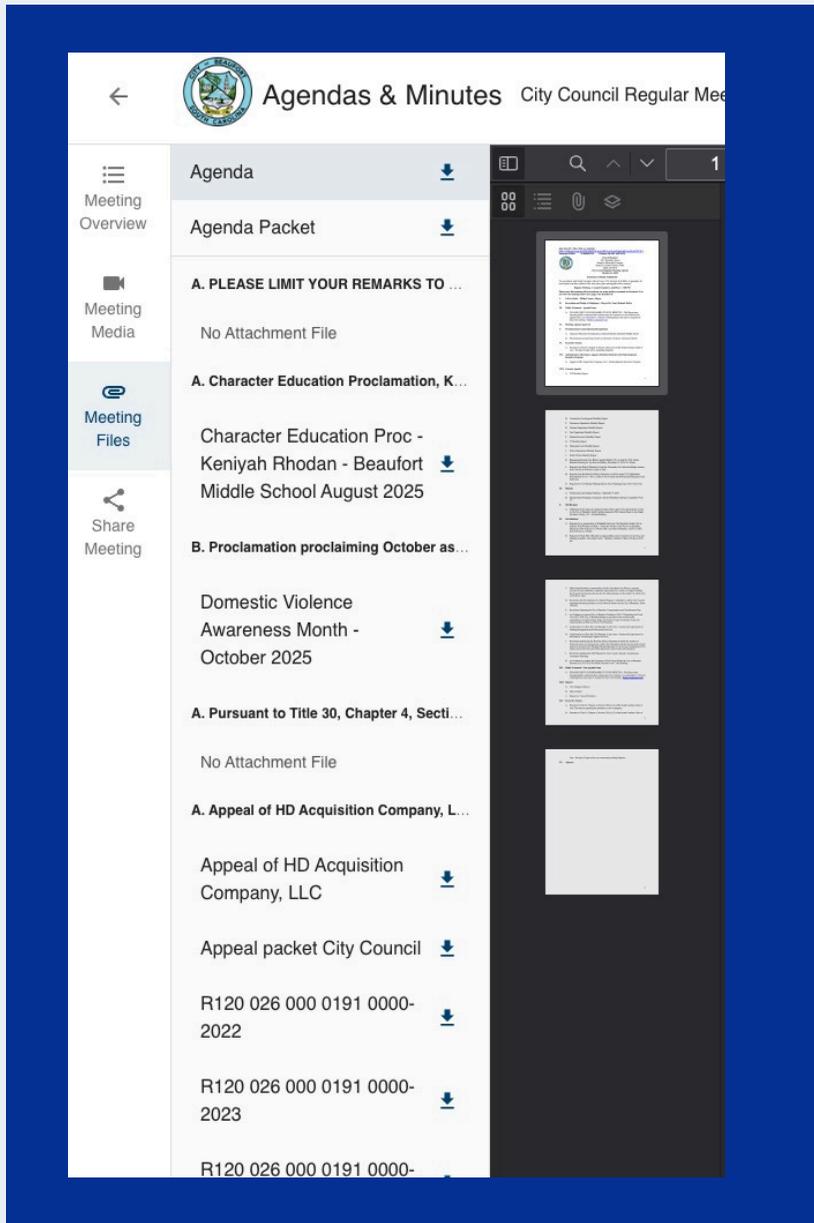
We've also launched a new FOIA management system called NextRequest, designed to make public records requests easier and more transparent. Through NextRequest, residents can:

- Submit Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests online
- Track the progress and status of their request in real time
- Access previously released documents in a centralized portal

This system eliminates the need to email multiple departments or resubmit requests, helping residents quickly find the information they need.

### Our Commitment to Open Government

These new tools represent Beaufort's ongoing commitment to open, efficient, and citizen-centered government. By modernizing how information is shared, we're making it simpler for everyone to stay informed and engaged with their local government.



Beaufort, SC

Make request All requests Documents All tasks

Beaufort, SC



## Open Public Records

This web portal will help you communicate with your government about what documents you need. All previous requests and responsive documents are viewable here online. You may even find what you're looking for without having to submit a new request!

Search

Make Request

Search 110 requests and counting.

Make a new public records request.



# CELEBRATING BEAUFORT'S FINEST



## Lt. Trish Mendicino Named 2025 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Beaufort Police Department's Investigations Lieutenant Trish Mendicino was selected as the Club's 2025 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Lt. Mendicino began her career with the Beaufort Police Department in 2016, bringing with her a decade of prior law enforcement experience from the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office and the Bluffton Police Department. There, she served on the patrol team, investigations division, as a school resource officer, and on beach patrol.

Starting as a patrol officer at Beaufort PD, she quickly advanced to Patrol Assistant Supervisor in 2016. In 2019, she was promoted to Patrol 1st Sergeant. In October 2023, she became the Investigations Master Sergeant, and in July 2024, she was promoted to Lieutenant over the Investigations Division.

Lt. Mendicino was nominated for this award in recognition of her outstanding leadership in investigations, her commitment to mentoring and developing officers under her command, and her dedication to building strong relationships with the community while pursuing justice with integrity.

"Lieutenant Mendicino has demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, and dedication to the citizens of Beaufort. Her commitment to investigative excellence and her ability to support both her team and our community reflect the very best of Beaufort PD. She is trusted, respected, and admired by her peers, and this recognition is well deserved. We are fortunate to have her representing our department and our city."- Chief Price

The Beaufort Police Department is proud to celebrate Lt. Mendicino's accomplishments and grateful to the Exchange Club of Beaufort for recognizing her outstanding service. We also thank the Exchange Club for continuing this tradition of honoring first responders, whose courage and dedication safeguard our community each and every day.



## Lieutenant Rickey Reinhardt Named Firefighter of the Year

We're proud to share that Lieutenant/AEMT Rickey Reinhardt has been selected as the Exchange Club of Beaufort's Firefighter of the Year! A Beaufort native and Beaufort High graduate, Lieutenant Reinhardt began his career as a volunteer firefighter and has served our community for over a decade.

He is a certified South Carolina Fire Academy Instructor, CPR instructor, Stop the Bleed instructor, and a Nationally Registered Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT).

We congratulate Lieutenant Reinhardt on this well-earned recognition and thank him for his dedicated service.

## Innovation in Public Safety

Beaufort PD Trains on Report Writing, AI, and Leadership with USC Experts- August 2025

Beaufort PD hosted and participated in professional development training on Report Writing led by Dr. Ian T. Adams and Dr. Seth W. Stoughton from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Adams, a former police officer, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the Senior Research Advisor for USC's Excellence in Policing and Public Safety (EPPS) Program. Dr. Stoughton, also a former officer, is a Professor at the USC School of Law and serves as the Faculty Director of the EPPS Program. Multiple agencies joined us to refine their skills in professional report writing and the use of AI in the report writing process. BPD Command staff also took part in advanced leadership sessions focused on strategy and decision-making.

We would like to thank Dr. Adams and Dr. Stoughton for sharing their expertise and helping us stay at the forefront of innovation in public safety.



Photo Order: Dr. Stoughton, Chief Price, and Dr. Ian Adams

# PROUD TO SERVE AGAIN: SKILLBRIDGE GRADUATES NOW FIREFIGHTER-EMTS



We're proud to announce the official hiring of Barry Weilacher and Daniel Giglio, two United States Marines who successfully completed our DoD SkillBridge program. Their transition from military service to the fire service is a testament to their dedication, discipline, and passion for helping others.

Barry and Daniel joined the City of Beaufort/Town of Port Royal Fire Department as certified firefighters and, during their time in the program, successfully completed EMT school — further strengthening their ability to serve the community. Their dedication, discipline, and teamwork throughout the program made it an easy decision to welcome them to our department full-time. We're honored to have them continue serving, now as firefighters protecting our community.

This is exactly what SkillBridge is all about: preparing our service members for meaningful careers after the military. Our department is proud to be one of fewer than 20 fire departments in the country designated as a SkillBridge organization — and we are grateful for the strong working relationship we've built with our local military bases.

We thank Barry and Daniel for their service to our country and look forward to the valuable contributions they'll bring to our team and the citizens we serve.



# Public Works

## Creating our Coastal Christmas

Every holiday season, the City of Beaufort transforms into a Coastal Christmas wonderland — and it's all thanks to the incredible efforts of our Public Works Department.

Beginning the first full week of November, the team kicks off a three-week process to decorate Downtown, Boundary Street, and Freedom Mall — aiming to have everything completed by Thanksgiving so residents and visitors can enjoy the sights throughout the season.

Their work begins with testing every light and panel of the 30-foot Christmas tree that now anchors Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park. It takes a 65-foot manlift and a full crew to install the five-tiered tree, which is finished with hundreds of red, green, gold, and silver ornaments. On Night on the Town, Santa leads the crowd in a tree-lighting countdown — followed by a snowfall from the top of the tree!

Public Works also installs wreaths, bows, banners, and lights along Bay and Boundary Streets — often starting at 4 a.m. to safely work with bucket trucks before the city wakes up. Their creativity is also on display at Freedom Mall, where they build and install hand-crafted cutouts, including Santa and his sleigh.

And they don't stop there — they wrap up the season by pulling the City's float in the Christmas Parade, carrying the Mayor and City Council.

We are so grateful to our Public Works team for their hard work, dedication, and pride in making Beaufort shine during the holidays.

Thank you for making our city beautiful and bright — year after year.





**City Hall**  
**City Manager**  
**Deputy City Manager**  
**Capital Projects Director**  
**City Council Clerk**  
**Public Information Officer**  
**Community Development Director**  
**Downtown Operations Director**  
**Finance Director**  
**Fire Chief**  
**Human Resources Director**  
**Municipal Court Director**  
**Police Chief**  
**Public Works Director**

**Scott Marshall**  
**Raul Dominguez**  
**Traci Guldner**  
**Ashley Brandon**  
**Curt Freese**  
**Linda Roper**  
**Alan Eisenman**  
**Tim Ogden**  
**Ivette Burgess**  
**Sarah Farrow**  
**Stephenie Price**  
**Nate Farrow**

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