



## JUNE 2021 MAYOR'S MESSAGE

May was an exciting month for us here in Surf City as we were able to come together for some community events for the first time since the pandemic shutdown began in March of 2020. We held our first-ever Surf City Bridge Jam on May 15 and it was a huge success as friends and neighbors gathered for some fun at Soundside Park without masks or limitations on the outdoor gathering! I look forward to seeing this event grow year after year and believe this will be one of the favorites in our little beach town. If you missed it this year, please make plans to join us next year and look for the date to be announced around the same time in May. Another popular event that was able to come back for this season was Paddle4Troops fundraiser over Memorial Day weekend at Salty Turtle. Historically, this event has been one of the favorites for many reasons..... fantastic food, fun music, and a great cause. I am proud of the work this group does and had a wonderful time at their event this year, as always. I am looking forward to more events throughout town for this month and hope to see some of you!

Perhaps one of the most exciting things to happen in May was the official ribbon-cutting and opening of our new town hall. We have a beautiful new Town Municipal Complex that also houses our police department. I will forever be grateful to Mr. Alan Sullivan and his wife for their generous donation of the land for our complex. Without their donation out of the love they have for our community, we would not be where we are today. If you did not get to attend the official ceremony, please go by and check it out anytime!

We continue to push forward on our beach nourishment project that is combined with North Topsail Beach and anticipate being able to begin work late fall as planned. Our project being partnered with another town makes it a little more challenging to navigate but I am having daily conversations to move things along efficiently and effectively. Our Town Manager, Kyle Breuer and Town Clerk, Stephanie Hobbs are both working diligently alongside me on this project to protect our shoreline.

Last, but not least, paid parking continues to smooth out into everyday life here and so far, we are seeing some really positive results. Navigating our parking areas has become easier and safer as we have spaces marked and managed. This makes our town safer for families and young children. Having a SAFE environment makes it more comfortable as we all enjoy the island and enables all of us to relax more as things are being managed properly. The revenue will be going toward beach nourishment needs as a priority and is trending ahead of our projections at this time. Our parking management company, Pivot Parking, continues to work through any issues that arise and seem to be handling any concerns with a quick turnaround.

I look forward to what June brings to our town and hope to see all of you this summer!

