Q

 \mathbb{X}

 \searrow

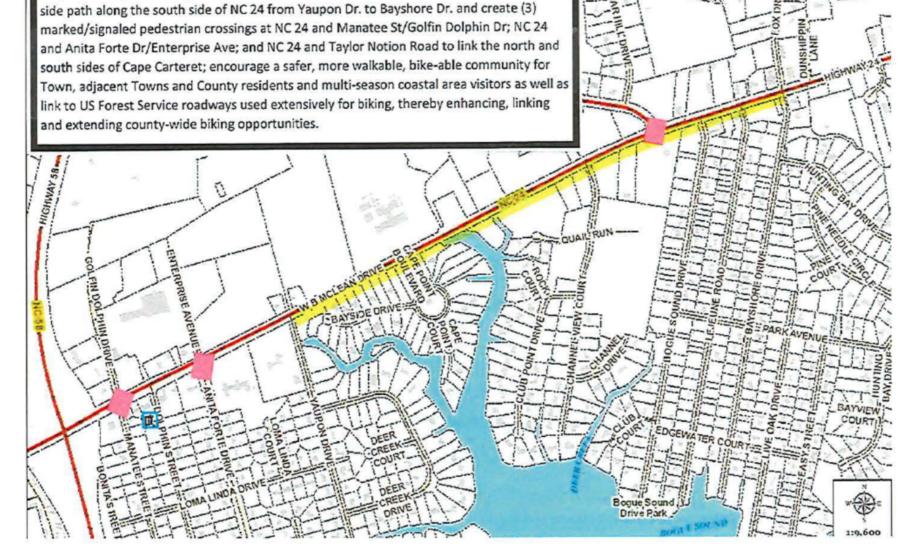
Search...





Cape Carteret abandons multi-use path on south side of N.C. 24 KATHLEEN HOPEWELL NEWS-TIMES Sep 19, 2025 Updated Sep 30, 2025

Bike Path with (3) Pedestrian Crossings Project Description: Design and construct within existing NCDOT right-of-way multi-use



meeting regarding a quiet decision to decline a \$920,000 federal Carbon Reduction Program grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The money was intended for a new mile-

Map shows initial plan for multi-use path project, which would've connected Yaupon Dr. with Bayshore Dr.

long, multi-use path along the south side of N.C. 24. Commissioner Courtney Barnhill made a motion to add the issue to the September agenda. She later explained in a statement that "a 4-1 informal consensus led to the town manager notifying NCDOT that Cape Carteret wished to abandon the project entirely — despite no formal board vote,

and despite the prior unanimous approval. This is now on tonight's agenda to inform the public and

CAPE CARTERET — Cape Carteret commissioners erupted into a heated discussion at their Sept. 8

The grant, awarded in summer 2024, was to be used for a new multi-use path connecting Bayshore Drive with Yaupon Drive, improving crosswalks on Manatee, Anita Fort and Taylor Notion roads, and allowing golf carts. Former Town Manager Frank Rush, who prepared the grant application, had requested only

\$776,000. Commissioner Barnhill contended, "This project was not speculative. It was approved,

budgeted and even awarded \$144,000 more than originally requested — a clear vote of confidence

from NCDOT in both the merit and urgency of this project." Even with the grant, the town would have been required to provide a \$230,000 match, which could have been paid over two fiscal years. Minutes from the board's July 2024 meeting note that Mayor Pro Tem Martin asked Rush if he would request \$200,000 from the county to help foot the matching

Cape Carteret received six bids for the project, with the first from a South Carolina civil engineering

company, RK&K, totaling about \$700,000 for design work alone. This greatly exceeded the town's

statement. Minutes from the board's May 2025 meeting note that Rush had received the bids, and

expectation of under \$200,000 and the grant's allocation of \$120,000, according to Barnhill's

they would be discussed during the June meeting. Following the first bid, Town Manager Gene Foxworth sent an email on Aug. 22 asking commissioners for their input on how to proceed. He offered three options: Rebid the project with the same or reduced scope.

Proceed with engineering after a rebid but not construction. Scratch the project, being aware that this "may hamper our efforts to receive funding in the future."

project when we had the vision to do it."

these people right here, right now, and that's wrong."

Bayshore [Drive] boat ramp."

finalize direction."

fund bill, to which Rush agreed.

It is unclear which option each commissioner selected, but Barnhill explained that this email served

other than Barnhill seemed disenchanted during the most recent meeting.

as the "informal consensus" that led town officials to abandon the project.

Despite unanimously adopting a resolution to formally accept the grant in July 2024, commissioners

Following Barnhill's statement, Commissioner Cameron Watts said, "I think it was a very good, viable

He explained that the town went into the budget with a "revenue-neutral" approach, knowing "our budget was gonna be tight and then, lo and behold, we had the opportunity to purchase the

Watts asserted that because funds for the multi-use path would be drawn from the town's general fund, "to the rest of us, it was a little more fiscally responsible to hold that general fund and not spend more money out of that."

funds and, "we just wanted a little bit of time to get between the Bayshore Ramp purchase and, possibly, other capital improvements that weren't extremely high priority." Had the project been something more pressing, like a drainage issue, "absolutely, it wouldn't even need to be discussed," he said.

Commissioner John Ritchie asked Town Manager Gene Foxworth, "If we were to consider this, how much would taxes go up,

Gene?" To which, Foxworth responded, "Nothing." That is, the project's presence, alone, would not raise taxes. But, financing the

Watts contended that although the grant was sizable, the town was still responsible for matching

first project proposal from RK&K, beyond the \$230,000 match—which could cost the town up to \$750,000—without county or other financial assistance, would lead to, as Foxworth said, "One cent increase [on] about \$75,000. Ritchie then asked Barnhill, "My only question is: well, are you gonna be here for four years, or are you gonna run for county commissioner? Because, what you're asking us to do is to raise taxes on

project, but it failed to receive a second. Barnhill then thanked the county commissioners for their support. During her statement, Barnhill

explained that following the informal decision to abandon the project, she approached county

commissioners, state Rep. Celeste Cairns (NC-13) and town commissioners across the county for

their input. She said it was something "they saw as worth saving" and, specifically, "Celeste said she

During commissioners' comments, Barnhill made a motion to review the next bid and continue the

hated to see that this was something that was going to be abandoned," Barnhill recalled. "This is the biggest grant we've ever gotten in Cape Carteret." During the comment period, Ritchie apologized to Barnhill, saying, "Sometimes 'no' is a hard word to understand, I think I might have been a little too firm on you." Mayor Pro Tem Martin said, "Yeah, I was for it, to start with." He pointed to the other multi-use path wrapping around Taylor Notion Road and Highway 58, saying, "Look how long that took." He

acknowledged that he had spoken to Bayshore residents and found that many said they would not

use the new path, and "I changed my mind, that's my prerogative." Martin then redirected to his

intent to leverage user fees to offset the need for raising taxes on residents, adding, "I just didn't

It is unclear what initiative or prospect Martin was referencing regarding the NCDOT's ability to

Commissioner John Ritchie asked Town Manager Gene Foxworth, "If we were to consider this, how much would taxes go up,

first project proposal from RK&K, beyond the \$230,000 match—which could cost the town up to \$750,000—without county or

other financial assistance, would lead to, as Foxworth said, "One cent increase [on] about \$75,000.

Gene?" To which, Foxworth responded, "Nothing." That is, the project's presence, alone, would not raise taxes. But, financing the

think a sidewalk was what we needed." He added, "Furthermore, the [NC]DOT, according to Mayor [Will] Baker, would put that sidewalk in for free in about five years, so why should we spend two million dollars to put it in now?"

Tags Government **R**ECOMMENDED FOR YOU

construct the sidewalk.

NATIONAL REGIONAL Stein calls on How key demographic lawmakers to

groups voted

according to

the AP Voter

in 2025,

Poll

(2) COMMENTS **Jack Daniels** Sep 19, 2025 8:16pm



fund the

Medicaid

rebase



first term as

NATIONAL

Government

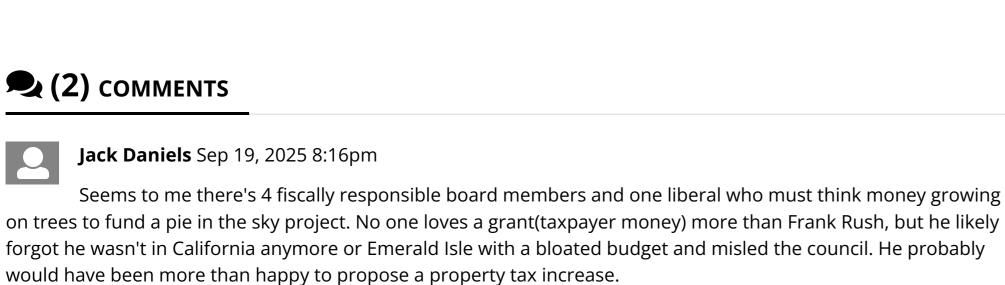
shutdown

record set

enters 36th

day, breaking

during Trump's



NATIONAL

Federal judge

orders Trump

to fully fund

administration

SNAP benefits

Report

+ Add Reply

Report

+ Add Reply

in November

guestbe52c3ccea338d9561c317cb Sep 22, 2025 5:43pm Jack, let's be clear: there is nothing "liberal" about securing nearly a million dollars in outside funding for

state delegate and local town commissioner reflects that. Suggesting I believe money "grows on trees" is not only false but ignores the fact that this project was unanimously approved, budgeted, and even awarded more than requested by NCDOT, a clear vote of confidence in its merit and urgency. As for thanking our County Commissioners and Rep. Cairns, I did so because they supported the project and

recognized its value for our residents. Moral support does matter, especially when our town's largest grant was

Curious why the reporter didn't reach out to Rep. Cairns or the County Commissioners for comment? Giving moral

support is one thing, but if they didn't offer financial support then why would they get a thank you?

Welcome to the discussion.

As a privately owned web site, we reserve the right to edit or remove comments that contain spam,

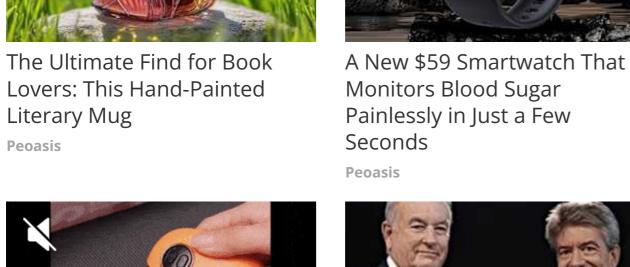
may be blocked or permanently banned without warning. Watch this discussion. Post a comment

250th Anniversary Hat: A Must-

Have in Greenville



Around The Web





© Copyright 2025 Carolina Coast Online 5039 Executive DriveSuite 300, Morehead City, NC | Privacy Policy









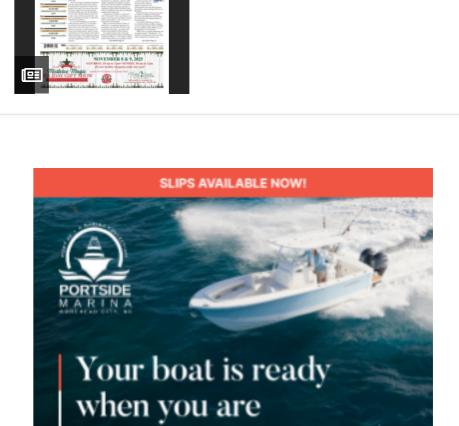


News Times

To view our latest e-

the left.

Edition click the image on



Concierge dry storage, on-site service, and fuel. Call or visit us to learn more! • 252-726-7678



drug crackdown 2. Timeline details six-hour standoff before

center

NEIGHBOR

Articles

fatal shooting in Stacy

6. Alpaca farm to open to public

Beaufort Housing Authority

3. Female runner collapses, dies during Emerald Isle race 4. Patricia Lopedote, 72; no service

1. 18 arrested in Carteret "Operation Find Out"

 Q_{i}

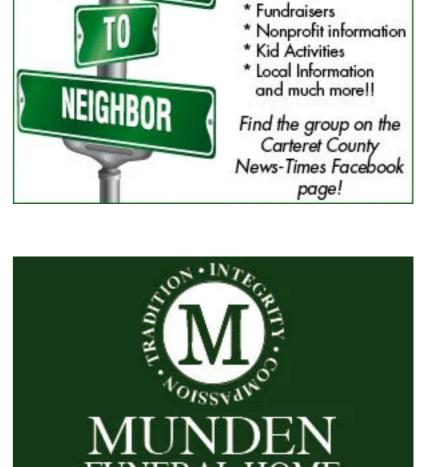
- 5. Croatan captures conference championship
- 7. Ellingsworth transfers to Arkansas State 8. Zeb Hough named new executive director of
- place 50 years after conflict ended in Vietnam 10. CCC breaks ground for new workforce

Carteret County News-Times

Facebook Group

Post and Read

9. Carteret County Veterans Day Parade takes





00:00

(Click to listen) Alexis Kay

(Click to listen) Jackson Sproul (Click to listen) Lillie Seymour (Click to listen) Outer Banks ADs

EXPLORE MORE EPISODES











00:00

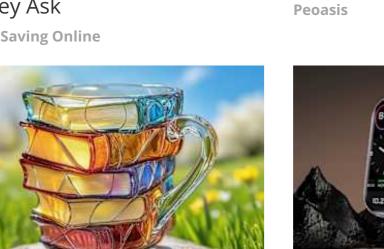
NEXT



Cape Carteret, the largest grant our town has ever received. That's called fighting for our community and making sure our tax dollars come back home instead of staying in Raleigh or Washington. I have always stood on conservative principles of fiscal responsibility and accountability, and my record as a GOP

at risk of being abandoned without a formal vote. It's easy to criticize behind a keyboard. I'd encourage you or anyone to bring your concerns openly and with facts, not labels.

advertising, vulgarity, threats of violence, racism, anti-Semitism, or personal/abusive/condescending attacks on other users or goading them. The same applies to trolling, the use of multiple aliases, or just generally being a jerk. Enforcement of this policy is at the sole discretion of the site administrators and repeat offenders









 Subscribe Gift Subscriptions Contact Us Advertise **Phone:** 252-726-7081 Place an Ad • Obituary Form Submission Forms Places to Give Community Resources

\$99

Oricle Hearing

HomeBuddy





SECTIONS

e-Edition

Multimedia

Opinions

Obituaries

Marketplace

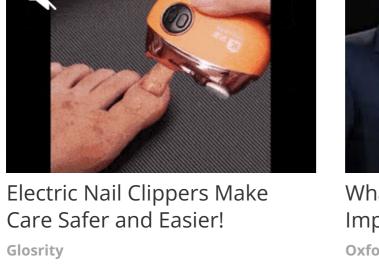
Swap Shop

Weather

News TWM

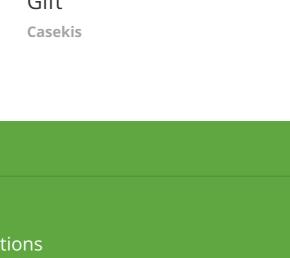
• 🏠







SERVICES



Morehead City, NC 28557 **Email:** nikki@thenewstimes.com









CONTACT **I**NFORMATION carolinacoastonline.com 5039 Executive DriveSuite 300

Powered by BLOX Content Management System from BLOX Digital.