



Pender County Government Update

Department

COUNTY MANAGER

We have set up a meeting with all municipalities in the County for next week so we can go over the distribution of the CFR funds received by the County. Again, 25% of these funds are available to for eligible COVID expenses incurred by the Towns. The general consensus in speaking with the managers is the funds will be requested in order to cover eligible payroll cost.

A meeting is tentatively planned in the next week or so with Congressman Rouzers office, Commissioner Piepmeyer and FEMA to discuss our frustration with the lack of clear guidance regarding public assistance and mitigation funding for the courthouse project. The meeting was requested after Commissioner Piepmeyer was able to get Congressman Rouzers office to make a congressional inquiry with FEMA.

We have been in touch with the owners of the property adjacent to the BASF property and a meeting is planned next week to discuss the proposal.

Per Mrs Moser's request, additional contract employees have been approved for the health department to assist with contact tracing.

Currently we have around 60-70 employees working from home in an effort to reduce exposure and the testing levels and contact tracing for the health department.



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HUMAN RESOURCES

HR has been busy continuing to update the Risk manual. The manual was shared with the Safety Committee this week and we will be discussing it further. HR onboarded 11 new employees over the past two weeks and had a successful orientation. We have also been busy completing various end of the year reports and DOL statistics reports. We had numerous brainstorming meetings to discuss process improvements such as: Supervisor Orientation Training, ID badge meetings, and Budget meetings. Finally, HR successfully updated the Salary schedule, Pay & classification plan and processed the COLA.



Pender County Government Update

Department

LIBRARY

Fiscal Year End Review: Resilience in a Pandemic

During NC Phase 1 restrictions, loan activity slowed in April and May, but many customers took advantage of outdoor delivery and E-book services. While the buildings closed to public access, loans of physical items still reached 58% of the same time last year. Now with the doors open to the public, the libraries continue to offer outdoor delivery of phoned in requests as an option.

The libraries finished the fiscal year on June 30 with a year-end total of 207,045 items loaned of all types: books, E-books, audiobooks, DVD movies, and CD music. Of that, 27% were E-books (56,163) and other virtual items, such as e-audiobooks. This compares with the previous FY year grand total of 235,841, with physical loans at 173,198 and E-book loans at 62,643. School closure impacted E-book loan activity, but it remained significant.

As the buildings reopened, June's activity reflected significant increases in physical loans. June loan activity was 74% of the same month last year. Activity in July continues to build as people remain cautious and continue to discover that the facilities are open. Despite numerous press releases and social media posts, we receive calls daily from people asking if we are open.

library has now returned to normal operating hours including evenings and Saturdays. By greatly reducing the number of people in the facilities at any one time by removing most seating, customers feel safer to come inside to simply browse the collections and leave. Following guidelines established by scientific research, all returned items are still quarantined for 72 hours to remove the possibility that any virus from the previous user virus is gone.

Foremost, library staff have shown dedication to embrace change and innovation to serve. Much appreciated is the return of part-time staff who, among other things, have resumed early literacy service to childcare facilities all across the county.

For many customers, remote access to E-books do not replace the pleasure of coming into the library to browse a physical collection and interacting with helpful staff. We continue efforts to inform the public of the social distancing arrangements implemented inside the facilities and that the libraries are open for business.



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PARKS & RECREATION

Summer Camp began on Monday July 6 at Topsail Elementary School. We had 33 campers attend this week. Staff are following all State and local guidelines to keep campers safe.

All Pender County Summer Concerts (Burgaw, Hampstead, Topsail Beach) for the months of July and August have been cancelled. All playgrounds remain closed until further notice.

The Holly Shelter Shooting Range remains closed until further notice.

We are working on offering popup drive in movies. More information to come soon.

Over the past few weeks staff have been working on cleaning the Penderlea buildings and giving the classrooms a fresh coat of paint.

All parks continue to see heavy usage with people walking, enjoying picnic's and other socially distance activities.



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Department

PENDER FIRE AND EMS

See attached

PENDER EMS AND FIRE 2019							
EMS Operation				EMS Call Type Summary			
		Weekly	YTD			Weekly	YTD
Station 1	Burgaw	35	1027	Cancelled		26	742
Station 14	Sloop Point	29	639	Refusals		68	1365
Station 16	Hampstead	32	694	Stand By's		0	25
Station 18	Scotts Hill	0	0	Transported		134	2609
Station 23	Surf City	35	452	Treated and Released		12	320
Station 29	Currie	12	225			240	5061
Station 4	Topsail Beach	18	150				
Station 5	Union	13	406				
Station 7	Rocky Point	38	856				
Station 13	Maple Hill	2	80				
Station 9	Atkinson	26	532				
		240	5061				
Fire Operations				Fire Call Type Summary			
		Weekly	YTD			Weekly	YTD
Station 1	Burgaw	5	147	FIRE		0	63
Station 14	Sloop Point	8	224	Motor Vehicle Crash		13	167
Station 16	Hampstead	12	231	Search and Rescue		1	3
Station 18	Scott Hill	9	153	Service Calls		10	201
Station 29	Hwy 421 South	6	108	EMS First Response		25	583
Station 21	Long Creek	5	177	Cancelled		7	211
Station 4	Topsail--OR	9	27	Ocean Rescue		4	14
Station 13	Maple Hill	3	89			60	1242
Station 17	Penderlea	3	86				
Station 28	Cross Creek	0	0				
		60	1242				

<u>Suicide Deaths YTD</u>							<u>Overdose YTD</u>						
	Actual	Attempts				Total Attempts			Heroin	Pills	Other Illegal Substance	Deaths	LEO Narcan
		0 to 18	18 to 45	45 to 65	65+								
January	0	0	1	1	0	2		January	1	3	2	0	0
February	1	0	4	1	1	6		February	1	3	0	0	0
March	1	2	4	3	0	9		March	2	5	2	2	1
April	1	0	2	0	1	3		April	2	3	1	1	1
May	0	1	2	3	1	7		May	3	2	1	0	0
June	0	1	3	2	0	6		June	0	3	1	0	0
July	0	0	1	1	0	2		July	1	1	0	0	0
August								August					
September								September					
October								October					
November								November					
December								December					
YTD TOTAL	3	4	17	11	3	35		YTD TOTAL	10	20	7	3	2

<u>Traffic Accident Deaths YTD</u>				<u>AirLink Totals</u>			
		Deaths	Accidents	Number of Patients Flown			
January		0	62	January	1		
February		2	69	February	1		
March		2	53	March	0		
April		1	26	April	0		
May		0	64	May	0		
June		1	60	June	0		
July		0	11	July			
August				August			
September				September			
October				October			
November				November			
December				December			
YTD TOTAL		6	345	Total	2		



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PLANNING

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) - Hurricane Florence: The HMGP Florence Expedited Program is moving steadily, and the Board of Commissioners have established Just Compensation to begin the property acquisition process on nearly every parcel included in the program. Official offer letters to ten property owners in the program shall be mailed to those owners over the coming days.

The overall HMGP for Hurricane Florence is still awaiting final approval from the State. FEMA requested supplemental documentation from a number of applicants for acquisition beyond what preliminary figures showed would be included in the grant. We are hopeful that that request indicates that there may be more funding available than first thought. Properties that are not funded will move to an unmet needs list and be applied for mitigation through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program that is yet to be funded.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) - Hurricane Matthew: The HMGP Hurricane Matthew program is in the final stages – the remaining projects include two property acquisitions and two home elevations on Topsail Island. The elevations are currently being reviewed by the NC Division of Coastal Management.

Disaster Recovery Act: All policies, memorandum of understandings, indemnity documents are completed. The Construction Committee of the Long-Term Recovery Group is putting together projects now for the initial round of funding. Currently, nine total projects have been approved. The cost to execute each of these projects totals \$203,418.59. Of the nine projects, Habitat has two (one home repair and one home replacement), WARM has six (all home repairs) and Baptists on Mission have one (elevation and home repair). There has also been recent movement by the Construction Committee on homes that were originally part of the DRA program for Hurricane Matthew. The Construction Committee and Long Term Recovery Group as a whole are doing amazing work and should be commended for their efforts.

UDO Update: The UDO Update project remains on hold at this time. In the meantime, Staff have brought forward a zoning text amendment to modify the development process in the PD, Planned Development zoning district in accordance with proposed changes in the draft UDO, as well as adding the Fire Marshal as a signature authority on subdivision plats. At the July 7, 2020 meeting of the Pender County Planning Board, this item was split in two, with language regarding the Fire Marshal forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for their approval in August, while tabling the rest of the proposed language to August to seek more information and analysis to be provided by Staff.

Additionally, a third-party applicant submitted a zoning text amendment for another part of the draft UDO, this focused on modifying the conditional rezoning process and how density of residential units is calculated within that process. The Planning Board recommended approval of this text amendment at their June 2, 2020 meeting, and was approved by the Board of Commissioners at their July 6, 2020 meeting.

Census 2020: Reminder to communicate the importance of the Census process. Staff will continue to work with the Complete Count Committee in an effort to have the most participation possible, hopefully exceeding the Governor's goal of 82% participation.

Current Planning: There are a multitude of projects under review in the Planning Department for

commercial and residential projects alike. There are multiple Master Development Plans, Rezoning, and Special Use Permits that will be heard by the Planning Board and Board of County Commissioners over the coming months. As a reminder, all projects in the planning process are located online and can be found at: <http://www.pendercountync.gov/pcd/planning-zoning/pending-and-approved-projects/>

Staffing Updates: As of June 1, 2020, Travis Henley has been named Director of Pender County Planning and Community Development. This comes after Travis had been serving as Interim Director since January 9, 2020 following the departure of previous Director Kyle Breuer.



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Department

REGISTER OF DEEDS

REGISTER OF DEEDS 06/01/2020-06/30/2020	
Maps Recorded	21
Marriage License Issued	80
Notary Oaths Issued	13
Vital Certificates Issued (Birth/Death/Marriage)	396
Passport Applications	44
Passport Photos	53
Total Documents Recorded	1501
Total Fees Collected	\$213,831.75



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TOURISM

Tourism Department

- Pender County Tourism serves on the executive board of the North Carolina Beach, Inlet, and Waterway Association. We met (virtually) to approve our budget. As recording secretary, we take all minutes. We are also serving on the events committee in preparation for the fall conference.
- We attended (virtually) the Topsail Beach Hurricane Preparedness meeting. We provided social media art for their community campaign.
- Tourism staff can't attend every webinar offered, so we divide up the webinars to stay informed on topics such as national travel trends and research, diversity travel, festivals and events, and trainings such as Count On Me NC.
- We had our first department meeting with Doug Shipley.
- We are ready to assist with messaging on topics such as back to school, COVID safety.
- We are working with Creating Bridges Chairman Mark Seitz with Bladen, Sampson, Onslow, Duplin and Pender counties to apply for a \$100,000 grant.
- We are attended the Safety Committee meeting and reviewed the Risk Manual.
- We had a very promising meeting with Feast Down East regarding the Farm App, collaboration, and marketing.
- We had the opportunity (virtually) to serve as a judge for the Women to Watch with Wilma.
- Met with YWCA local assistant to discuss future of YWCA programs in Pender County.
- Olivia has finished the draft and design for the new Wedding brochure.
- Stephanie is adding last minute changes to the website.
- We started our marketing space reservations for the FY20/21.
- The Photo Contest winners were featured in the Topsail Magazine (see photo).
- We have obtained quotes for the 2021 visitor guide.
- Stephanie is pulling together research for the Blueberry Trail.

Communications

- We continue to update the community regarding COVID-19.
- We pulled together a first responders' safety message for July 4th weekend.
- We developed a draft letter for our new businesses in the county.
- We have worked on press releases for various departments, announcing meetings with unique instructions (Zoom links, etc.).



Pender County Nature Photography Contest Winners Announced

Pender County Recreation and Pender County Parks & Recreation held a Pender County Nature Photography Contest this spring. The contest was held in the middle, and more than 100 photos were submitted. Prizes were awarded for first place in each category. Photos were displayed between November 11, 2019 and May 11, 2020.

"We received some of the best photos of nature taken

within Pender County," says Olivia Dawson of Pender County Tourism. "This contest was a great way to show off some great photography skills while capturing the beauty throughout Pender County." Submitted photos will be used in published materials giving photo credit to the photographer and provided locations. The organizations plan to make this an annual contest.

15 AND YOUNGER AMATEUR YOUTH WINNERS

- Liberty Wilborn, *first place*
- Richie Marsh, *second place*
- Faiken Baker, *third place*

ADULT PROFESSIONAL WINNERS

- Sue Benden, *first place*
- Any Shores, *second place*
- Jeff Hall, *third place*

ADULT AMATEUR WINNERS

- Dana Adami, *first place*
- Bernie Braak, *second place*
- Milissa Acres, *third place*
- Kirk Binning, *fourth place*
- Lydia McKeel, *fifth place*

JUDGE'S CHOICE WINNERS

- Bo Matthews
- Raymond Moore
- Jane O'Conner



PHOTO BY RICHIE MARSH



PHOTO BY LIBERTY WILBORN



PHOTO BY RICHIE MARSH



PHOTO BY RICHIE MARSH



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UTILITY OPERATIONS

PENDER COUNTY UTILITIES (PCU) & WATER DISTRICTS:

Construction of the Hampstead/Scott's Hill Wells project by Water & Waste Systems is proceeding. The water main wet tap and piping to the Annex well site began this week, and work on the actual well house and treatment infrastructure was authorized two weeks ago with the issuance of the Annex well permit by NCDEQ. The Annex well is scheduled to be operational within 60 days, so it should be online by August 25th, barring any unforeseen issues. Both wells should be fully completed this winter. The Kiwanis Park well permit should be issued within the next few weeks, but that will not delay the project since the current focus is on getting the Annex well operational. PCU has been able to meet the water demand for the Hampstead/Scott's Hill area so far this summer without any major issues, with the help of various factors including voluntary water restrictions, repairs to leaks in the system, installation of VFD controllers at the Sloop Point BPS, and wet weather reducing the irrigation load.

We provided some final paperwork needed by the NC Division of Water Infrastructure but are still awaiting final approval from to award the Maple Hill WSD to ONWASA Interconnects project to Herring-Rivenbark and begin construction. I expect to receive the final approval within the next week or so. The planned work includes two interconnections with ONWASA to supply potable water to the Maple Hill Water & Sewer District. When complete, the District will cease receiving water from Chinquapin Water Association, due to State requirements to reduce water withdrawals from their aquifer source.

Staff work and status updates since last report:

- Two new W/WW Maintenance Technicians started June 29th. We are still short one employee who is out on extended leave.
- NCDOT work finally started this week on Factory Road to upgrade a storm water pipe. A PCU water line will be lowered to allow the larger storm water pipe to be installed. All costs are at NCDOT expense.
- Continuing work with NCDOT on various other projects, including NC 53/Sycamore Springs in Maple Hill for intersection upgrades.
- All monthly reports last month completed and submitted.
- Pressure test and connection to water main at Pender County Annex for the potable water emergency use well.

- Continuing to run Wallace BPS between 400-500 gpm for 8-10 hours per day on Friday-Tuesdays to help with water demand.
- Received 75 water tap requests on the last two days of FY20 (due to tap fee increase on July 1st).
- Replacement UV Bulbs and tubing being installed today at Maple Hill WWTP to repair and improve disinfection system.
- Received 2" compound meter for installation at Salter's Haven Clubhouse.
- Flushing water lines in the River Bend area.
- Successfully completed repairs to water leak on US 117 at Rocky Point Elementary School Road and added a system valve for better future flexibility in shutting off water for emergencies.

WATER PRODUCTION NUMBERS:

January 2020 Daily Avg: 1.141 MGD from Water Plant, 0.625 MGD pumped to Hampstead/Scott's Hill

February 2020 Daily Avg: 1.187 MGD from WP, 0.628 MGD to Hamp/SH

March 2020 Daily Avg: 1.283 MGD from WP, 0.004 MGD from Wallace, 0.704 MGD to Hamp/SH

April 2020 Daily Avg: 1.263 MGD from WP, 0.162 MGD from Wallace, 0.843 MGD to Hamp/SH

May 2020 Daily Avg: 1.300 MGD from WP, 0.286 MGD from Wallace, 0.959 MGD to Hamp/SH

June 2020 Daily Avg: 1.24 MGD from WP, 0.267 MGD from Wallace, 0.939 MGD to Hamp/SH

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Staff is replacing chlorine pump, analyzer, and flow meter with more reliable and appropriately sized equipment. Our Lab Technician completed online Lab Tech Day training. One of our Plant Operators is currently taking an online well operator class, to provide additional assistance with the Hampstead/Scott's Hill wells once they are operational. We are working with Pender IT to give CCU (contractor) internet access to continue SCADA work.

Average finished flow 6/25-7/8 = 1.28 MG.

PCP WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - MKKAES (Melinda K. Knoezer Adaptive Ecosystem)

The plant is running well. We had a big sampling week with toxicity, annual pollutant scan, and changing our outside lab. We also had NCDEQ onsite for an audit Tox sample. We are working on fine tuning the plant and as always maintaining our equipment. The Plant Superintendent started an online Grade 3 WW treatment school this week, which is held one day per week for 5 weeks.

SOLID WASTE

The Transfer Station is creating 110 to 156 tickets daily. Waiting time at scales is about 10 minutes IN and 10 minutes OUT. All staff reporting to work as scheduled. Utilizing social distancing and sanitizing surfaces and hands frequently for COVID-19 prevention.

Transfer Station is busy with MSW and C&D disposal that Stella Company (GFL subcontractor) fills all available trailers daily. We run 6 Stella trailers to landfill.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL TONNAGE FOR JUNE 2020

MSW Kitchen trash collected	2489.71 tons
Construction & demolition	793.94 tons
Recycling	123.91 tons
Tires recycled	waiting on data
Shreds and Whitegoods	waiting on data
TV's Monitors	waiting on data