



Pender County Government Update

Department

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Bi-Weekly Programming Update – Oct 15, 2021

NC Cooperative Extension Agents work with Pender County residents and farmers, helping them find research-based solutions to problems. We work in agriculture, horticulture, natural resources and the environment (storm water, erosion, wetlands restoration, water quality, etc.) and 4-H Youth Development teaching civic leadership and community development.

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Consumer Horticulture – Tiffanee Boone

Program Impact Report

Title: Lawn Consulting

Situation

A homeowner was frustrated about her lawn dying, so she contacted several landscaping consultant companies for assistance. They all wanted to charge her at least \$100 for a home visit and required she commit to at least seven home visits.

Response

The homeowner learned about NC Cooperative Extension through a neighbor and called the Pender County Consumer Horticulture Agent for assistance. The Agent went on a home visit to her house the next day.

Results

The Horticulture Agent discovered that previous landscaping companies were fertilizing her lawn without soil sampling and were therefore guessing as to the nutrient requirements. The Agent showed the homeowner how to collect a soil sample, which was sent to the NCDA soil science lab. Once results were available, the Agent worked with her to come up with a fertilization plan which required lime, nitrogen, and potassium, but not phosphorus which the company was applying. The homeowner stated that the Agent saved her at least \$1,000 and was able to solve her problem swiftly and effectively without negatively impacting the environment.

· Pender County Extension Master Gardener volunteers (EMGV) released the 2021 Speakers Bureau program. The schedule is available at: <https://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/08/pender-county-extension-master-gardeners-speakers-bureau-update/> The next one will be done in person and through zoom.

- Pender EMGV will resume their Horticulture in the Classroom program for Pender County elementary students through zoom.
- Pender EMGV will have fall plant sale tomorrow, October 16th at the Poplar Grove Plantation, as well as an Ask a Master Gardener booth. Stop by and ask your gardening questions.
- Pender EMGV are hosting a youth activity at Poplar Grove's Halloween Festival Goosebumps in the Grove on October 30th from 10-5 pm and October 31st from 10-4 pm.
- Pender EMGV received several applications for horticultural grants and will make final decisions on them in December. Grant money will be awarded in January.
- Research continues on disease resistant basil varieties and results will be coming out in the next couple of months.
- A new initial Master Gardener class is planned for January. Applications are due December 1st and can be found here: <https://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/01/nc-state-extension-master-gardener-pender-county-initial-certification-training/>

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Area Environment and Natural Resources Agent – Amy Mead

- Held "Water, Water, What to Do? A Homeowner's Guide to Rain Gardens" workshop on September 11th. Eleven Pender County residents attended to learn about the importance of stormwater management and its impacts on local water quality. Attendees also learned how to select a site, design, and landscape rain gardens on their own property.
- Presented a program called Stormwater Management for Homeowners for 13 attendees at the Burgaw Rotary meeting on September 23rd. Rotary members learned about simple stormwater management techniques for residential properties.
- Served on the committee for the regional Native Plant Festival which occurred on September 18th. This festival educates residents about the importance of native plants and trees in our landscape as well as promotes local nurseries that grow and sell native plants. The festival featured educational speakers and exhibitors for a day-long event.
- Taught an Aquatic Weed Management course on September 29th for the NC State Pesticide Safety Education Program in collaboration with the NCDA. This Aquatic Weed Management class is required for commercial landscapers to become licensed to apply pesticides/herbicides to standing or running water (ponds, lakes, and streams).

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4-H Youth Development – Traci Spencer

- Preparing for county fair 4-H Club booths and haybale. 3 clubs signed up for booths and 2 clubs signed up for haybale decorating contest.
- Had two clubs sign up with Pender Co. 4-H. Pelham Farm (horse club) and Freedom Growers (Homeschoolers) Club.
- Tractor Supply clover donations are going great!
- Pender County 4-H Wreath Fundraiser has begun. Contact Traci at tjspenc2@ncsu.edu to order or for more information.
- Back 2 School Bash at Burgaw Middle School was a great success. Amy Jones and Jessica Hall spoke with 46 parents

and youth about 4-H opportunities.

- Pender County Resiliency Task Force had a showing of the film Resiliency at Topsail Highschool for the public. Attended this meeting. We will be having more showings of the film in the coming months.
- Four Pender County youth are participating in the Egg-cellent 4-H competition. Judging will be in November.
- Signing youth up for Millstone 4-H camp. Already have 10 spots filled.
- EYFP facilitator training was held at the Health Dept Oct. 14. Cohort begins Mon. Oct 18th.
- Attending the ribbon cutting ceremony at Humphreys Farm on Sat Oct 16th.

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Agriculture – Mark Seitz

- Field corn harvest is mostly complete. Farmers are indicating this is one of the best crops in recent years with good prices. However, input costs for 2022 are rising rapidly, which is a serious concern for farmers. Recent rainfall slowed corn harvest for a few days, but farmers were able to finish corn harvest. Those rains also helped soybeans and pastures. Some early maturing soybeans have been harvested but warm weather has kept later maturing varieties growing and green. Frost is needed to help soybeans to being to dry down for harvest.
- Most of Pender County did not receive the heavy rains that Brunswick and Columbus County received so more rain would be welcome. Strawberries are being planted across the county at this time for spring harvest and farmers need rain to get newly planted strawberries established. Rain is also needed to keep blueberry and blackberry bushes watered.
- The Agent is working with Topsail High School agriculture students to plant a demonstration planting of strawberries and to lay out a soil amendment research plot to investigate soil fertility changes with different rates of mulch.
- Private and commercial pesticide applicators require re-certification classes to maintain their licenses. Thirteen applicators from Pender County received four hours of recertification credit on September 30. More classes will be available in January and February.

Community Development – Mark Seitz

- Helping the Pender County Tourism office to work on community economic development challenges along with the Topsail Chamber of Commerce to find ways to promote more economic development. Shared research on the county's economic pull / leakage in the region. and how it can be used to attract business to the area. <https://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/07/county-trade-pull-factor-report-july-2021/>.
- Serving on the Pender County Schools Career and Technology Education (CTE) Advisory Board.



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LIBRARY

Pender County Library offers a variety of programs for children, teens, and adults each week. Here are some highlights from the first two weeks of October:

- 18 attended our children's program for making your own jigsaw puzzle at the Main Library in Burgaw, hosted by youth services librarian Dee Smith.
- 21 attended our children's program for making sock puppets at the Hampstead Branch Library, hosted by youth services librarian Terri Strong.
- 10 attended a workshop co-sponsored by the library and presented by the Master Gardeners at the Main Library in Burgaw.
- 48 attended an online presentation on the role of men of color from southeastern North Carolina in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. This included a panelist of three genealogist-historians who specialize in the history and genealogy of people of color and Indigenous people in southeastern North Carolina and was moderated by library director Allen Phillips-Bell and library aide Jessi Neal.

Check out all of our upcoming events by visiting our website, penderpubliclibrary.org, and clicking on the "Events" button!



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PARKS & RECREATION

- On October 23rd at Hampstead Kiwanis Park we are hosting our first kick or treat event. The event includes live music, a food truck rodeo and a Halloween Kickball tournament. Register your kickball team online at: <https://penderpr.recdesk.com/Community/Program>
- On October 28th we have partnered with the Town of Burgaw to offer an Autumn on the Square concert featuring The British Invaders. The concert will begin at 6pm on the Pender County Courthouse Square. Flyer is attached.
- Staff continues to work with our consultants from McGill on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. Next week we will be working with McGill to conduct 10 stakeholder interviews and 5 focus group meetings.
- Our Nature Explorers environmental education series continues in October featuring Bats and Beavers. The next program will be held at Hampstead Kiwanis Park on Thursday 10/21/21. Flyer is attached.
- Our youth athletics recreation partner programs are in full swing with the Fall seasons at Hampstead Kiwanis Park, Hampstead United Methodist Church Athletic Fields and Pender Memorial Park.
- Come experience Hampstead Kiwanis Park in a new light...a flashlight! Parks and Recreation is hosting a family camping event at the park on November 5th! It will be a fun filled night with activities, camp dinner, and s'mores included! Registration is limited so sign up early! Register online at: <https://penderpr.recdesk.com/Community/Program>. For more information contact Pender County Parks and Recreation at 910-259-1330. Flyer is attached.
- Our Fall Sand Volleyball league wrapped up last Tuesday. Congrats to the league champs! Stay tuned for Winter and Spring adult leagues soon.



KICK OR TREAT

AT HAMPSTEAD KIWANIS PARK



KICKBALL TOURNAMENT
For rules and registration go to
penderpr.recdesk.com

FREE EVENT

FOOD TRUCKS

LIVE MUSIC 1-4PM
Carl Newton's Review

**PUMPKIN DECORATING
CONTEST**

Bring your already decorated pumpkin

AND MORE!

For more
information call
910-259-1330
or scan the QR code

OCTOBER 23rd
12pm - 5pm
HAMPSTEAD KIWANIS PARK



Made with PosterMyWall.com



Bats and Beavers

Come learn all about bats and beavers and discover what they have in common!

Millers Pond Park:
October 7th

Hampstead Kiwanis
Park: October 21st

Free Program
6:00 PM - 7:00 pm
Hands on activities
Crafts and more!

*"One flies through the air with the greatest of ease,
the other swims and thinks nothing of gnawing
through trees."*





Family Camping

BRING (OR BORROW) A TENT AND JOIN PENDER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION FOR AN OVERNIGHT CAMPING ADVENTURE!

Hampstead Kiwanis Park

November 5th at 6PM to November 6th at 9AM

INCLUDES DINNER,
BREAKFAST, OUTDOOR
ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, GAMES,
AND MORE!

Family Registration
\$20

For more information and registration go to

[Https://Penderpr.recdesk.com](https://Penderpr.recdesk.com)



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Autumn on the SQUARE

FEATURING
THE BRITISH INVADERS

Free Concert | Food Trucks
October 28th | 6:00 pm | Courthouse Square

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
910-300-6401 OR 910-259-1330



CONGRATULATIONS

To the fall Sand Volleyball Mini League

CHAMPIONS



Made with PosterMyWall.com

To learn more about our programs, events, and leagues follow us on facebook or go to

penderpr.recdesk.com





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PLANNING

Permit Data: Pender County's Permitting Division continues its excellent work recovering from significant challenges faced during the spring of 2021. Using single-family residential building permits as an indicator of success, the average turnaround time for this type of permit since July 1, 2021 of this year still just over 13 business days. 183 permits of this type have been applied for during this time period, seventeen of which were applied for since the last County update. The average turnaround time is expected to continue to tick slightly upwards as time goes on due to permits being put on hold for various reasons. While the average turnaround time is below the County's target of a fifteen day turnaround for all permits, the Permitting Division is committed to bringing this turnaround time figure down further.

In terms of single-family permits issued, the County has seen a decline in the number of permits issued per month over the last four months. The month of June saw 112 single-family residential permits issued, July saw 88, August saw 61, and September saw 47 of that particular permit type issued. So far in October, 21 of these permits have been issued. A desktop analysis as to the reasons behind this decline found that there are a number of large scale subdivision projects that are reaching the end of their lot inventory. That being said, a number of those projects have additional phases coming forward, and there are new subdivision projects that will be coming forward for platting in the not-too-distant future as well.

Long Range Planning: Pender County Planning has working to assist the Parks and Recreation Department in an update to the Pender County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Board of County Commissioners approved a contract with McGill Associates on September 17th, 2021 and since that time, Staff in Parks and Rec as well as Planning have working to get the project underway, with multiple stakeholder meetings and focus groups scheduled or to be scheduled over the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the Pender County Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of an update to the Pender County Collector Street Plan at their September 1st, 2021 meeting. This update is the result of collaboration between the County and the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization, with WSP serving as a consultant. This Plan update was spurred on by experiences of Staff and of the ultimate users of the Plan since its original adoption in 2016. It was presented to the Board of Commissioners on October 4th, 2021 and a public adoption hearing will be held on Monday, October 18th, 2021.

Current Planning: Pender County Planning staff continue to work on a number of cases, including residential, commercial, and industrial projects. Staff are particularly excited to be currently working on a number of commercial and industrial projects that will seek to bring many exciting new opportunities to Pender County in terms of providing needed goods and services, as well as employment opportunities, to County residents.

The Board of Commissioners will be holding public hearings on three projects at their October 18th, 2021 meeting at the Hampstead Annex, including the aforementioned Collector Street Plan update. The Pender County Planning Board currently has two cases slated for its November 2nd docket, as do the Board of Commissioners for their November 15th meeting. The Pender County Board of Adjustment has three cases slated for its November 17th docket. Appropriate public notice will be provided for each of these cases in accordance with state statute and local ordinance. If you are interested in any

project the Department is currently working on, please give us a call at (910) 259-1202.

Additionally, the Department is excited to welcome Stephanie Jagoda as our new Administrative Specialist, replacing Tera Cline who has moved to the Clerk position. Stephanie has hit the ground running and we're very thankful to have her on our team!

Floodplain Management and Resiliency: Emmons Garner has taken over as the County's first Watershed and Drainage Technician. He and Daniel Adams (Floodplain Administrator) are working diligently to ensure that the County is ready to implement the Beaver Bounty program as well as assist citizens with beaver issues throughout the County. As the County continues to oversee stream restoration work under the Emergency Watershed Protection grant program, Emmons has successfully trapped beavers already on nearby sites, working to further increase the effectiveness of the work completed under the grant program. More information will be published on these programs in the very near future.



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REGISTER OF DEEDS

REGISTER OF DEEDS 9/01/2021 TO 9/30/2021	
Maps Recorded	15
Marriage License Issued	47
Passport Applications	23
Passport Photos	32
Notary Oaths Issued	19
Deeds of Trust Recorded	450
Deeds Recorded	408
Vital Certificates Issued (Birth/Death/Marriage)	395
Miscellaneous Documents Recorded	691
Total Fees Collected	\$330,205.45



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TOURISM

County Update Oct. 15, 2021

Tourism

Pender County Tourism assisted **Cycle NC** on their highly successful Mountains to Coast ride, which ended in North Topsail Beach on Oct. 9. We recruited and manned two rest stops in Pender County – one at Wells Pork Products and another at Bear Ridge Farm. Traveling family members on a motorcoach visited the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center.

The 2020 state data was released last week. Despite COVID lockdowns, Pender County was **one of only 14 counties** to show an increase in visitor spending. We had an 8 percent increase at a total of almost \$132 million – that's a record for us. We were also only one of 20 counties that gained employment in the tourism and travel industry. More than 932 jobs are directly related to tourism in Pender County.

We assisted in the promotion of **OceanFest**, a conservation/surfing event. That too fell on Oct. 9.

We attended a planning meeting with Topsail Beach officials for their annual **Lighted Parade and Tree Lighting**, set for Nov. 27.

Olivia and Tammy attended the networking of the Greater Wilmington **Biz Expo** and photographed our **three MADE winners**.

Stephanie attended the **Historical Society of Topsail Island** meeting to promote the Ghost Walk with an actress portraying Mattie Bloodworth.

Stephanie appeared on **WWAY** to promote the Ghost Walk. She did a fantastic job.

Tammy attended an **NC Coast Host** board of directors meeting, virtually, to plan their next event.

It's **NC Oyster Week** and we are promoting a fundraiser at **Shuckin' Shack** as well as tours with **Ghost Fleet Oyster Co.**

We met with **YWCA** officials to discuss our next steps in the women's program.

We continue our work with the **Mountains to Sea Trail** and their work to improve the trail opportunities.

The **North Carolina Beach, Inlet, and Waterway Association** is having the annual fall conference and Tammy is working with the awards nominations and the events subcommittees.

We met with the **Economic Development committee** of the Topsail Chamber. Mark Seitz was asked to present the Pull Factor data to the group.

We are working with **Pender Education Partnership** in the organizing of their annual **Pender County State of Education and Economy** event, Oct. 21.

Olivia continues her work with **Long Term Recovery**.

Olivia was the guest speaker for the **AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP in Pender County**, Olivia spoke at both the Burgaw Senior Center and the Topsail Senior Center, speaking about Tourism in Pender County and also her work with the Pender LTRG and how it can assist along with the need of volunteers.

Tammy met with **Pender Arts Council** to discuss upcoming events. Our goal is to offer a new trail and a coordinating show with the arts council partnership.

Olivia also attended the monthly **Pender Arts Council** meeting, many of their upcoming programs will engage in activities related to the pairing of arts and culture with tourism.

We are discussing the **Blueberry Drop**, a New Year's Celebration.

Tammy again has been selected as the county representative for the **2022 Governor's Volunteer Service Award**. She will issue press releases and gather nominations to honor the county's outstanding volunteers. A virtual ceremony will be held in April.

Ghost Walk is approaching rapidly. We are selling tickets for the shows online.

Tammy attended an informational session regarding the **NC Civil Rights Trail**. The program would involve a new marker at a significant site that involved the Civil Rights Movement. We have two locations, minimum, one being the courthouse. The deadline for the first round of awardees is Oct. 31.

Tammy attended the *Halloween Kills* premiere hosted by Visit NC. The event celebrated film in the region – so many in Pender County! Visit NC also showed a longer promotional video “**Get Back to a Better Place**” which included clips of a turtle release by the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center. Get Back to a Better Place is the Visit NC national ad campaign.

Communications

We have issued press releases for several departments, including a non-online-payment day, elections, and contractors in our creeks and streams. We have updated our social media and website with the information.

We continue to monitor our social media and post relevant information.

We photographed the various departments with NC Labor Commissioner Dobson and posted those photos on social media.

Pictured: Uncle Jerry, 80, the oldest rider on Cycle NC, and his grand-nephew, Charlie, 8, the youngest rider among more than 700 cyclists with Cycle NC's Mountains to Coast ride.

Families of Cycle NC riders toured the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital







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UTILITY OPERATIONS

PENDER COUNTY UTILITIES (PCU) & WATER DISTRICTS:

PCU currently has 5 staff positions vacant. We have one new field crew employee starting Monday, plan to contact applicants for another open field position next week for interviews, a WWTP operator position is advertised, just completed Project Manager interviews this week, and have one solid waste position that will be advertised soon.

Field staff work and status updates since last report:

- Getting colored water complaints in Wyndwater, Watts Landing, and Pelican Reef. Performing end point flushing as needed.
- 15 taps performed in last two weeks by staff and contractors. We are still 20 taps behind and are working hard to catch up.
- Water leak repair performed on Country Club Road by contractor.
- 288 locate requests completed in the last two weeks.

WATER PRODUCTION NUMBERS:

May 2021 Daily Avg: 1.77 MGD from WP, 0.293 MGD from Wallace, 0.965 MGD to Hamp/SH, 0.394 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.359 MGD for Hamp/SH)

June 2021 Daily Avg: 1.28 MGD from WP, 0.238 MGD from Wallace, 0.712 MGD to Hamp/SH, 0.322 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.034 MGD for Hamp/SH)

July 2021 Daily Avg: 1.55 MGD from WP, 0.152 MGD from Wallace, 0.940 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.166 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.107 MGD for Hamp/SH)

August 2021 Daily Avg: 1.58 MGD from WP, 0.250 MGD from Wallace, 1.003 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.053 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.056 MGD for Hamp/SH)

September 2021 Daily Avg: 1.49 MGD from WP, 0.194 MGD from Wallace, 0.895 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.265 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.160 MGD for Hamp/SH)

October 2021 Daily Avg (thru 13th): 1.35 MGD from WP, 0.204 MGD from Wallace, 0.851 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.167 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.017 MGD for Hamp/SH)

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

- Backwashed GAC #4 (granulated activated carbon filter).
- Exercised butterfly valves in the yard.
- All State reports for September have been completed and submitted.
- Installed a new recycle pump for pond discharge.
- Obtained a sample of sodium permanganate from Water Guard to potentially start feeding it at the raw water intake. Adding an oxidant can aid in coagulation and help with algae control especially in the summer months. I've begun extensive jar testing to see if it will work in our process.
- Water Production numbers for September: 44.7 million gallons, average of 1.49 MGD
- Water Production numbers thru October 13th: 17.6 million gallons, avg of 1.35 MGD

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

- The plant continues to run great, but we always have to stay alert!
- Condensed 100,000 gallons of sludge in the past two weeks.
- Given two more plant tours, one for a contractor and one for an engineering firm.
- Worked on monthly reports, self-evaluations, merit based criteria, and next year's budget.
- An operator position is available.

SOLID WASTE

The Transfer Station scale house is operating well. We are waiting on a quote to have the scale serviced. Dirt has accumulated underneath and is causing the scale to malfunction from time to time.

Transfer Station daily creates about 100 - 115 disposal tickets daily. Waiting time at scales is about 3 minutes in and 4 minutes out.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL TONNAGE FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

MSW Kitchen trash collected 2,580.24 tons

Construction & demolition 609.51 tons

Recycling 118.05 tons

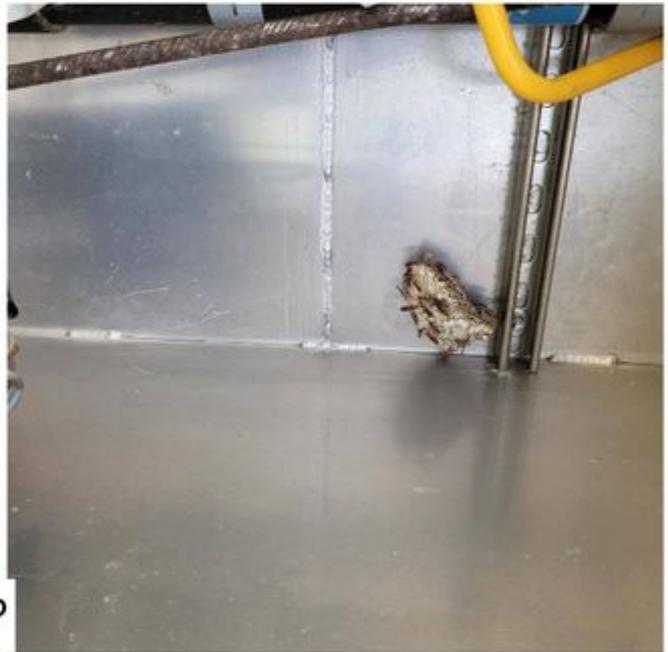
Tires recycled 29.44 tons

Scrap metal recycled (shreds) 90.57 tons

Whitegoods recycled 4.46 tons

TV & Electronics 22.18 tons

October insects around the PCP-WWTP



October insects around the WWTP

Bee hive in water meter box



