



# Pender County Government Update

Department

TOURISM

## Tourism

While some may think Labor Day is the unofficial end of summer, Pender County Tourism doesn't see a rest. We have **multiple events and festivals** in the coming months.

**Planning for the Oct. 21-22 Ghost Walk continues. We have a nice variety of spooky stories to tell. Thanks to Pender Arts Council and Eden Mills, the posters and marketing materials are complete.** Ghost Walk tickets went on sale this week. The event is Oct. 21-22 at the Burgaw Cemetery. This is a premier event for the whole family. Pictured below is the online poster advertising the Ghost Walk.

Tourism attended the **Historical Society of Topsail Island** meeting on Sept. 8. This is the first meeting since the summer break. We work closely with the historical societies in Pender County because local history is one driver of tourism.

The **North Carolina Beach, Inlet, and Waterway Association** events committee met to finalize the two-day conference schedule.

We met with the **NC Oyster Trail** advisory committee to discuss events during NC Oyster Week, Oct. 10-16. We also discussed our strategic plan for the next several years.

We hosted three **Mountains to Sea Trail 45<sup>th</sup> birthday hikes** over a three-day period. This gave us the opportunity to introduce the trail to newcomers. Pictured below is a group of hikers at the Surf City Bridge Hike on Sept. 8. Photo by Alan Welch.

We met with various stakeholders as we started to plan the **250<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the Battle at Moores Creek Bridge which is the kick-off to the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Pender County will be 150 years old in 2025. We will begin planning for the **Sesquicentennial**.

Tourism met with **Johnson Nursery**. The nursery is hosting a well-planned **Fall Festival** on October 22. Complete with a pumpkin-picking parcel and fun for the entire family, the event should be a tremendous success.

The **Mountains to Sea Trail** executive board met to prepare for the next meeting, evaluate the ED, and discuss possible board and officer openings. It was a virtual meeting.

Pender County Tourism and Pender County Parks and Recreation met with officials from the Town of Burgaw and the NC Blueberry Festival to outline the **New Year's Eve Blueberry Drop**.

We are finalizing the **2023 Visitor Guide**.

The **Tourism Development Authority** board met on Sept. 15 in Surf City. Susan Griffin and Peggy Arsenault were elected as chairperson and vice chair, respectively.

## **Communications**

We have had two large media requests for information.

We have issued press releases on behalf of the health department and tourism.

We have updated the website to announce water testing regarding PFAS and the NCDOT public input request, just to name a few.

We monitor and update our social media.

# GHOST WALK OF PENDER'S PAST

OCTOBER 21ST & 22ND



HISTORICALLY HAUNTING TOURS START AT 6PM  
TICKETS ADULT: \$15 STUDENT: \$10  
AGES 4 & UNDER FREE  
FOR TICKETS & INFO  
[FACEBOOK.COM/PENDERCOUNTYGHOSTWALK](https://www.facebook.com/pendercountyghostwalk)  
(910)259-1278

SPONSORED BY:

BURGAW TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
TOWN OF BURGAW

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

PENDER COUNTY TOURISM  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TOPSAIL ISLAND  
PENDER ARTS COUNCIL  
PENDER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PENDER COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION  
PENDER COUNTY LIBRARY  
MOORES CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD





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### LIBRARY

- September is Library Card Sign-Up Month! Visit the library's social media pages throughout the month of September to learn what materials and services the library has for you!
- Pender County Library is currently running a community survey to learn how we can improve our services to better meet our community members' needs. Everyone that takes the survey may choose to be entered into a raffle to win \$50 cash! Staff members are setting up tables throughout the community to reach community members that may not currently use the library. Paper versions are available at both library locations as well as at Smart Start of Pender County. A digital version is available on our website at [penderpubliclibrary.org](http://penderpubliclibrary.org).
- The library welcomed Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., professor emeritus in the Department of History at UNC Wilmington on August 30. Dr. Fonvielle shared stories from his new book "Curious Tales from Old Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear: The Truth Behind the Legends," where he gave participants a glimpse into the truth behind Lower Cape Fear's most famous legends through the eyes of a professional historian.
- Jason Howell, a historic interpreter with Moore's Creek National Battlefield, held an event on September 8 at the Hampstead Branch Library. Mr. Howell told the story of the Battle of Moore's Creek, which took place in Pender County. The Battle of Moore's Creek was a Revolutionary War battle that lasted only 3 minutes, the record for the shortest battle in history.
- Teens celebrated Banned Book Week at both library locations by completing a banned book scavenger hunt. Teens not only learned why certain books were banned, but also learned how to find different book collections in the library.
- Carolina Dog Sports will be on the lawn of the Main Library in Burgaw on Saturday, September 17 at 11 a.m. Join us to learn about and watch a K-9 agility demonstration!
- Meet the author of "The Peach Pit Parade", Shana Keller, at a special Book Talk and Taste program at the Hampstead Branch Library on Wednesday, September 28 at 4 p.m. Children ages 6-12 will discuss Ms. Keller's book while tasting a special peach treat!
- The Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development will be in the lobby of the Main Library in Burgaw on Wednesday, September 28 from 4 to 5 p.m. Mt. Calvary Center is working to empower and improve the Pender County community's quality of life by providing programs and information about community health, transportation, food insecurity, and more. Free COVID-19 home test kits and other personal hygiene supplies will be available.



# Pender County Government Update

## Department

### UTILITY OPERATIONS

#### PENDER COUNTY UTILITIES (PCU) & WATER DISTRICTS:

PCU has implemented a text notification system for delinquent water accounts. We are still fine-tuning it, but we did our first test run this week. We hope to expand to start sending out voice messages as well. This notification will be an additional notice to customers who are late paying their bill, in addition to the 2 bills they already prior to delinquency, to hopefully reduce the number of service cut-offs we perform every month. We are urging customers to ensure that PCU has their up-to-date contact information.

\*\*\*Water meters are in short supply due to supply chain issues. PCU is temporarily unable to issue irrigation meters, as we need to prioritize our supply to customers that need water for their homes and businesses. It is possible that even those meters may become limited in the near future. We have active orders for more meters but have been given delivery dates of January 2023 or later.

On December 16, 2021, the EPA announced the next steps to strengthen the regulatory framework on lead in drinking water after reviewing the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) under Executive Order 13990. All water systems are required to compile and submit an inventory of service line materials on both the utility and customers sides of the water meter by January 16, 2024. Along with the service line inventory a list of all schools and licensed childcare facilities built prior to 2014 must be submitted.

Currently:

- School and Childcare list has been completed
- Working on year homes were built inventory
- Researching and meeting with engineering firms that specialize in LCRR
- Gathering quotes for FY23-24

Future needs for this project:

- Budgeting for the lead and copper rule revision project
- Working with an Engineering group to meet EPA deadlines
- Assemble technicians to complete the water sampling portion of this project

The Lead and Copper Rule Revision Project will be an ongoing project for the next two years.

Field staff work and status updates since last report:

- 5 new water taps completed by staff
- Annual maintenance performed on Sloop Point and Heidi Trask generators
- Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) ordered to replace faulty one at Sloop Point Booster Station
- Sodium Hypochlorite delivered to well and booster sites
- Two employees attending C distribution class
- Two employees attending C well class
- One employee completed B well class
- Replacement of faulty alarms and lights at sewer lift stations, as well as other routing maintenance checks at each station
- Started monthly meter reading, mowing water tank sites and booster stations
- 2 after-hours emergency calls with staff response
- 334 locates in last two weeks
- 100 plus work orders completed, 17 water meter inspections completed, numerous water meter sets completed, extensive water line flushing in the Hampstead area
- Automatic flush valves on Riverland Dr, Michigan Ave, Old Landing Rd, Royal Tern Dr, Bahama Dr, Deer Run, Raccoon Rd, and Manhollow Church Rd

#### WATER PRODUCTION NUMBERS:

April 2022 Daily Avg: 1.40 MGD from WP, 0.356 MGD from Wallace, 0.980 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.126 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.107 MGD for Hamp/SH)

May 2022 Daily Avg: 1.50 MGD from WP, 0.480 MGD from Wallace, 1.019 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210

BPS), 0.393 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.411 MGD for Hamp/SH)  
June 2022 Daily Avg: 1.59 MGD from WP, 0.402 MGD from Wallace, 0.908 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.560 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.467 MGD for Hamp/SH)  
July 2022 Daily Avg: 1.68 MGD from WP, 0.059 MGD from Wallace, 0.751 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.444 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.195 MGD for Hamp/SH)  
August 2022 Daily Avg: 1.67 MGD from WP, 0.164 MGD from Wallace, 0.788 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.526 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.314 MGD for Hamp/SH)  
September 2022 Daily Avg (thru 15th): 1.64 MGD from WP, 0.037 MGD from Wallace, 0.783 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.396 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.179 MGD for Hamp/SH)

#### MAPLE HILL WATER SYSTEM & WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The plant seems to be running OK. I am doing samples today to determine its current status. Cleaned UV lights and DO probes. Doing a little yard maintenance because of the rain. I'm a little behind with some places I can cut and some I cannot since it is still too wet. Doing a little maintenance on the spray field, adjusting sprinkler heads. Waiting on the irrigation fields to dry up a little more so I can start cutting. Still waiting for the batwing to be repaired (parts are on order). I am getting prepared for my state inspection for the water system at the water tower.

#### WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Staff is continuing yard and garage area cleanup. Staff replaced UPS units on the control panels for filters #3 and #4. Superintendent Tom passed the Grade 1 Biological Wastewater exam. Raw water quality has been excellent as of late. The plant is running well with no major issues. There have been some minor power bumps coming through the plant as the result of line work in the area. Communication failure with the radio at the Rocky Point tank resulted in some afterhours work. Water production numbers for September through the 14th: 22.9 million gallons for an average of 1.64 MGD

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

The wastewater plant is running well! We have had several power bumps in the past two weeks.

1. Several call outs to reset equipment
2. Mowed grass & string trimmed
3. Met with contractors onsite for the force main project
4. Met with FLW rep about probe project
5. Operator on call work all weekend due to water backing up in the MBBR (Brian thank you for your hard work)
6. Conducted interview for new maintenance positions

#### SOLID WASTE

- We've had no problems with the scale in the past couple of weeks.
- Traffic across the scale remains steady.
- Waiting time at scale is about 3 minutes in and 4 minutes out.
- Still waiting on desks.

#### SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL TONNAGE FOR AUGUST 2022

MSW Kitchen trash collected 2,571.16 tons

Construction & demolition 587.95 tons

Recycling 123.15 tons

Tires recycled TBD

TV & Electronics 10.96 tons

Scrap metal recycled (shreds) TBD

Whitegoods recycled TBD

Out of County TBD



Scenes from the PCP-  
WWTP, September 2022



 Collage Maker



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Collage Maker



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SOCIAL SERVICES

Pender County DSS has met all the requirements for the Together Facing The Challenge (TFTC) certification. The certification was provide by the Services Effectiveness Research Program, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, School of Medicine, Duke University. The Duke Endowment funded the program which trains staff to be trainers in the TFTC model working with Foster Parents. The certification is for 2 years Sept. 2022 - Sept. 2024 at which time the agency seek the opportunity to be recertified.

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# Pender County Government Update

Department

HEALTH - GENERAL

Caseload and funding increase based on January 2022-June 2022 client participation numbers. Caseload increased from 1384 to 1415. WIC is required to meet a minimum of 97% of caseload for budget.