



Pender County Government Update

Department

TOURISM

Tourism/Communications Update

On Saturday, Sept. 17, Pender County Tourism visited the annual fundraiser **Paddle 4 Troops**. Pender County Veterans' Affairs department was also in attendance.

Pender County Tourism is collaborating with the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce to host **NCDOT board members** and leadership at a luncheon. Tourism contacted Burry Chocolate to provide favors. Meetings and planning are ongoing.

Pender Tourism met with Jeanette Jones of **Pender Historical Society** to feature the Pender Historical Museum on a blog. The museum is a hidden gem in the county. We are also assisting with the society's **Burgaw Holiday Home Tour** marketing.

Tourism staff is pleased to have met with **David Andrews**, the new county manager.

Pender County Tourism attended the virtual **North Carolina Beach, Inlet, and Waterway Association** executive board meeting and the board meeting on Sept. 21. Tammy serves as executive board secretary of the organization and the minutes have been submitted to the executive director.

On Thursday, Sept. 22, we attended the **Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Commission**. Pender County Tourism collaborate with TISPC on the **Beach Clean project**.

We have been in contact with the **Gullah Geechee National Heritage Corridor** to help involve more of our tourism-related partners.

Stephanie Key, **Ghost Walk** art director, is gathering scripts and working with actors. Tickets to the Ghost Walk are on sale now and sales are going well.

We featured **Johnson Nursery** in this week's blog. Johnson Nursery is expanding into the hosting of events and festivals.

Tourism is represented on the **Pender County Health Assessment** team. We are assisting in promoting the survey for community response.

The copy for the **2023 Visitor Guide** has been submitted to the printer. We should have our proofs to review in the coming weeks.

Communications

We have been researching templates and status of the county's communications policies and social media use for a best practices policy. We met with Erik Harvey and IT to discuss social media as well.

We met with Focus Broadband for an update.

We attended NACo's FCC Broadband Mapping workshop.

We have fielded several inquiries from the media. We are collecting information for a media request.

We have issued several press releases and postings for various departments.

We are monitoring Hurricane Ian and wrote press releases and posted information as necessary. We will continue to monitor the storm and issue updates as needed throughout the weekend.







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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Agriculture

- Field corn harvest is nearly complete ahead of Hurricane Ian with average yields of 125-130 bushels per acre being reported.
- A field corn variety demonstration plot, part of a 9 county research effort, was harvested this week with an average yield of 184 bushels per acre. Soybean harvest also began ahead of this weekend's potential hurricane but will not be complete. As dry as the summer has been, the projected 6"-8" of rain from Hurricane Ian is not expected to create widespread crop damage due to flooding. Winds could impact soybeans ready for harvest. Farmers and gardeners with greenhouses should consider removing the plastic from their structures ahead of the storm to minimize structural damage.
- Four hours of pesticide applicator recertification classes were offered this week, giving 34 licensed applicators the hours they need to renew their licenses. Classes focus on the safe handling, use and disposal of pesticides and their containers.
- Spoke to the Topsail High School Animal Science class about career opportunities in agriculture and agriculture research.
- All Extension Agents and staff will be in Greensboro attending the NC Cooperative Extension State Extension Professional Development Conference from Monday, October 3 to Wednesday, October 5.

Consumer Horticulture & Local Foods - Tiffanee Boone

- Has been putting gardening information on the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer facebook page and participated in training webinars on native plant gardening, gardening with climate change, and current plant diseases and insects. Taught a landscape design and planting practices class to 15 Master Gardener Volunteers.
- Has answered numerous phone calls, text messages, emails, and facebook messenger questions about gardening and soils. Put more soil sample boxes and paperwork at the Hampstead Annex for clients to pick up.
- Planning the next initial Extension Master Gardener Volunteer training. If you are interested in joining the next Extension Master Gardener Volunteer class, please fill out the application here: <https://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/01/nc-state-extension-master-gardener-pender-county-initial-certification-training/>

· Amy Mead and I will teach a rain garden class at 801 S Walker St in Burgaw on Saturday, November 12th from 10 am to noon. It will be a lecture about how to set up your own rain garden and ideas for plants to go in it. Then we will have a hands-on class outside in the garden. Everyone will go home with a plant that will thrive in their own rain garden at home. Registration information will be forthcoming.

· Extension Master Gardener Volunteers had a grape harvest at River Landing. The school outreach committee is gearing up to do gardening lessons to 1st and 3rd grade classrooms throughout the county in the fall and spring. Student numbers have doubled on the eastern side of the county since last year.

Empowering Youth and Families

The Fall 2022 Cohort is 30% complete and so far a raving success. So far, families have learned about improving communications between youth and care providers. Now they are working on gaining a better understanding of the workings of the adolescent mind.

EFNEP - Cynthia Rivenbark

*On 9-22-22, I went to Burgaw Depot for the Pender County Christian Services Coalition Meeting .

I met several organizations, Science Alliance, Food Bank of Eastern NC, Willard Outreach Center,

that have partnered with PCCS to help provide assistance to limited resource families. I was asked to be a part of this coalition as my job is teaching nutrition to this demographic.

* Graduated my Shiloh Cookers group(K-5th grade) on 9-25-22. I had 6 participants.

*Going to the NC Extension Conference in Greensboro on Oct. 3-5. There will be sessions for me to be better equipped in my teaching commitments in the area schools and [communities.in](#) Pender County.

4-H - Traci Spencer

Attended NCSU 4-H Agent SPARK training in Raleigh Sept. 20-22nd.

Attended the Downeast Dairy Calf Show in Lenoir County on Sat September 24th with 6 calves and 13 4-H youth and their families.

Attended 4-H Health Rocks training in Richmond County Mon. Sept. 26th to implement curriculum program in Pender County Public Schools.

Had a meeting with volunteers to plan the upcoming Pender County Goat Show on Sat. October 29th.

Went to Malpass Corner Elementary to provide Afterschool 4-H Enrichment for 25 elementary students.

Held a monthly Pender County 4-H Teen Council meeting to plan upcoming fall programs with Pender County teens.

Organized the 3rd Annual Pender County 4-H Wreath Holiday Sale to raise funds for 4-H youth to attend camp, pay for scholarships, events and activities.



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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.
- The Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development was at the Main Library in Burgaw on Wednesday, September 28. 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 were available.
- The Hampstead Branch Library is hosting their next installment of Gentle Yoga for Beginners with instructor Jess White on Saturday, October 8 at 11 a.m. Participants will experience a slow flow that is meant to ground and center your body and mind.
- The Main Library in Burgaw is excited to host Pender County Emergency Management's Deputy Fire Marshal Amy Burton for two programs! Ms. Burton will share about this year's fire prevention theme "Fires won't wait. Plan your escape." with families. Children will listen to stories about fire safety and get a chance to see emergency management vehicles at both events! Ms. Burton will join the Main Library on Saturday, October 8 at 10:30 a.m. for Saturday Storytime aimed at our youngest patrons and Monday, October 10 at 4 p.m. for a special program for all ages!
- The library is partnering with Pender County Parks and Recreation and Smart Start of Pender County to host a special event at Millers Pond Park on Wednesday, October 12 at 10:30 a.m. Children will listen to the story "We're Going on a Pumpkin Hunt" by Goldie Hawk, complete a pumpkin-themed craft, and walk around the park with their families to go on their own pumpkin hunt. Every child who attends will receive their own copy of the book courtesy of Smart Start of Pender County!
- Judge Gary Trawick will join both library locations for a discussion of his latest book "Just Throw a Rock... and Run." Judge Trawick, a Burgaw native, writes in his new book about his experiences growing up in Pender County and practicing law during the creation and subsequent implementation of the Civil Rights Act in North Carolina. This exploration of the history of race and racism in Pender County and North Carolina encourages readers to love their neighbors and find solace in a world that is becoming increasingly polarized. Judge Trawick will be at the Hampstead Branch Library on Thursday, October 13 at 6 p.m. and the Main Library in Burgaw on Saturday, October 15 at 1 p.m.