



Pender County Government Update

Department

LIBRARY

- Pender County Library is currently running a community survey through the end of October 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.
- Judge Gary Trawick was at the Main Library in Burgaw 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.
- Both library locations partnered with Smart Start of Pender County to celebrate Read for the Record during our regularly scheduled storytimes. Read for the Record is a nation-wide event held by Jumpstart, a national early education organization. According to Jumpstart, Read for the Record is the largest shared reading experience where millions of adults and children read the same book on the same day, building an intergenerational community through reading. Smart Start of Pender County provided families that attended these special storytimes received two books that they could take home to keep!
- The library partnered with Pender County Parks and Recreation for a special Spooky S'mores and Stories program at Millers Pond Park. Families listened to spooky stories around the campfire while enjoying s'mores!
- A representative from EDSI / NC works was in the lobby of the Main Library in Burgaw to share about their WIOA Youth Program. The WIOA Youth Program helps teens and young adults ages 16 to 24 with career advice, obtaining work experience, and paid on-the-job training. A representative will be available every other Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. through the month of November in the lobby of the Main Library in Burgaw.
- The Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development will be at the Main Library in Burgaw every Wednesday from 3 to 5:45 p.m. through the month of November. 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.
- The library is continuing its partnership with Trillium One Community to provide community members who have been impacted by the pandemic with free resources to support their mental and behavioral health needs. A representative from One Community will continue to provide information to community members on Fridays from 12:00-2:00 pm at the Main Library in Burgaw. Visit trilliumhealthresources.org/for-individuals-families/one-community or call 1-877-685-2415 for more information.
- The Hampstead Branch Library partnered with Pender County Emergency Management, the Pender County Fire Department, and North Carolina Forestry for a special event to celebrate the Fire Prevention Month. Children learned about fire safety, met a firefighter dressed in his uniform, and explored the inside of a firetruck!

- The Main Library in Burgaw is hosting a meet-and-greet with local author Philip Gerard on Saturday, November 5 at 1 p.m. Gerard is the author of five novels, eight works of nonfiction, and numerous essays on history, music, and writing craft. He teaches in the BFA and MFA programs of the Department of Creative Writing at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. His novel "Cape Fear Rising" is set in 1898 in Wilmington, North Carolina, and tells the story of a predominantly middle-class black society that was violently overtaken by white civic leaders. This event is brought to the library through a partnership with UNCW's Office of the Arts and the NEA Big Read. The NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.
- The library would like to thank the Teachey family for their donation of 6 yearbooks from Malpass Corner Elementary, dated 1997-2002. These yearbooks, dated 1997 to 2002, will be added to the library's Pender County yearbook collection at the Dallas Herring Carolina Heritage Research Annex.



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TOURISM

10.28.22 County Update

Tourism

Pender County Tourism is writing **one blog per week** for our website and social media. The blogs focus upon events, attractions, businesses. We've featured the upcoming **Candlelight Tour at Moores Creek National Battlefield** and the **Burgaw Holiday Tour of Homes**, just to name a few. This week we are focusing on the **100th Anniversary of the Canetuck Rosenwald School** (*pictured below*).

Pender County Tourism volunteered at the **Autumn with Topsail**, the largest festival on Topsail Island. The festival was Oct. 14-16.

We met with **Moores Creek National Battlefield** to be involved in the upcoming **Candlelight Tour**. We've been asked to serve the volunteers and serve as a guide.

We attended the **Wilmington Area Hospitality Association** luncheon at Lumina/Holiday Inn. It was a productive meeting for the networking.

We attended several **webinars** concerning customer meaningful experiences, information sessions, tourism, and community sustainability, etc.

We attended the meeting of **YWCA leaders and community leaders** to discuss a capital campaign and programs to expand.

The **Ghost Walk** happened Oct. 21-22. It was well received and it garnered more revenue than the prior year. We had a great variety and diverse stories.

We met with **Sen. Brent Jackson** at Sleepy Creek Farm, a 1,650-acre property, that has been acquired by The Nature Conservancy through a \$1.3 million **Land and Water Grant**. The property purchase is the culmination of efforts by the military, the **Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail**, and the **Wildlife Resource Commission**. This acquisition will allow the MST to divert away from US Hwy 17, from Lodge Road through the Sleepy Creek Property near the 210/17 intersection. The MST is a gem in the tourism toolbelt.

We are working and exploring our continued involvement in the **Farm App** through the state.

We are involved in **NC Coast Host** and led a board meeting on Oct. 24 in preparation for a general membership meeting on Nov. 7.

We are a small part of the **Pender County Health Department Survey and Health Assessment**.

We attended the **East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study** meeting on Oct. 26. A public input session will be conducted in Surf City Town Hall on Nov. 14\\.

The **Pender County Tourism Development Authority** met in person and virtually for their October

meeting. The meeting was conducted a week later due to the Ghost Walk event. The next meeting will also be adjusted, due to the holidays. The next meeting is Dec. 1 at the tourism office in Burgaw.

We attended the **Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Commission** meeting virtually on Oct. 27. Tourism is active in the **Beach Clean campaign**. They are also concerned about plastics and Styrofoam used in non-encased floating docks.

Communications

We have issued several social media postings and website updates.

We have prepared a few press releases.

We are addressing public records requests.









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UTILITY OPERATIONS

Pender County Utilities (PCU) News 10/28/2022

PENDER COUNTY UTILITIES (PCU) & WATER DISTRICTS:

PCU has implemented a call and text notification system for delinquent water accounts. Prior to this system, we had to cut off over 200 customers. For the month of October, we only had to cut off 91 water accounts for non-payment.

PCU currently has 3 staff vacancies. We are currently evaluating candidates for the Solid Waste Maintenance Technician position and have scheduled interviews for the Water & Sewer Locator position. We plan to begin recruiting for the Well Operator position soon. A new Utilities Clerk started a couple of weeks ago, and our Wastewater Plant Maintenance Technician begins work on Monday 10/31.

Scotts Hill Elevated Tank & Wells project: Construction by Harper General Contractors will begin by December. We are working on the project schedule, which will likely see some delays due to the availability of materials and equipment.

Reverse Osmosis Water Plant & Wellfield: We are still trying to finalize a plant site but have made good progress in recent weeks.

US 421 Sewer to Blueberry Road project: The design is nearing completion.

WTP Generator/WWTP Berm project: This project will be bid with 2 separate construction contracts. The generator project is anticipated to have a mid-December bid date, with the berm project bid to follow in early January. We are currently finalizing permits for the berm project. Both projects have some budget and scheduling concerns, due to current economic conditions.

Pender Commerce Park Water & Sewer Extensions project: We plan to issue the Notice to Proceed to 274 Construction Group in mid-November (delayed due to supply chain issues). The construction schedule is being finalized.

Maple Hill Water Interconnection with ONWASA project: All construction is complete and operational. Project close-out and the final payment is in process.

PCU will be issuing an RFP for water tank maintenance soon. We also plan to issue an RFQ for design of our warehouse/shelters project (joint PCU & Facilities project) as well as our CFPUA water interconnection at US 421 project within the next few months.

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 soon. We have active orders for more meters but have been given delivery dates of January 2023 or later.

Field staff work and status updates since the last report:

- Extensive water line flushing in the Hampstead area
- 12 new water taps completed by staff/contractors
- 1 water tap disconnect and relocate completed
- Repair six-inch water main break on Eden's Lane

- Bobcat mini excavator back in the shop for repairs
- Replace all tubing on the hypochlorite system at Sloop Point Booster station
- Replaced blowoff solenoid at Kiwanis well
- Asphalt repair completed in Camelot Way
- Start a comprehensive list of fire hydrants to be repaired or replaced
- Monthly Bac-T samples completed
- Test all high-level floats at sewer lift stations
- 2 after-hours emergency calls staff responded too
- 300 plus locates in last two weeks
- The amount of locates is extremely limiting to staff to complete other tasks
- 3rd quarter IBT report has been submitted

WATER PRODUCTION NUMBERS:

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: 1.67 MGD from WP, 0.020 MGD from Wallace, 0.758 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.234 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 0.992 MGD for Hamp/SH)

October 2022 Daily Avg (thru 26th): 1.62 MGD from WP, 0.312 MGD from Wallace, 0.848 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.333 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.181 MGD for Hamp/SH)

MAPLE HILL WATER SYSTEM & WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

- Pumped out water at all the vaults where the meters are in and under the water tower
- One of the sample stations has been drawn out
- Still have 2 or possibly 3 fire hydrants that are down
- Collected samples for the wastewater plant last week
- Collected soil samples for the year this week
- Trying to let the fields dry up a little more before starting to cut the grass
- Lagoon capacity is getting low, trying to work on this slight odor problem

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

- Staff performed an oil change to one of the two rapid mixers. The second one will be done next week.
- Backwashed GAC #4.
- Carbon media exchange on GAC vessel #3 is scheduled for November 7th. Pre-GAC exchange sampling was completed.
- Pond effluent and sludge samples were sent out for testing.
- Superintendent Tom completed WW Collections Grades 1 & 2 school.
- Lab Manager Lauren is attending WW Biological Grade 1.

- Assisted staff at the WWTP burying aluminum sulfate chemical feed line.
- Overall, the plant is running well with no issues.
- Water production numbers for October through the 26th: 42 million gallons for an average of 1.62 MGD.

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

The wastewater plant has been running well. In addition to normal operations, we have done the following:

- Installed new chemical feed lines
- Emptied and cleaned the chemical bulk tank
- Disassembled alum feed pump and plumbing to clean
- Reassembled alum feed system
- Received Alum order
- Attended Collections I/II school
- Due to schooling our operator has worked solo for a couple of days. Thank you for holding down the fort Brian, you're doing a great job!

SOLID WASTE

- The Transfer Station scale house is operating well.
- The ladies are taking precautions and staying healthy.
- Waiting time at scales is still about 3 minutes in and 4 minutes out.
- Traffic is still steady across the scale.

MSW Kitchen trash collected 2,308.34 tons

Construction & Demolition 536.45 tons

Recycling 94.67 tons

Tires recycled 51.85 tons

TV & Electronics 22.53 tons

Scrap metal recycled (shreds) 29.99 tons

Whitegoods recycled 52.72 tons





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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

CED - Mark Seitz

All Agents and staff attended the NC Cooperative Extension Annual Conference in Greensboro. Over 150 in-service training programs were offered in a peer-to-peer format by Extension Agents and NCSU and NC A&T University faculty from across the state.

Most farmers finished field corn harvest just ahead of Hurricane Ian. Yields ranged from 0 bushels per acre to over 250 bushels per acre where adequate rain fell. In general it was an average crop county wide. Soybean harvest is underway with yield reports very similar to corn, some terrible, some very good. Strawberry planting is underway. Farmers are irrigating fields to help the new strawberry plants establish roots before winter.

The Field Crops Agent is making farm visits to assess soybean crop concerns following Hurricane Ian. Some fields had severe lodging due to the wind. Collecting plant samples to try to determine why some varieties lodged and others did not. In addition 35 license private pesticide applicators received four hours of recertification classes that will allow them to renew without having to retake a certification exam.

Working with a number of Agents across NC to plan the 2023 NC Farm School. Classes will start in February at the Bladen County Extension office and run every other week through mid-May. Farm tours will be offered throughout the class. <https://ncfarmschool.ces.ncsu.edu/2022/10/pursuing-a-farming-passion-with-nc-farm-school/>

Work is on-going with the NC Blueberry Festival board to devise a strategy that will improve how it evaluates the economic impact of the festival.

Consumer Horticulture & Local Foods - Tiffanee Boone

- Has been putting gardening information on the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer facebook page. Gave a presentation to Farm Bureau with the 4-H Agent about the Downeast 4-H Dairy program. Attended State Extension Conference in Greensboro for program training. Home visit for mole cricket identification and control strategies.
- Has answered numerous phone calls, text messages, emails, and facebook messenger questions about gardening and soils.
- 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. Please click on this link to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/water-water-what-to-do-a-homeowners-guide-to-rain-gardens-tickets-414816726997>
- Extension Master Gardener Volunteers had an Association meeting at Poplar Grove to plan for their upcoming year. They have started school outreach to teach 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.

4-H Youth and Development - Traci Spencer

Attended the State Extension Conference in Greensboro, Oct. 3-5th. Participated in workshops, awards ceremony and other educational opportunities.

Delivered and submitted Pender County 4-H youth crafts and artwork into the NC State Fair County Exhibition competition.

Attended planning meeting for 2023 4-H Camp registration. Currently taking signups for Millstone 4-H Camp July 9-14th, 2023.

Presented a Project Learning Tree 4-H program to Malpass Corner Afterschool on Fall Changes.

Planned and prepared for Pender County 4-H/Extension booth at the Burgaw Halloween In the Park event, Sat. October 15th. 3 Pender County 4-H Teen Council youth will volunteer to help disseminate information and do face paintings.

Set up registration for Pender County 4-H Goat Show to be held on Sat. Oct. 29th.

Pender County Extension/4-H staff and 4-H Teen volunteers will man the NC Cooperative Extension booth at the NC State Fair. Teens will be able to attend the fair free of charge. Will tour educational and agricultural exhibits and livestock shows.

EFNEP Nutrition Educator - Cynthia Rivenbark

*Did a food tasting at PCCS on Tuesday with 'Hummus is Yummus'. Everyone said they enjoyed it. I reached 24 families while I was there.

*Started Camp, Cook, Play class w/ 14 3-5th graders at Penderlea on Tuesday afternoon. On Wednesday, I went to BMS for Teen Cuisine class with 24 children.

On Thursday, going to Penderlea for Teen Cuisine class w/ 6-8th graders.

*On Monday, I will be teaching at Cape Fear Middle with 30-40 children in the 21st Century after school