State-wide “Stay at Home” Order Issued

At 4:00 today, March 27, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order 121. This issued a “Stay at Home” order meaning, “All individuals currently in the State of North Carolina are ordered to stay at home, their place of residence, or current place of abode, except as allowed in this Executive Order. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces when outside their residence, they must at all times and as much as reasonably possible, maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet from any other person, with the exception of family or household members, consistent with the Social Distancing Requirements set forth in this Executive Order. All persons may leave their homes or place of residence only for Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Operations, or to participate in or access COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations, all as defined in the order.”

Executive Order 121 also states, “In order to slow the spread of COVID-19, it is necessary to reduce the instances where individuals interact with one another in a manner inconsistent with the Social Distancing Requirements set forth below. Many of those interactions occur at work. At the same time, it is necessary that certain businesses, essential to the response to COVID-19, to the infrastructure of the State and nation, and to the day-to-day life of North Carolinians, remain open. In light of the above considerations, non-essential business and operations must cease. All businesses and operations in the State, except COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations as defined [in the order], are required to cease all activities within the State except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined below. For clarity, businesses, including home-based businesses, may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home).”

This Executive Order is effective Monday, March 30, 2020, at 5:00 PM and shall remain in effect for thirty (30) days from that date or unless repealed, replaced, or rescinded by another applicable Executive Order. More information about this order can be obtained by visiting our website at BurgawNC.gov and clicking on the Coronavirus link at the top of the screen. The Town of Burgaw’s offices and departments will remain operational during this period, however, are closed to the public. The lobby of Town Hall will remain open for forms and payments through a drop box system. Our phones will be available during normal business hours. The main number to the Town Hall is (910) 259-2151. Also, remember to visit our website at BurgawNC.gov for important information and links.

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
NC Department of Health & Human Services: https://www.ncdhs.gov/
Our Lobby Remains Open

We would like to remind everyone the Town Hall lobby remains open for walk-in traffic during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as we practice our social distancing, there will be no face-to-face interaction with the public, as our Customer Service window is closed. There are instructions and forms located in the lobby, or you may visit us online, or call Customer Service at 910-663-3445 for assistance over the phone.

We encourage all utility payments to be made online or over the phone if possible. There are also two drop boxes available for payments, as well as forms or mail to be dropped off for town staff. One is located inside the lobby and is available during normal business hours, and one is in our parking lot, which is available at any time. Our drop boxes are checked by staff frequently throughout the day.

Please stay tuned to our Facebook page and our website for important updates in regards to the town’s response to COVID-19. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at 910-663-3445 or email us at customer.service@burgawnc.gov.

Important Notice from our Public Works Department

We want to take a moment to talk about products you shouldn’t be flushing. Products like cleaning wipes, baby wipes, paper towels, napkins or sanitary items cannot be flushed down the toilet, even if the product is described as flushable.

These items do not break down like toilet paper does and can clog the sewer system, leading to issues with sanitary lift stations and result in sewer backups into homes, causing additional public health hazards.

Due to the current situation with social distancing and the sudden lack of toilet paper in several Burgaw grocery stores we want to remind our residents that flushing these things can also cause problems on their side of the sewer system as well, before it reaches the Town. That means calling a plumber and having the clog fixed will be the resident’s responsibility. These wipes are not meant to be flushed in mass, they will biodegrade eventually but not before causing potentially major sewer back-ups. Please think of the Public Works crew who will have to be out jetting sewer lines in the event the system gets clogged up from these items.

Courthouse Avenue Study

Courthouse Avenue Study Startup The Courthouse Avenue project is a downtown planning study and transportation improvement area, which has gotten started with team members from WithersRavenel surveying Friday March 26, 2020. We want to inform the community that work has begun, utilizing a survey team to gather data on the study area. The study area includes portions of Dickerson, Wright and Fremont, as well as, Courthouse Avenue. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Andrea Correll, Town Planning Director, at 910-663-3451, or by email at acorrell@burgawnc.gov. Please see the study area to the left.
Departmental Updates

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Jim Hock, Police Chief

- The Burgaw Police Department has been operating, as normal, for the first couple of weeks of the COVID-19 epidemic. We will continue to provide law enforcement services and can be reached at the PD or through the main telephone number 910-259-4924.

- Please continue to check on family members and neighbors through telephone conversations. Especially when dealing with the elderly, inquire as to their health and well being. If you are aware of neighbors or relatives, who live in Burgaw, who would benefit from the police department making contact with them, please contact the PD in reference to adding them to the R U Okay program.

- Numerous training classes and meetings have been cancelled or delayed over the past two weeks in order to limit the transition of any viruses. We will continue to cooperate with social distancing and other measures to limit exposure.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Cody Suggs, Director

- The Parks & Recreation worked this week to clean local playgrounds and public restrooms. Green spaces remain open, but our playgrounds are closed in result of the Governor’s order issued on Friday. We highly encourage social distancing while visiting our green spaces. In addition, we encourage residents to continue to wash their hands when arriving/leaving the parks and wipe down picnic tables and benches.

- We also worked with Pender County Schools this week to prepare over 300 Easter bags for students at home. The bags were delivered across Town this Friday and were also available at Burgaw Elementary School. Special thanks to Town Staff and Pender County Schools for helping us serve the youth of Burgaw during this difficult time.

R U OKAY?
Let the Burgaw Police Department check on your loved one!

We would like to remind the Town of Burgaw residents and family members of the RU Okay? program established by the Burgaw Police Department. The program calls individuals weekly to check their safety and security. The program is open to Burgaw residences who are elderly, shut ins, or just could use someone to check in on them throughout the week. Those individuals are also notified during inclement weather conditions such as hurricanes or ice storms of safety concerns. If you or a family member are interested in being added to the program, please contact the Burgaw Police Department at 910-259-4924.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Alan Moore, Director

- On Monday John and Robert worked on cleaning ditches along North Wright Street, they finished up Tuesday before the heavy rains started. Pump Station 1 and 2 valves were cleaned by Roland, Brian, Ben and Ben Monday too as part of their routine maintenance.

- Green team focused on rain detail earlier in the week then worked on mowing and sidewalk edging Thursday and Friday.

- Willis and Lucas gave the break room at the Public Works garage a fresh coat of paint Wednesday. Robert and John set up a temporary road closure on West Wallace for a tree removal Wednesday as well.

- Timberly triangle received some attention from John and Robert Thursday while Roland, Jeremy and Brian jetted the lines near Cardinal Foods.

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Jim Taylor, Fire Chief

- Recently, the town Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of extrication equipment for the Fire Department. That equipment has been received and will be installed on our fire apparatus next week.
Our Town Weekly Update

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Town of Burgaw
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U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Shop local. We’re in this together.
Local businesses need your support now more than ever.

Get it to go. Order from your local restaurants and bars via delivery service, to-go, or curbside pickup.

Buy in advance. Purchase gift cards or book services from local businesses to use at a future date.

Follow along. Your favorite local businesses are online and sharing specific ways you can support them.

Shop small online. Websites haven’t closed and it’s important to leave positive reviews for local vendors and businesses.

Stay looped in. Keep up with your memberships, and with services that are still offered online.

Say thank you. Many business owners and workers are risking their health to provide critical products and services. Be thankful.

HISTORICAL FEATURE OF THE WEEK

Historic Burgaw Train Depot

In October 1836, the first tracks of the Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad were laid. On March 7, 1840, the last spike on the track was driven. With a length of 161.5 miles, this was the longest single line of track in the world at that time. The Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad was later changed to the name Wilmington and Weldon Railroad in 1859. The town was formed around this historical building. The depot was significant during the Civil War as a communication center after the fall of Fort Fisher. During the Civil War in 1862, Union cavalry attacked the depot, setting it on fire. Fortunately, the fire was put out before major structural damage occurred. It was likely saved due to the close proximity of Confederate troops stationed nearby. The depot also served as a holding site for 6,000+ prisoners of war in February 1865 while a massive prisoner exchange was negotiated in Richmond, VA and Washington, DC.

The large frame building was designed with three sections. Originally, the central portion contained the freight warehouse. It is five bays long and sheathed with board-and-batten siding. The freight warehouse portion is the oldest section of the building. The passenger station was initially located at the south end of the depot. This section was added in 1917. Designed to be four bays wide and five bays deep, this section accommodated two waiting rooms and restrooms. Connecting the two ends were the station master’s office, control room, and semaphore.

The depot underwent complete renovation in 2006-2007 and is now the perfect venue for weddings and large gatherings. The Burgaw Area Chamber of Commerce office is also housed in the building and is open to the public during the week for viewing of the facility and historical pieces. Our historic train depot is the oldest train depot still standing in the state.

Support our local businesses in town. They are the ones that help make us a “Charming Town Year Round!”

Where can I view updates from the town in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?
Please visit our website at burgawnc.gov and click the “Emergency Alert” banner at the top of the homepage.

How do I sign up to receive notifications from the town?
You may sign up with “Notify Me” on our website, as well as our Code Red Alert System (see instructions on this page).

Where can I get a map of the town?
Burgaw and Pender County maps are available in the lobby at Town Hall.

Our Town
Weekly Update

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Upcoming Recycling Pick-up Schedule

- April 1: West Side
- April 8: East Side
- April 15: West Side
- April 22: East Side
- April 29: West Side
- May 6: East Side
- May 13: West Side
- May 20: East Side
- May 27: West Side
- June 3: East Side
- June 10: West Side
- June 17: East Side
- June 24: West Side

Public Works

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

Phone Number: **(910) 470-0457**

Public Works On-call Person this Week is: Brian Edwards

**REMINDER:** This phone is only answered after hours, 4:30 PM - 7:30 AM and is for water and sewer emergencies only. Unless Public Works has been giving prior notice we cannot turn your water on due to non-payment shut off.

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REMINDER TO ALL RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF BURGAW REGARDING CURBSIDE VEGETATIVE DEBRIS COLLECTION

Please be advised of these requirements prior to placing vegetative debris at the street for pickup:

- The Town does not pick up vegetative debris generated by contractors for non-residential and multi-family development customers.
- Do not mix vegetative debris with other materials.
- Do not place vegetative debris in the street. All debris must be a minimum of two feet from the edge of pavement.
- Do not place vegetative debris in front of a fire hydrant.
- Do not place vegetative debris within twenty feet of an intersection or in a manner that will impair the ability of the traveling public to see oncoming traffic.
- Residents should place all debris on their property. Please do not place vegetative debris on town parks, the railroad right of way, or undeveloped/unoccupied property.

Failure to adhere to these rules may result in the debris not being collected and/or fines assessed by the Town of Burgaw.

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**Did you know?**

There are two little libraries in your local parks!

Visit Harrell Memorial Park and Rotary Park to read a book and take a book from the little libraries donated by the Burgaw Rotary Club.

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Town Hall
109 N. Walker St.
Burgaw, NC 28425
910.259-2151
mail@burgawnc.gov

Office Hours
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Monday-Friday

Mayor
Kenneth T. Cowan

Mayor Pro Tem
Wilfred Robbins

Commissioners
Jan Dawson
James Murphy
Bill George
Vernon Harrell

Town Manager
James H. Gantt

Town Clerk
Kristin J. Wells

Town Attorney
Zachary Rivenbark

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