Due to Governor Cooper’s “Stay At Home” Executive Order, and for the safety of our residents and guests, both of the town’s playground areas are closed until further notice. However, our open green spaces and Osgood Canal Greenway and Urban Trail remain open. The trail is approximately 2 miles and loops the central portion of town. The trail follows the Osgood Canal through town and offers walks through wooded areas along the canal, as well as urban areas in downtown. We also have a “Historical & Architectural Downtown Burgaw Self-Guided Walking Tour” you and your family can do on a sunny day. The self-guided tour takes you through the historic district of Burgaw, showcasing historical structures and residences.

We encourage you to spend time outside when possible to take advantage of our green spaces and the walking trail to get exercise and fresh air during this time of being cooped up inside. A map of the walking trail can be found on our website, and the self-guided walking tour brochures can be picked up in the Town Hall lobby during normal business hours.

Please remember to keep you and your family safe and healthy by adhering to the “social distancing” recommendations of staying at least six feet away from others.

We strongly urge our residents to make utility payments online or over the phone if possible. Payments can also be mailed or there are 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. As per the Governor’s Executive Order #124, disconnections and late fees for non-payment are suspended until further notice. Utility accounts set up by draft payments will remain as usual with the draft occurring on the 15th of the month.

Due to the Governor’s orders, we would like to remind everyone of the following:

- State of Emergency has been declared effective Monday, March 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM.
- Town rental facilities are closed and reservations for future rentals have been suspended.
- All town playgrounds are closed, but green spaces and the walking trail remain open.
- Public restrooms at Hankins Park and Rotary Park are closed.
- Garbage and recycling services remain operational as normal.
- Yard debris and white goods pick-up services remain operational as normal.

We encourage everyone to adhere to the guidelines issued by state and federal agencies to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Be sure to wipe down surfaces that are frequently touched, stay away from others, don’t touch your face, and of course, wash your hands often!
IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM PUBLIC WORKS

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.

Great Trails State Plan Survey

NCDOT is encouraging residents and leaders to participate in a brief survey on multi-modal transportation in North Carolina. Local input will be used to identify a network of shared-use paths and trails that connect every county in North Carolina.

Share your thoughts by taking a 10-question survey on how trails can serve transportation purposes, providing connections between where people live, work and play. Participants are encouraged to take the survey beginning now through September 30th.

Learn more about the project at: [www.ncdot.gov/divisions/bike-ped/great-trails-state](http://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/bike-ped/great-trails-state).
Departmental Updates

INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT
Louis Hesse, Building Code Administrator

- COVID-19 has changed our operations a lot. We are postponing non-urgent residential inspections on occupied dwellings as a safety precaution. When an urgency is determined valid, “Remote Live” inspections are being allowed. “Remote Live” is a state approved method that had been approved with limitations prior to COVID-19. It now has been expanded to allow any inspections acceptable to the inspector. So far there have been 2 completed using FaceTime. The contractor has to start at the street facing the house and have tools such as levels and a tape measure. He follows the inspectors instructions for what the inspector needs to see and if all goes well, the inspection may be approved with minimal risk to the occupants.

- We have also initiated Digital Live plans reviews where the plans pdf’s are brought up on our computer along with multiple participants using live cams so you not only hear discussions but also see their expressions. The most recent review was for the courthouse renovation plans where there were 2 architects, 2 electrical engineers, 2 mechanical engineers, our Fire Marshal and myself participating. The review lasted an hour and a half and was very productive.

- Our office continues to be closed and empty as we work from home and in the field where it is safe while observing all of the social distancing ordered by the state.

- Scheduled continued education classes have been postponed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Jim Hock, Police Chief

- The police department participated in the “Birthday Parade” for Ms. Brenda earlier this week. Her neighbors and family formed a rolling parade to help celebrate her birthday while we are social distancing. Happy Birthday Ms. Brenda!!!

- Walmart has contracted with the Town of Burgaw to have a law enforcement presence at their store. Due to the size of the store, the essential items sold, and the need to assist people in observing and complying with the Executive Orders initiated by Governor Cooper, a Burgaw officer will be on site for the foreseeable future.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Alan Moore, Director

- This week we continued working on the ditch by the Timberly Triangle. John, Robert, Mark, Roland and Ben P worked Monday and Tuesday on this project.

- Green team focused on mowing wells and lift stations, around Town Hall and they ended the week with downtown and the walking trails. They were also spraying for weeds and getting rid of those pesky fire ants.

- Roland and Mark trimmed trees on Wright Street Thursday morning and worked on debris pick-ups in the afternoon.

- Friday was hot spot day as part of our monthly system maintenance. ‘Hot spots’ are known problem areas in the sewer system that are routinely jetted to make sure blockages don’t occur.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Wendy Pope, Finance Officer

- Recently, the IRS issued warnings about Coronavirus-related scams and to watch out for schemes tied to economic impact payments. Please visit https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus for details.

- Keep in mind that warmer weather is here! Meaning you may be watering your flowers, plants and gardens more; playing outside in the sprinkler and pools which will make your water bill increase!

- Within the past 30 days, we have processed 24 applications for new utility services; 6 were new commercial accounts, 10 were new residential accounts and 8 are for new developments in Creekside opened by the contractors.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Andrea Correll, Planning Director

- During this week I have worked diligently on starting to rewrite the UDO to meet the new State laws required in 160D.

- I remotely attended the Technical Coordinating Committee of the Cape Fear RPO yesterday. The two alternatives for the Burgaw Bypass were removed from the list. The Town has documented opposing the proposed routes for several years. The Town’s opposition to the freight line being restored bisecting the Town was recorded. Commissioner Harrell has a remote meeting at the Cape Fear COG for the TAC at 9:00 am on the 9th for continued discussion of the projects.
Looking for things to do while at the house with the family?

Make sure to participate in the 30 Day Family Challenge in order to lift the spirits and bring the family closer through fun activities.

Document your experience and send your photos to recreation@burgawnc.gov. You can also tag us on Facebook by using @Town of Burgaw and by using the Hashtag #BurgawNC.

| Day 1: Take a walk with your family | Day 2: Take a family photo |
| Day 3: Play family tag | Day 4: Make dinner together |
| Day 5: Play Charades | Day 6: Write & read 3 things you love about each other |
| Day 7: Have a movie marathon | Day 8: Exercise as a family |
| Day 9: Have a dance party | Day 10: Have an inside picnic |
| Day 11: Work on Spring cleaning | Day 12: Celebrate Easter |
| Day 13: Participate in game night | Day 14: Kids pick an activity |
| Day 15: Have a paper airplane contest | Day 16: Take a picture with your pets |
| Day 17: Bake with your family | Day 18: Team spirit day |
| Day 19: Read an interesting story together | Day 20: Play outside |
| Day 21: Host family art night (Paint/Color/Draw) | Day 22: Host trivia night |
| Day 23: Have a pajama day | Day 24: Look through old family photos & videos |
| Day 25: Have a scavenger hunt | Day 26: Take a bike ride or walk |
| Day 27: Play hide & seek | Day 28: Host a tacky day |
| Day 29: Play four corners | Day 30: Make a memory book with your 30-day challenge photos. |
Old Pender County Jail

Located at 106 East Wilmington Street, the old Pender County Jail was built in 1924 and has served as a jail, living quarters, office space and a unique venue for filming. The building was used as a jail from 1924 until 1977. The second level housed up to 21 prisoners, while the first level was living space for the jailer and his family.

There were two notable breakouts in the old jail before it moved to a different location. In 1971, two prisoners knocked down the guard and escaped. The prisoners were tracked by bloodhounds and captured in town about 45 minutes later. Four years later in 1975, several prisoners were involved in an attempted jailbreak. They overpowered a deputy, took his gun and held him hostage. Shots were fired during the incident and bullet holes in a metal cell door are still evident today.

In 2013, officials decided to renovate part of the historic building. The Town of Burgaw and Pender County came together and remodeled the lower level for joint use by both the town and the county. Pender County Tourism Office and Visitor Center is currently housed in the former jail, as well as a conference room and storage shared with the town. The original jail cells on the second floor remain untouched and have been the perfect spot for filming of movies and television shows over the years.

# HISTORICAL FEATURE OF THE WEEK

Old Pender County Jail

Spring is here!

A Reminder From Our Planning Department

Now that spring is here you may want to start building a fence or adding a tool shed on your property. There are several steps you need to take before getting started. Always contact the Burgaw Planning Department to get the permits you need before starting work. You can find the permit application on our website.

For questions, please contact our Planning Department at 663-3452.

RU 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 residents 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.
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.