CALENDAR
May 12
4:00 PM
Board of Commissioners Meeting

May 21
5:30 PM
Planning & Zoning Board Meeting

Visit our website and Facebook page for calendar updates and important notices in response to COVID-19

VIRTUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

THURSDAY
APRIL 23, 2020
6:30 PM
FACEBOOK LIVE

This week we held our first Virtual Trivia Night for families to participate online at home. It was a great success and we look forward to more fun nights in the future. Winners from this week’s Trivia will be announced on Facebook and prizes will be mailed next week.

Join us for another fun Virtual Trivia Night next week!

A Message from Your Town Manager

These are definitely trying times for our community and I want to personally thank each of you for being patient as we get through this together. Though the Town has reduced contact with the public, we are still maintaining our full service and operations. Staff continues to work on projects, budgets, and normal maintenance of our town, as well as, keeping updated on changes to laws, policies, and procedures as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are working diligently on our budget for the FY 2020-2021 year. With these unprecedented times we are facing, we are working to complete a balanced budget, reviewing and taking in to account the uncertainty in the economy in our State and Country.

We want to recognize and say a special thank you to those staff members that are working on the front line of this pandemic. Our Fire Department, Police Department, and Public Works Crews are doing a fantastic job in keeping our Town safe and clean. We thank you for your dedication and service.

We also want to recognize those in our community that support each of us every day, from the grocery store workers, to restaurant employees, to medical staff and many, many others. We sincerely thank you! We are blessed to have such a great community.

THANK You
IN APPRECIATION OF YOU, AND ALL THAT YOU DO.
Departmental Updates

INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT
Louis Hesse, Building Code Administrator

- Cape Fear Community College has completed their science lab up-grades and is now working on plans to convert another Mojotone parts and quality control building into classrooms for welding and diesel mechanic. Plans have been submitted and we are waiting for response to a couple of comments.
- Walmart plans have been approved for entrance / exit improvements.
- Pender County Courthouse plans reviews are nearing completion with the latest improvement designs for site drainage improvements. This will correct the water ponding problems that have plagued festivals for years.
- COVID-19 has continues to challenge construction and inspections. Many contractors have slowed down to comply with social distancing requirements. Many stopped completely for a while but have now tried coordinating with others to minimize being on the same job with other contractors. We are still postponing non-urgent residential inspections on occupied dwellings as a safety precaution and provide “Remote Live” when necessary. “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 has 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.
- Live Digital Plans Reviews are also being offered and will likely become the preferred practice for future projects.
- Our office continues to be closed and empty as we work from home and in the field due to the governor’s executive orders.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Alan Moore, Director

- John and Robert jetted sewer hot spots this week. These are areas in our system that are known to back-up and cause problems.
- Roland, Mark, Jeremy and Brian all worked on picking up yard debris and white goods this week.
- Willis, Lucas, Ben and Ben mowed Town Hall, the community building, the old EM building, old jail and walking trails in Rotary, Johnson and Pecan Parks. They also did the routine downtown clean-up.
- Roland, Mark, Chuck, Alan and Arthur all worked to complete the re-read list for Town Hall in a timely manner. With our crews limited each day we had everyone getting the list complete as fast as possible so Town Hall can send bills out on time.

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Jim Taylor, Fire Chief

- The Burgaw FD responded to 11 incidents in the past week.
- We would like to remind all of our businesses that are operating to ensure they are following Executive Order 131.
- Renovations of the Fire Station are continuing as planned.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Jim Hock, Police Chief

- Today is Officer Brandon Powell’s last day with the Burgaw Police Department. He is going to the Pender County Sheriff’s Office to work in the Telecommunications Dispatch Center. We thank Officer Powell for the years of service to the Town of Burgaw and wish him good luck.
- Due to the departure of Officer Powell, the PD has been accepting applications for BLET certified individuals interested in becoming a Burgaw Police Officer. Applications are being accepted through 5:00 pm Tuesday April 21st, 2020.
- On Thursday, we had a teleconference meeting with stakeholders for the 911 dispatch system in Pender County. The meeting was to discuss the 911 grant cycle and the possibility of replacing/updating the emergency dispatch hardware.
- Thank you to all the individuals that made the “chicken drop” a success. Last Saturday, the House of Raeford had a truck of chicken breasts and legs available for the public to purchase. Also, thank you to Pender County Schools for the (short notice) use of the middle school parking area.
**PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

_Cody Suggs, Director_

- Are you looking to get moving while in quarantine? Make sure to check out some exercises we have included in order to keep you moving while at home. You can also visit darebee.com to find more at home workouts that fit you best. If you have further questions please contact the Parks & Recreation Department.

- We would like to remind all residents that the playgrounds around town are currently closed until further notice. Residents can still enjoy the Osgood Canal Greenway and Urban Trail while also utilizing the green spaces around town. The Tennis Courts remain open as this time. We appreciate the understanding from citizens and ask that you recreate in a safe manner during this time.

- The Parks & Recreation Department would like to thank everyone that participated in the Egg Hunt last weekend. This week we held a raffle to choose the winner of the $25 gift card and the Ivy Hayes Train Depot print. Congratulations to Jennifer Hansen for placing 2nd and Patricia Polinski for finishing 1st.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

_Wendy Pope, Finance Officer_

- The finance department staff has been working “A” and “B” shifts to practice social distancing in the office. So far, these new, temporary, changes are working well with all of our schedules and deadlines. Cross-trained finance staff members step in to assist when others are out.

- As expected, our call volume has increased and it is a priority of the finance staff to answer all phone calls that are coming in. Please know, that if you have to leave us a voicemail, your call will be returned as soon as possible.

- Our lobby is still open to customers if you need to come in and fill out any forms or place your payment in one of our drop boxes.

- We have received 4 new residential applications since the last newsletter update.
It was a quiet and cold Sunday night on December 10, 1899 when Mr. FD Croom passed by the Rivenbark livery stable around 11pm and noticed that the building was on fire. As it turns out, the fire that started in the feed room of the livery stable spread rapidly through the stable killing seven horses. The flames then crossed a narrow alley to WD Croom & Bros. and the stables belonging to RM Croom. Both buildings were totally destroyed. The kitchen of the Croom’s hotel was badly damaged but the hotel was saved. The Burgaw Drug Company suffered slight damage while several out houses and a blacksmith shop suffered severe damage. This was the first fire causing damaging in Burgaw in 12 years. Although the origin of the fire remains unknown, at the time several believed it to be arson. The loss was estimated to be at $10,000.

The first modern flush toilet was invented by Sir John Harington of England in 1586.

Americans use 433 million miles of toilet paper a year, which is enough to stretch to the sun and back!
Plastics

One of the things all of us can do to protect and improve our environment is: Recycling

Today, a plastic bottle may contain juice or water or soda … but what can it become after you use it?

Take a look at some of the everyday plastics that you use and what they can become by checking out the website below:

https://www.recycleandrecoverplastics.org/consumers/kids-recycling/plastics-can-become/

Important Reminder 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.

Planning to fill your pool soon?

Call us first!

Contact us prior to filling your pool so that we get an accurate meter reading before and after the pool fill. An adjustment can be made to your sewer portion of your utility bill if accurate readings are on file.

Did you know?

A swimming pool naturally loses about 1,000 gallons a month to evaporation.

Stay in the know

We encourage everyone to enroll with “Notify Me” on our website to receive the weekly newsletter directly to your email and/or via text message. There are also options for enrolling to receive emergency notifications or when special events are added to our online calendar.

For assistance, please contact the Town Clerk 910-663-3441 Email: kwells@burgawnc.gov

Visit our website at BurgawNC.gov
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:

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.