On May 12, 2020, the Board of Commissioners met in a work session to discuss the upcoming FY 2020-21 budget. Multiple factors influence the annual budget process, including the condition of the national, state, and local economies and the needs identified in our community by elected officials, staff, advisory boards, and citizens. Burgaw will continue to strive to provide outstanding services. Taking into account the external effects of the economy and the needs identified for our community, this year’s proposed budget represents a significant amount of careful consideration and study in order for the Town to meet its obligations, fulfill its goals, and remain fiscally healthy.

In preparing the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget, town staff followed guidance from the Board of Commissioners through our 2020 Strategic Budget Retreat and the goals established in last years budgeting process to develop a balanced budget. The full impact of the COVID-19 recession is unknown. Multiple forecasts exist for how long the pandemic and recession will last and each forecast offers a range of economic projections. It is clear that Burgaw will feel a negative effect on revenues because of the recession. The town began taking action to mitigate revenue shortfalls in FY 2019-20. The town has benefited from sales tax and new development revenues, both of which will suffer during a recession. In addition, sales tax collections lag by three months and data to assess the true impact of the recession may not be readily available.

The proposed FY 2020-21 Budget will be available for public inspection on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 on our website at https://burgawnc.gov/budget. The budget public hearing has been scheduled for June 9th 2020 at 5:30 PM during our regular Board of Commissioner’s Meeting.

A Message from the Manager

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**Public Works Department**

- On Monday John and Robert repaired a fire hydrant on Bridgers and Cowan. They worked on jetting and cutting roots around a sewer line on Bridgers Tuesday. Afterwards they made sure the large diameter pipes on the Osgood Canal were clear of debris for the upcoming rain later in the week.
- Ben and Ben worked on finishing the fence for the pocket park. Tuesday they built the frame that would hold the new bench swing in the park. Wednesday the crew erected and secured the frame.
- Thursday was rain detail day due to the forecasted heavy rains. We checked to make sure storm drains and ditches were flowing and free of blockages to prevent area flooding.
- Willis and Lucas worked on opening and emptying about 100 bags of yard debris that had been previously collected. We want to remind everyone that any plastic bags we collect with yard debris in them will be opened and the bags thrown out due to our collection guidelines. Paper and compostable bags are recommended when bagging lose yard debris such as leaves and pine straw to make less plastic waste in the long run.

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**Police Department**

- Last Friday, the PD assisted the Laurels of Pender with a parade for family members to drive through the parking lot for their family and friends. A large number of the residents have not been able to see their family and friends due to COVID-19. There were a lot of smiles to go around.
- The PD vehicle vendors have began operations once again. We are finalizing some equipment installs and modifications to finish up the budget year.
- Zack Bridgers has completed his first week of training. He is progressing well and looking forward to being sworn-in.
- Officer Ramirez has begun her field training as a sworn police officer. She is still the police department’s administrative assistant, however, she is expanding her abilities as a police officer.
- We have been made aware of scams recently. We encourage you to view our tips regarding financial exploitation on page 3.

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**Fire Department**

We would like to remind everyone to be cautious of flood waters when driving. Even six (6) inches of water can be dangerous, so stay safe and “turn around, don’t drown!”

For more information on helpful tips on flood waters, we recommend visiting [https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood](https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood).
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- The Parks & Recreation Department began working on grant funding for the former EMS building this week. The funding is provided through the North Carolina Parks & Recreation Trust Fund and is allotted every summer. Funding is dependent on the project scope and how it applies to the recreational needs of our community. Our department has met with multiple stakeholders in the community this week and have worked diligently to acquire all the necessary paperwork. A public meeting is being held on Friday, May 22nd at 4:00pm for residents to voice their opinion on the project. Login into the meeting using the Join Me link provided: Join.me/burgawparks.

- We also held our 2nd Virtual Bingo Night this week via the Join Me app. We had around 20 participants in total and lots of great prizes were given away. We would like to congratulate all the winners from Bingo Night and thank everyone for supporting our department during the current restrictions.

- The Burgaw Incubator Kitchen received shipment of a new Artic Air reach-in commercial freezer last Friday afternoon. This week our department was able to surplus the previous freezer that will now support local agriculture in Pender County. The Burgaw Incubator Kitchen is now open for business with restrictions in place per the Pender County Health Department. We look forward to opening and onboarding our new tenants.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

Tips from the Burgaw Police Department

Financial Exploitation can come in many forms. Please be aware of some of the most commonly used scams:

- **Lottery or Sweepstakes** - "You have won money, just send us processing fees to collect your winnings." If it sounds too good to be true, it most likely is. Don't send any money.

- **Grandparent Scam** - "Your grandson/daughter has been arrested, send money to bail them out." Verify with other family members and law enforcement if an arrest has been made. Bail cannot be posted over the phone.

- **House repair/Traveling repair** - "We have left over materials and are willing to pave your drive or replace your roof cheap." Be aware of poor workmanship and don’t give payment/money prior to work being completed and inspected.

- **Bank Fraud** - "I am from your bank and we need to verify information." Financial Institutions will not call and attempt to get personal information over the phone.

- **IRS Scam** - "Someone has used your Social Security number to file their taxes, we need to verify who you are." The IRS/NC Department of Revenue will not call and verify your information. They will contact citizens by mail with a request for you to make contact with a local office.

These are just a few examples of Financial Exploitation. Keep these tips in mind: Never give out personal or financial information over the phone, online, or to strangers. If you receive phone calls about financial questions, don't give out information and hang up. Call and report scams or suspicious inquiries to your local law enforcement. We monitor and investigate the types of scams and notify the appropriate state and federal authorities as well.
Our Town Weekly Update

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HISTORICAL FEATURE OF THE WEEK

Murder at Moore’s Creek – Part Two

Upon hitting Joseph Marble in the head with the butt of his gun on the evening of Friday April 9, 1880, Porter Malpass fled Pender County. Malpass had become enraged upon finding out that Marble attempted to kiss his wife and had set out to kill Marble. When he finally caught up with him about a mile from his home, he raised his gun to shoot Marble, but instead lowered it, turned it around and struck him in the head with the butt of the gun. Malpass left Marble laying in a ditch, dying.

It was believed some 13 years later that Malpass was living in Georgia. In April 1893, the necessary papers were drawn up and sent to the executive offices of Governor Elias Carr of North Carolina and Governor William J Northen of Georgia to bring Porter Malpass back to Burgaw to stand trial for the murder of Joseph Marble. The news of Malpass’s return circulated and droves of people came to Burgaw to meet the train that was delivering the fugitive. The Pender County Sheriff and his deputies were at hand to receive the prisoner as well as the lawyers to see that justice was served. There had been a reward for the return of the murderer - $400.00 (the equivalent of just over $11,000 in today’s value). Mr. Lee Walker, who had found the fugitive and reported him to authorities for his return, was anxiously awaiting his reward money.

But Mr. Walker did not receive the reception he had hoped for in returning Porter Malpass to justice. The Malpass he returned was not Porter Malpass, the murderer. He was an innocent man – a victim of mistaken identity. Instead of receiving the $400 reward, Walker had to repay the expenses for the return of the incorrect Malpass back to his home in Georgia.

Whatever happened to Porter Malpass? Where did he run? Did he change is name? What happened to Malpass’ wife who was left behind? Did Porter Malpass get away with murder??? We may never know.

Governor Elias Carr

Governor William J Northen

Photos Courtesy of the Pender County Public Library Digital Archive
Inspired by other local observances in the three years following the Civil War, a nationwide day of remembrance was established to honor those who had died during the Civil War. This day was recognized by many as “Decoration Day”. On May 30, 1868, General James Garfield spoke at Arlington National Cemetery before 5,000 participants who later decorated the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers with flowers. As years passed and World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War occurred, the day of remembrance of those who died during the Civil War changed to include those who had died in the more recent wars. In 1971, Congress officially declared this day as a national holiday to be known as Memorial Day.

On August 14, 1943 Marvin Ray Johnson was born in Burgaw to Sophia Rebecca and Charles Robert Johnson. He was described as a “loyal and obedient son” who was “always eager to do the right thing”. Growing up, he was an active member of Hall’s Missionary Baptist Church in Burgaw. He attended Sunday school every Sunday, served as an usher and in the Junior Choir. He loved sports and working on vehicles, hunting, and fishing with his grandfather, Abel Johnson. Marvin graduated from CF Pope High School in May of 1966. On January 6, 1967, he enlisted in the US Army, and completed his basic training on March 10 of the same year. On May 30, 1967, Marvin said goodbye to his family and boarded a plane in Wilmington, North Carolina and left for Vietnam and started his tour on June 3rd.

PFC Marvin Ray Johnson served his country until July 3, 1967, just one month after reporting to Vietnam. It was reported that he died as a result of sniper fire in Long An, South Vietnam. He was only 18 years old. Today he rests in Wilmington National Cemetery. Marvin Johnson’s name can be found among the more than 58,000 men and women who gave their lives or remain missing on Panel 22E, Line 120 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. He was awarded The Combat Infantryman's Badge, The Bronze Star Medal with “V” Device for Valor, The Purple Heart Medal, The Vietnam Service Medal, The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Service Medal, and The National Defense Service Medal.

On this Memorial Day, the Town of Burgaw honors all veterans who have lost their lives serving our great country. PFC Marvin Johnson is only one of a few Town of Burgaw residents who gave their life for our freedom. We thank all who have served and those who serve today.

“All gave some, some gave all.” Never forget...

Source: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/17094527/marvin-ray-johnson#source
**Upcoming Recycling Pick-up Schedule**

- **May 27**: West Side
- **June 3**: East Side
- **June 10**: West Side
- **June 17**: East Side
- **June 24**: West Side
- **July 1**: East Side
- **July 8**: West Side
- **July 15**: East Side
- **July 22**: East Side
- **August 5**: West Side
- **August 12**: East Side
- **August 19**: West Side
- **August 26**: East Side
- **September 2**: West Side
- **September 9**: East Side
- **September 16**: West Side
- **September 23**: East Side
- **September 30**: West Side
- **October 7**: East Side
- **October 14**: West Side

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**Receive EMERGENCY ALERTS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION on the go with CodeRED!**

Receive critical notifications from the town:
- Severe Weather Alerts
- Boil Advisory Alerts
- Missing Persons
- Road Closures
- Other Important Town Information

Sign-up to receive alerts by text, call, or email today!
Visit BurgawNC.gov

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**THE WEEKEND FAMILY CHALLENGE**

Young or old, try something bold!

**Star Spangled Brownie Sandwiches**

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 1 box brownie mix
- Red, White and Blue Sprinkles
- Star Cookie Cutter
- 4 tbsp butter
- 1 cup Powdered Sugar
- 1 tsp to 1 tbsp of cream or milk
- ¼ tsp vanilla
- Pinch of salt

**DIRECTIONS:**
1. Prepare brownie mix as directed on the package
2. Then pour into a 9×13 greased pan and bake as directed
3. Once the brownies are ready, let them cool completely to room temperature
4. Cut cooled brownies using star cookie cutter
5. Lay cut brownies out on a parchment lined cookie sheet
6. Prepare Icing: Mix butter with electric mixer until it’s creamy
7. Once creamy, add salt, vanilla powdered sugar and milk
8. Blend until well combined and has desired consistency (should be thick)
9. Put Together: Put icing into piping bag with desired decorating tip or in a sandwich zip bag and cut a corner off
10. Pipe icing onto one star brownie and then place another brownie on top to form a sandwich
11. Place sprinkles along the edges of white icing and enjoy!

Send a photo of your completed family challenge and it may be featured in the following week’s newsletter! Submit to kwells@burgawnc.gov

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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 at 910-663-3441 or email kwells@burgawnc.gov.

Visit our website at BurgawNC.gov

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**Stay IN THE KNOW**

**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