The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30 and 2 named storms have already formed. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has predicted an above-normal 2020 Atlantic hurricane season. NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center is forecasting a likely range of 13 to 19 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 could be come hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (category 3, 4, 5; winds of 111 mph or higher). An average hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which 6 become hurricanes, including 3 major hurricanes.

While we focus on the COVID-19 Pandemic and the reopening of the State and Country, it remains critically important that we also remember to make the necessary preparations for the upcoming hurricane season. Keep in mind, you may need to adjust any preparedness actions based on the latest health and safety guidelines from the CDC and other health officials. A great resource for building a basic supply kit and additional information and guidance from the CDC can be found at https://ready.gov/kit. We want everyone to be ready, prepared, and stay safe during this and all times.
POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Over the past week, we have followed the media coverage of the untimely death of Mr. George Floyd in Minnesota. It is deeply disturbing and should be of great concern to every citizen in our nation. Law enforcement fully supports the swift actions to terminate and investigate the officers involved. The Burgaw Police Department works hard to foster positive relationships within the community we serve. We, as law enforcement officers, must always adhere to the standards of fair treatment, dignity, and respect towards all that we encounter. If citizens of the Town of Burgaw have any questions or concerns for the police department, please feel free to come by and talk, or email us. You can always find contact information on the Town of Burgaw website, burgawnc.gov.

- On Tuesday, Officer Bridgers was sworn in as a Burgaw Police Officer. Congratulate him when you see him around town.

- Pender Early College has requested the assistance of the Burgaw Police Department to conduct a drive-by parade for the graduating seniors. We will leave the Early College at 4:00 pm on Monday, June 1, 2020. The parade will loop down Fremont Street taking a left on Walker Street, then another left on Wilmington Street. It will end as we turn onto Dudley Street behind the train depot.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- The Fire Department has responded to 13 incidents in the last week. Several of these calls were for trees down due to our recent storms. Therefore, take care when driving during storms, especially at night.

- A fire hydrant was damaged in a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Bridgers Street and Dickerson Street. Thank you to our Public Works Department for a rapid response to assist us with this incident. Public Works staff was able to make the repair without disconnecting the water, therefore, a boil water advisory was not necessary.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- Ben and Robert repaired another water leak on the 2” galvanized line on Johnson Street on Tuesday.

- Wednesday was I&I inspection day along HWY 53 West. John, Robert and Ben H identified four problem spots that have been put on the schedule for repair.

- Valves at Pump Station 1 and 2 went through their routine maintenance Thursday.

- Green team this week focused on the ditches along West Hayes extension, parks, and line-of-sight trimming at intersections and stop signs. Ben and Robert also finished up pouring the cement for the new swing at the pocket park.
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- Our department submitted the PARTF grant application this week to the Parks & Recreation offices in Raleigh, NC. The application was designed to seek funding for the renovation of the former EMS Building located at 108 East Wilmington Street. We would like to thank the Planning Department for their assistance, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, as well as the civic groups who wrote support letters the last couple of weeks. The Town should receive the results late summer/early fall.

- The pocket park on S. Wright Street is coming along nicely thanks to the hard work of the Public Works Department. This week the Public Works Department finished laying the concrete for the custom swing set being installed. Extra grass seed will be spread after the completion of the project/current rain.

- This week the Parks & Recreation booked our first Murder Mystery Dinner scheduled for September 19th at the Burgaw Train Depot. Information regarding this 1920’s themed dinner will be released in the coming weeks. We will also be releasing information regarding Summer Camp as more details come about. A modified/virtual camp is being explored by the Parks & Recreation at the current time.

HISTORICAL FEATURE OF THE WEEK

The Trial and Escape of Doc Matthews

The Town of Burgaw was a busy little town on Tuesday May 6, 1879 as people from all around came to hear the criminal trial of Doc Matthews. He was charged with attempting to obstruct safe passage of a train by removing spikes from the rail road-bed and taking up the track. The chief witness in the case was Henry Brannock who witnessed firsthand Doc Matthews cutting away the cross-ties and tearing up the spikes. Doc was sent to jail to wait for Superior Court to reconvene on June 20, 1879 in lieu of a $200 bail. It was believed at the time that Doc was also responsible for two other failed attempts to wreck a train within the previous year. On the evening of Wednesday May 7, 1879, Doc escaped from the Burgaw jail. All efforts were made to recapture Doc, but he eluded arrest. Late September 1879, Sherriff Paddison received information that Doc was in Onslow County at the house of Frank Thomson. Two Deputies were sent to Onslow County to arrest Doc. He was easily arrested while he was shelling corn in a barn on the morning of September 25, 1879. This time, Doc was placed in jail in Wilmington to await the next term of the Pender County Superior Court.
The Weekend Family Summer Challenge
Young or old, try something bold!

Join us this summer as we have fun with completing a “Town of Burgaw Summer 2020 Bucket List!”

Each week we will give our readers a challenge to do with their families. Some challenges may ask for you to submit your project for a prize, while other weekends will be just good ole family fun!

Stay tuned each Friday for a new challenge!

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Challenge #1
Take a bicycle ride on our walking trail!

* Visit our website to download a map of trail *
Don’t forget to wear your helmet and use the flashing beacons! As always, remember to look for traffic before crossing!

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Summer Storms and Hurricane Season are Here.
Sign up today to receive weather alerts!

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, and/or email today!

Visit BurgawNC.gov
Upcoming Recycling Pick-up Schedule

- 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 West Side
- July 29 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

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