Burgaw Police Department’s K9 Kane has received donation of body armor

Burgaw Police Department’s K9 Kane has received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Kane’s vest was sponsored by Don and Misty Fike of Galesburg, IL and embroidered with the sentiment “Honoring those who served and sacrificed”.  

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 3,980 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of $6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.  

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old, actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.  

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of $960 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of $1,744-$2,283, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a five-year warranty. For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at www.vik9s.org, or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.

Let’s Talk - CPR

Join us for our next open, honest, transparent sharing, conversation about Community, Policing, and Race Relations. This Forum is being sponsored by Pender County Law Enforcement, Town of Burgaw Police Department and concerned citizens. Our desire is that the sharing and listening we do with each other will lead to better understanding, harmony and unity with our neighbors and community. This first forum went well and our next one is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2020 at the Burgaw Community House from 5:30-7:00 pm. To reserve your seat (number limited because of COVID-19) please call one of the following persons as soon as possible:

Sheriff Alan Cutler – 910-259-1212  
Chief Jim Hock, Burgaw Police Dept. – 910-259-4924  
Bishop James Malloy – 910-540-7299  
Karen Malloy – 919-740-7802
The next Town of Burgaw Board of Commissioners regular meeting is Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 4:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Historic Train Depot, located at 115 S. Dickerson Street, and also available by phone/online for anyone who does not wish to attend in person. To join the meeting by phone, please call 1.646.307.1990 (enter ID 215-470-148 #). To join online, please visit join.me/215-470-148. The following public hearings will be held during the meeting at 5:30 PM (or thereabout). Please visit our website at BurgawNC.gov for detailed information regarding the recommended amendments. All interested parties are invited to attend, written and oral comments are welcome.

Public Hearing #1 Consideration of Unified Development Ordinance Text Amendments recommended by the Planning Board on February 25, 2020 related to changes to the NC General Statutes amended in 2019.

Public Hearing #2 Consideration of Unified Development Ordinance Text Amendments recommended by the Planning Board on June 18, 2020 related to items, including renumbering and re-lettering sections, to complete mandated changes by the NC General Statutes amended in 2019, address temporary signage changes mandated by Supreme Court case Reed vs. Town of Gilbert Arizona, as well as amendments enabling disaster preparedness planning and disaster response.

Public Hearing #3 Consideration of Unified Development Ordinance Text Amendments recommended by the Planning Board on July 16, 2020 related to utilities.

We encourage our citizens to follow us on Facebook and our website for important updates. Town staff urges our citizens to sign up with CodeRED Emergency Notifications. This program is free and easy to sign up. You have the options to enter your phone numbers and/or email address to receive critical notifications from the town, such as severe weather alerts, important information, boil water advisories, etc. Sign up today by visiting our website at BurgawNC.gov, click “I want to” menu at the top of the homepage, then click “Sign up for CodeRED Emergency Notifications.” You may contact Town Hall at 259-2151 for questions or assistance.

In accordance with the Governor’s executive order 124, the Town of Burgaw has not terminated water services and has not charged late fees on utility accounts beginning March 31, 2020. This executive order expired on July 29, 2020; therefore normal operations have resumed as of July 30th. Letters have been sent to account holders who have accumulated balances. Customers who can not pay the balance in full by August 15th must contact Customer Service (663-3445) to arrange a payment plan. Late fees will resume on August 16th and service cut-off for non-payment will take place on August 21st.

Don’t forget we offer Eye On Water to our utility customers!

Eye on Water is a free service that comes with your water bill! It can help you track your water usage and alert you when a potential leak starts. Signing up is simple, use the link below and it will walk you through step by step on how to set up this service.

https://eyeonwater.com/signup
**Police Department**

- As we experienced Hurricane Isaias earlier this week, the town and citizens handled the storm well. Please keep in mind, we are still early in the hurricane season. Stay prepared and address any issues you may have noticed during this storm.

- Numerous officer became certified in OC Spray this week. The class was conducted by Cape Fear Community College and held at the Pender County Sheriff's Office. OC Spray gives officers another option for handling high risk calls.

- If anyone knows of a family that could use school supplies to begin the school year, it is not too late to request a book bag filled with supplies from the PD. Paperwork can be completed at the police department or town hall. The Cram the Cruiser event takes place each year and is supported by our community.

**Fire Department**

- The Burgaw Fire Department worked to clear trees and limbs from approximately 30 locations after Hurricane Isaias passed through. We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the Burgaw Public Works Department as well for their immediate assistance with clearing streets in Burgaw!

- The BFD had a small fire in the ceiling at the Pender County Department of Social Services just after midnight Monday morning. We were alerted by the building’s fire alarm system. The fire was extinguished in less than 30 minutes. Thank you to the Rocky Point Fire Department and Pender EMS & Fire Station 21 for responding with us and assisting.

**Public Works Department**

- The crew worked Monday to prep for the upcoming hurricane. Ditches, culverts and storm drains were checked and cleaned out as best as possible to ensure the water was flowing.

- Storm debris clean-up has been our priority this week.

**Inspections Department**

- Hurricane preparations and assessments were the order of the day for Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. We only found minor damages to about half a dozen homes and businesses. The hardest hit damage wise was the property on the corner of Hayes and Dickerson with a very large pecan limb falling on both the first story and second story with roof sheathing damage and a complicated removal due to the size and weight of the limb. There was also a complication of a honey bee hive partially still attached to the tree and half in the limb portion on the roof. There were also several honeycombs scattered over the first floor roof.

- Burgaw Elementary School Shelter electrical up-fits were completed and inspected by us on Saturday before the storm.

- The Pender County courthouse renovations are on track and our meeting had to be extended to next week with the designers for interior doors and safety requirements.

- Our fire station renovation is complete and has passed all final inspections including engineering final walk through and approval.

- Parks and Recreation plans for up-fits to the old EMS building are complete but have not been delivered due to storm delays. They are to be dropped off today.

- We continue to OFFER “Live-Remote” inspections for occupied dwellings but we are doing them with masks if the occupant is comfortable with it.
Planning Department

- Prepared Chapters 5-8 of the new Unified Development Ordinance for the Planning Board’s review at their meeting on August 20th.
- Continued working with the Manager, Public Works and WithersRavenel on a submittal of a community development block grant application for infrastructure. The pre-application is due on August 14th. The request will be for a 2 million dollar sewer grant to repair pump stations and reduce inflow and infiltration into them. There is no match of local of funds required.
- Worked with the Permitting Technician on code enforcement.
- Worked with other departments preparing for the storm. Public Works helped me with picking up illegal off premise signs in the right of ways. I can be reached at 910-663-3451 concerning sign inquiries or by email at acorrell@burgawnc.gov.
- Reviewed two flood development permits.

Parks & Recreation Department

- This week our department worked to ensure that all town employees were served meals during Hurricane Isaias. We also worked with the Public Works department to assist with cleaning up our local parks and green spaces. Thanks for the assistance from public works getting our walking trail cleaned for residents to enjoy.
- We also worked this week to finalize all preparations for the Back to School Give-Away taking place this Saturday at the Burgaw Train Depot. The event is drive thru only and will take place from 11:00pm to 2:00pm. Make sure to stop in and support the Town of Burgaw and the New Legacy Foundation. The event will take place rain or shine.
- Local playgrounds remain closed due to the extension of Phase 2 by Governor Cooper. The Osgood Canal and Urban Trial and all green spaces will remain open to the public. Park restrooms will also remain closed until further notice. If you are looking to have a gathering at a local park, please contact the Parks & Recreation in order to rent the location.
- Repairs inside the Community House continued this week. Inside painting of the walls and benches should be completed by the end of next week.

Staff Spotlight

Daisy Ramirez
Police Officer/Administrative Assistant

Job Duties: Answer phones, dispatch calls, enter citations, monthly reports, assist with the R-U-Okay Program, and file police reports

How long have you worked for the Town? 3 + years

What do you love most about working with the Town? Every day is different and I love the people I work with.

Fun Fact about me: I am considered a rookie within the Police Department
At 2AM on August 10, 1910, the Rock Springs Hotel on Chestnut Street in Wilmington was destroyed by fire. Everyone escaped the fire with the exception of 19 year old Edward Cromwell. He was found dead, laying on the floor of his room. All evidence pointed to JC Holly, the Rock Springs Hotel proprietor and parental guardian of Edward. Holly was arrested and charged with arson and murder and sentenced to death by electrocution on Friday February 3, 1911 by a New Hanover County Jury. This sentence was appealed and retried in New Hanover County court. The second trial resulted in a mistrial and the case was moved to the Pender County September 1912 court docket.

Holly was moved to the Burgaw jail by train for his third trial. Jury selection began on a Saturday morning and completed by 8pm the same day as to quickly select a jury and move into the trial phase. The days were long and the trial lasted into the late nights so as to try to complete the trial by Wednesday. It was a great spectacle that drew large crowds of spectators from Burgaw. Other than what was presented in the two previous trials, no new evidence was presented and no new witnesses were called. Since the third trial was moved to Burgaw, a few of the witnesses found it inconvenient and refused to show resulting in their arrest. They were all released on a $200 bond and appeared to testify as called. During the trial, JC Holly’s defense presented character witnesses that all gave the defendant a good name and all evidence presented seemed to form a strong element of doubt opinion. As the jury began deliberations, the judge, Judge Frank Carter returned to Wilmington to hear cases in New Hanover County Court until a verdict was returned. The message that a verdict was reached was delivered to the judge on Thursday September 26, 1912. At 11:30am, Judge Carter headed for Burgaw by car. After nearly a week of long days and nights, the jury acquitted JC Holly of the murder of Edward Cromwell. It had been two years, one month and 16 days since Holly was charged for the murder of Edward Cromwell. But his troubles were not over yet.

Following his acquittal of murder, Holly was arraigned on the charge of arson. He plead not guilty and court was convened until the New Hanover County December court session. Holly’s attorney’s fought the arson charge stating that the murder charge and the arson charge were one in the same and the defendant had already had three trials for the murder charge. Holly was taken back to the jail in Wilmington to await his next court appearance.

It was not until July 15, 1913 that the court decided that JC Holly could not be tried on a capital charge for arson – but his worries would not be over yet. The grand jury sent a new bill of indictment with two counts: “… Holly unlawfully, willfully, wantonly and feloniously did set fire to and burn a certain house in the city of Wilmington, known as the Rock Springs Hotel, said Rock Springs Hotel being there and then in the possession of and occupied by the said JC Holly as a dwelling house, said Rock Springs Hotel being there and then the property of on WL Parsley”. The second charge read: “that Holly set fire to the place for the fraudulent purpose and intent of collecting insurance from the London Assurance Co. London, England, in which he had his household and kitchen furniture insured for $1,250.00. Holly had another long trial set before him with a sentence possibility of 20 years in prison. At the time of the fire, Holly was two months behind on the rent. During the trial, Holly did admit to shipping several furnishings to Wayne County, but those items were pieces that had been purchased after taking out the insurance policy and the value was never calculated into that policy. Other witnesses testified that several pieces of furniture were missing at the time of the fire and described the hotel as barren in several rooms. The jury deliberated for three hours. A verdict of not guilty was returned and Holly was set free from the New Hanover County Jail at 9:30pm on Monday July 21, 1913. The next day, Holly spent the day in downtown Wilmington, visiting with old friends and got a shave and haircut. He later left for Pikeville, Wayne County to stay with his aging mother for about three weeks.

Holly later went on to file a suit against the Greensboro Life Insurance Company and the Jefferson Life Insurance Company for the amount of $2,500 on Edward’s life insurance policy as well as punitive damages, alleging false arrest and imprisonment citing the insurance company was the instigator and prosecutor of the murder charge against him. He also filed suit against London Assurance Corporation for the recovery of $1,250 for the lost furnishings. The Greensboro Life Insurance suit was settled and Holly received $1,250. The suit against the London Assurance Corporation was dismissed.

Edward Cromwell is buried in the Bellevue Cemetery in Wilmington. The fate of JC Holly is unknown. In October of 1910, the location of the Rock Springs Hotel was sold JW Murchison and the building (Murchison Building) that you see today was built in the Hotel’s place. The Rock Spring (for which the hotel was named for) was a popular spot for drinking water and was constructed around the early 1820’s. The Rock Springs Hotel was opened in the late 1840’s and changed hands a number of times until 1910. By 1907, citizens were warned that the Rock Spring’s water was contaminated and was not fit for drinking. The spring was later covered by the large parking deck that was built in 1968.

For more information regarding the Rock Spring of Wilmington, please view the attached link provided by the StarNews in December 2017. https://youtu.be/XhpU1gtA8XI.
Debris pick up has been top priority this week due to Hurricane Isaias. We ask for your patience as yard debris will continue to be picked up over the next couple of weeks for residents within the city limits. Please place debris on the edge of the road and make sure yard debris is kept separate from other types of debris.

Please review our debris pick up information below. For more details on our debris policy, visit our website.

**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.

**REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS AVAILABLE**

Reflective address signs are available for a small fee of ten dollars at the Burgaw Fire Department. Being able to identify address numbers enhances the productivity of the fire department when responding to an emergency. For more information please contact any member of the fire department or call 910-259-7494.

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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.