New Adopt-a-Park Program

Is your organization looking to become involved within the community? Sign-up today for our newly formed Adopt-A-Park program in order to better serve our local parks and greenspaces. This program is designed as a yearlong commitment to the Burgaw Parks & Recreation Department in order to assist with upkeep and beautification of our town parks. More information about the program and the application can be found by visiting burgawnc.gov. Please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at recreation@burgawnc.gov for consideration.

Important Reminders: Utility Billing

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 cutoff for non-payment will take place on August 21st.
Commissioner’s Meeting Recap - August 11, 2020

Special Requests/Presentation – Courthouse Avenue Project Update – Gary Warner, with WithersRavenel, gave a presentation to the Board regarding the status and timeline of the Courthouse Avenue Master Plan. Due to COVID-19, the public meetings have been delayed, however, surveying has been completed.

Adopt-A-Park Program – Cody Suggs, Parks & Recreation Director, presented the Adopt-A-Park Program rules and application for the Board’s review. The Board voted to approve the program as presented. More information about the Adopt-A-Park Program can be found on our website at https://burgawnc.gov/adoptapark.

Ordinance 2020-17 Amending the Town of Burgaw Code of Ordinances – Cody Suggs, Parks & Recreation Director, brought to the Board, a request to modify the ordinance dealing with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. The changes requested dealt with attendance requirements and terms for appointed positions. The Board approved the ordinance amendment.

Request for Personnel Policy Amendment – Wendy Pope, Finance Officer, requested an amendment to Section 16 – Pay Under a State of Emergency, under the Town’s Personnel Policy. The change was in order for the Town to receive full compensation under a FEMA declared disaster. The Board approved the amendment.

Drainage Easements Update – Zachary Rivenbark, Town Attorney, briefed the Board on the progress with obtaining drainage easements. He is working with surveyor Horace Thompson to get legal descriptions for the easements.

Food Truck Update – Zachary Rivenbark, Town Attorney and James Gantt, Town Manager, stated they have met about the food truck request and are still researching the possibilities and will bring this topic back next month with further recommendations.

Old EMS Building Renovations – James Gantt, Town Manager, gave an update on the status of the plans for the Old EMS Building Renovations. The Town has received the full construction plans for the renovations. The Building Inspector should have the plans reviewed within the next week and once approved, the Town will solicit bids from contractors to obtain construction costs.

Water Line Extension for WLS Properties Discussion – James Gantt, Town Manager, stated that currently, the referenced property, located on US Highway 117 near Ed Cowan Rd, is served with water from Pender County Utilities. The Town of Burgaw’s water lines stop at Timberly Ln. The Town is pursuing options to serve this property with water since it has been annexed into the town limits of Burgaw. More discussion will be held.

Planning Board Joint Meeting with Board of Commissioners Request – James Gantt, Town Manager, stated the Planning Board had requested a joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners to discuss plans and vision between the boards. The Board of Commissioners were in concurrence and will work to have the meeting scheduled.

Public Comments – Kelly Longley, Carolina Sisters, spoke to the Board about the positivity food trucks bring to the Downtown area. Her business and others benefit from having the food trucks there. She wishes for the Board to consider her remarks prior to making any decisions about the future of food trucks in the Downtown.

Public Comments – Suzette Dudley wanted to discuss the lack of drainage near her house on W Satchwell St, as well as, the Town needed to work on other drainage projects on her side of town.

Public Comments – Daniel Williams spoke to the Board about a zoning issue dealing with the minimum lot frontage. The Planning Department is currently working with Mr. Williams.

Public Comments – Jimmy Basden discussed with the Board about drainage issues in the area of Basden Rd, Penderlea Hwy, Henry Brown Rd, and Cypress St.

Public Hearing – Zoning Text Amendment – A public hearing was held for text amendments to the Burgaw Unified Development Ordinance related to changes to the NC General Statutes amended in 2019. The amendments were approved by the Board of Commissioners as presented.

Public Hearing – Zoning Text Amendment – A public hearing was held for text amendments to the Burgaw Unified Development Ordinance related to items including, renumbering and re-lettering sections, completing mandated changes by the NC General Statutes amended in 2019, addressing temporary signage changes mandated by Supreme Court case Reed vs. Town of Gilbert, Arizona, and amendments enabling disaster preparedness planning and disaster response. The amendments were approved by the Board of Commissioners as presented.

Public Hearing – Zoning Text Amendment – A public hearing was held for text amendments to the Burgaw Unified Development Ordinance related to utilities, specifically, adding a definition for utilities, adding a new definition of solar farm, and adding “electric power transmission and distribution only” to the use table. The amendments were approved by the Board of Commissioners as presented.
DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Police Department

- Thank you to the Friendly Community Baptist Church for the donations of school supplies. Also, we would like to thank the citizen and businesses who donated supplies or monetarily to the Cram the Cruiser event.
- We had the quarterly meeting of the Domestic Preparedness Region 3 committee. The "DPR3" is an interdisciplinary committee of emergency services, hospital, public works, and health officials who document and approve Homeland Security funding for projects. I am the new chair person for the Municipal Police branch.
- The PD is working with Community in School and the court system to be an asset to Teen Court process. We are looking forward to working with young folks to have another option than the traditional judicial system. (Teen Court has a specific set of guidelines and is not eligible for all cases.)
- The second meeting of CPR (Community, Policing, and Race Relations) was held Thursday evening at the Burgaw Community House. The event went well and we are having much needed discussions. The next meeting date and location will be announced shortly.
- Officer Kennedy attended and completed his Intoximeter re-certification class. Certification is important for the officer to be able to process DWI cases.

Public Works Department

- Grapple truck crew has been working all week to pick up yard debris from the storm. We thank you for your patience as we try and get the town cleared of the debris left by Isaias. White good pick-up was Wednesday and normal routine white good pick-ups will resume sometime next week after the storm debris has been cleared.
- Green team focused on mowing parks, the cemetery and the depot.
- We repaired two water leaks, one on Johnson Street and one on North McRae.
- On Tuesday we conducted a smoke test on a portion of the sewer system to check for inflow and infiltration. The test showed us several small issues that will be addressed but nothing major. We want to thank everyone for their cooperation with the test and would like to reiterate if you have any questions regarding it to please call Public Works.
- There will be another smoke test next week, weather permitting. We will pass out notices in the area where the test will take place early next week.
- On Tuesday Alan and Christina attended a virtual training session for the grants offered by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. This training will help us pursue state and federal funds for future water and sewer projects around town.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Emergency Response # 910-470-0457 | On-call person this week is: Ben Hansley

REMINDER:
This phone is only answered after hours, 4:30PM- 7:30AM and is for water and sewer emergencies only. Unless Public Works has been giving prior notice we cannot turn your water on due to non-payment shut off.

Stay Alert, Informed and Safe

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.
DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES continued

Parks & Recreation Department

- This week our department worked to assist with completing repairs at our rental facilities. Repairs included painting at the Burgaw Community House, framing at Harrell Memorial Park for new concrete pads, and landscaping at Harrell Park.
- Last Saturday we conducted our Back to School Drive in conjunction with the New Legacy Foundation. The event was an overall success as we distributed over 300 book bags to the community in a two hour span. Special thanks to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Pender United, Blueberry Queens, and the Pender Cheer program for assisting with the event.
- This week we also worked with the Pender County Health Department in order to onboard new tenants at the Burgaw Incubator Kitchen. All residents and visitors who are wishing to begin a startup food business should contact the Parks & Recreation Department.

Staff Spotlight

Thomas Padgett and K9 Kane
Patrol Corporal/K9 Handler

Job Duties: Supervise patrol, file reports, training and handling of K9 officer

How long have you worked for the Town? 5 years

What do you love most about working with the Town? This is a great place to work with a laid back environment

Fun Fact about me: Season ticket holder to the Carolina Hurricanes

Planning Department

- Prepared the Planning Board agenda for Thursday August 20th which includes:
  - Consideration of a UDO amendment adopting Robert’s Rules of Order to enable more efficient meetings.
  - Consideration of Chapters 5-8 of the New Unified Development Ordinance codified as part of the New NC G.S. 160D requirements.
- Worked with the permit technician on code enforcement including complaints.
- Worked reviewing revised flood development permits.
- Worked on updating the Unified Development Ordinance with the changes approved by the Board on Tuesday.
- Fielded calls from real estate agents and developers on property zoning and development requirement.
- Sent out comments on two recombination plats.

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
Historical Feature of the Week

Burgaw High School Fire—1973

In July 1926, a Notice to Contractors was issued to receive sealed bids for the construction of the new Burgaw High School. It was required that each of those bids contain a check for three percent of the amount of the bid to be made payable to T. T. Murphy, Superintendent of Schools. The check of the successful bidder would be held by the School Board until a satisfactory bond, as required by law, had been furnished by the contractor. The School Board had approved the construction of the new building as presented by Leslie N. Boney, hired architect. Mr. Boney assured the board that the new school building would be modern and keeping with the latest ideas for school house design. Construction was completed and the school opened in 1927.

Over the course of 47 years, the school would grow and educate thousands of students in the Burgaw area. On January 7, 1973, the Burgaw area received around 2 inches of snow. This closed school for a week and students returned on Tuesday January 16th. The nearly 700 students had just settled back into their routines and began their mid-term examinations when early in the morning on January 19, 1973, a fire ignited completely destroying the main building that housed classrooms, administrative offices and the auditorium. Firemen were able to save the three other buildings on campus. One building containing the cafeteria, home economics department and classrooms. Another building containing the gym and the third containing the vocational education and agriculture department. Burgaw Fire Department, at the direction of Fire Chief John Frasier, was aided by other surrounding area departments–Pender County, Wilmington and Wallace.

According to newspaper accounts of the fire, the State Bureau of Investigations was called in to assist in the determination of where and how the fire started. It was thought that the fire was caused by faulty wiring starting in an electrical switch box in the main building.

Then firefighter and Assistant Fire Chief, and now Commissioner, Bill George remembers responding to a fire of an outbuilding on a farm in Rocky Point that same cold early morning. While returning to Burgaw to respond to the school fire, smoke and an orange glow could be seen from Hwy 117 in St. Helena. Burgaw Fire Department was the first on scene, but unfortunately, not much could be done to save the main building of the school.

Students returned to makeshift classrooms on Monday January 29, 1973. The cafeteria building was outfitted with partitions to form six classrooms and a library to replace a few of the destroyed classrooms. In addition, the nearby American Legion building was used for additional classroom space and six to seven mobile units were brought in.

Many of you have wonderful memories of Burgaw High School. Or maybe you remember the night the school building burned down or you were affected by the changes that took place after the fire. Please share your memories with us on the Town of Burgaw’s Facebook Page where you see this post.
Upcoming Recycling Pick-up Schedule

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Debris Pick Up Information

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.

BURGAW FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Burgaw Fire Department is seeking community members to become volunteer firefighters. Excellent training and benefits! Come by the Fire Department located at 109 N. Walker Street or call 259-7494 for more information.

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

Visit our website at BurgawNC.gov