**Our Town Weekly Update**

**SEPTEMBER 14-18, 2020**

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**Town Calendar**

**September 24 | 8:30 AM**
Tourism Development Authority (TDA) Special Meeting

**October 1 | 8:30 AM**
Tourism Development Authority (TDA) Meeting

**October 13 | 4:00 PM**
Board of Commissioners Meeting

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**UPCOMING events**

**October 17**
Community Yard Sale hosted by the Burgaw Tourism Development Authority

**October 17**
Spooktacular Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat

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**Stay in Touch**

- @BurgawNC
- mail@burgawnc.gov
- Burgawnc.gov
- 910-259-2151
- 109 N. Walker Street

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**Make Burgaw Count**

We would like to remind everyone that it is extremely important that everyone participates in the 2020 Census. It’s simple, safe, and only takes a few minutes to complete, just visit https://2020census.gov/ or call (844) 330-2020. The 2020 Census will not ask for your citizenship status, religious affiliation, social security number, financial information or donations.

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**Notice to Customers who Pay Online**

Please note that if you make your utility payment online AND have a six digit WIPP pin number, you will now need to drop the last two digits of the number in order to process the payment online. The system only recognizes the first four numbers of the WIPP pin number. We apologize for any inconvenience, but this is necessary for third party billing. Thank you for your cooperation.

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**Special Meeting Notice**

The Town Board of Commissioners will hold a special meeting in conjunction with the Town Planning & Zoning Board on October 15, 2020 at 5:30 PM at the Historic Train Depot, 115 S. Dickerson Street. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss upcoming amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance.

*All interested parties are invited to attend.*
Join us for a fun day in town on October 17, 2020. That morning, the Burgaw Tourism Development Authority is hosting a Community Yard Sale at the Historic Burgaw Train Depot located at 115 S. Dickerson Street. The event will be from 7:00am - 12:00pm and will feature lots of fun for visitors to eat, shop, and sell. If anyone is interested in selling products at the event, register today by visiting burgawnc.gov/rentals. Further information for vendors will be sent out at a later date. All COVID-19 guidelines will be enforced at this event.

Later in the day, the town will be hosting our annual Halloween event with a little twist this year. Join us for a Spooktacular Drive Thru Trunk or Treat. The event will be from 2:00pm-4:00pm at Rotary Park located at 102 Industrial Drive. The event is free to the public and will feature a number of vendors and Halloween decorations, not to mention lots of CANDY! Visitors are asked to remain in their vehicle and our vendors will assist you. If any business or organization is interested in registering to become a vendor, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (910)-300-6401 or recreation@burgawnc.gov.
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DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES continued

Public Works Department

- Green team this week was busy trying to stay ahead of the upcoming rain from Sally. They mowed the cemetery, Town Hall, the Planning Building, Community Building, Johnson park, Harrell’s park and Hankins park, the walking trail, the canal between Timberly and Wallace Street and the sewer right-of-way between 117 and Wallace Street.
- Bushes and trees in the cemetery were trimmed. We also sprayed weed killer downtown and in the cemetery.
- Monthly sewer hotspots were jetted. This is part of our monthly routine to keep the sewer system flowing.
- On Wednesday we worked on re-reads from Town Hall. There were a total of 82 meters that had to be manually read due to various issues.
- The sweeper had some routine maintenance done. Downtown, SE section and NE section of town were swept.
- Chuck collected Bac-T samples on Wednesday. Several hydrants were also flushed. This is to ensure water does not stagnate in the system.
- Pump Stations 1 and 2 were checked for routine maintenance issues and were cleaned as well.
- Alan spoke with the contractor about possibly installing flow meters at several points of interest for the upcoming I&I study.
- The tree trimming scheduled for Friday has been moved to next week due to weather issues.

Inspections Department

- Inspections are all in person now with the latest mandates. We are wearing PPE and using lots of hand sanitizer.
- Cape Fear Community College continues making good progress on upfits for Welding and Mechanics classrooms.
- The Pender County courthouse renovations continue to progress well with the south end elevator shaft 50% complete. Also, it has been reported that the south end will get the accessible ramp requested by the town to prevent first floor area of rescue measures. The county had been working towards this for some time for its public building access upfit requirements.
- Parks and Recreation up-fit designs are going well with completion projections of approved plans by September 24th.
- COVID-19 safety measures have begun with orders of materials needed prior to onsite work. This includes Town Hall front window, Police, Public Works and Planning/Inspections foyers.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
EMERGENCY RESPONSE PHONE # 910-470-0457
On-call person this week is: Charles Hall

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.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Lucas Bautista-Guzman
Maintenance Worker, Public Works Department

Job Duties: Mow grass, clean town facilities, repair leaks, assist with directing traffic, town beautification

How long have you worked for the Town? 8 years

What do you love most about working with the Town? I love that I can do a little bit of everything and I am never bored. I also love that I can have fun with my co-workers.

Fun Fact about me: I like to sing karaoke and dance.
DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES continued

Planning Department

- The Planning Board recommended the next four chapters of the new Unified Development Ordinance at the regular meeting September 17th meeting.
- Worked with the Permitting Technician mailing certified letters and notified violators.
- Reviewing a (1) one lot minor subdivision plat.
- Working on MeMa’s request for a conditional use permit to site a new restaurant on Hwy 53 across from Walmart to be heard at the October Board of Commissioners meeting.
- Assisted the public with permits including; zoning certification and answered questions on permitted uses and the zoning of property.

Police Department

- Last Friday night, the Burgaw Police Department hosted a DWI Checking Station on Hwy 117 S in front of Westgate Dodge. The event went well and we thank all those who assisted in the event. Along side of the Burgaw Officers were law enforcement representatives from Wilmington PD, New Hanover County SO, Pender County SO, Surf City PD, Onslow County SO, and Holly Ridge PD. There were a total of 24 officers from 7 different agencies. We had the BAT Mobile Unit, from the NC Forensic Tests for Alcohol Branch, to enable officers to process the DWI charges on scene. This was a great group effort from our surrounding law enforcement agencies and we thank Burgaw PD Corporal Robertson for planning the event.

The checking station produced the following charges:

- 2 DWI's,
- 3 Child Passenger Safety Violations,
- 6 Driving While License Revoked,
- 9 No Operators Licenses,
- 2 Open Container Violations,
- 10 Other Traffic Violations,
- 4 Drug Violations, and
- 2 Fugitive Apprehensions.

Fire Department

- The Fire Department continues to look for volunteer firefighters to join the department. Great benefits and a variety of fire fighting training is provided. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the Fire Department at 259-7494.

- Please remember open burning is not allowed in town limits, per NC Administrative Code 02D.1903(b)(1) (B). For questions or concerns, please call the Fire Department at 259-7494.

- October 4-10, 2020 is Fire Prevention Week! Stay tuned for some education and tips coming to you in the newsletter.

Utility Bill Reminders

- All utility payments are due by the 10th of the month.
- The Town allows a grace period until the 15th of the month.
- Late fees are imposed on all delinquent accounts on the 16th of the month.
- Disconnects occur on the 21st of the month for delinquent accounts.

NOTE: If you plan to pay around the 15th or 21st, we encourage you to make your payment by phone, visit Town Hall, or utilize the drop box. Online payments take 24-48 hours to reflect on your account in the utility billing system.
The Day Mr. Walker Just Walked Away

On February 27, 1935, Sam Walker and John D. Williams walked into J. L. Choate, a store in Huntersville, North Carolina with the intention of robbing the store. Soon after entering the store, both men walked out with several hundred dollars’ worth of merchandise. Prior to being apprehended by police, John D. Williams was gunned down following an argument with another man, Booker T. Thompson. Sam Walker was captured by police and was tried for the robbery.

Sam Walker was sentenced to 3 to 5 years in the Pender County Prison Camp. During the first 18 months stay at the prison in Burgaw, Walker was a model inmate. But during the first 18 months of prison life, there was just one thing that Walker just could not tolerate any longer – the food. So Sam Walker decided he had to speak with Oscar Pitts, the Acting Director of the Penal Division. But Oscar Pitts was in Raleigh. So in October 1936, Sam Walker decided to walk away from the road gang and head to Raleigh.

On the way, Walker stopped in Warsaw and mailed a letter to Mr. Pitts. The letter was published in the October 3, 1936 Charlotte Observer as follows:

“You onter, Mr. Pitts:
I just thought I would notify you I am on my way thair. I left Burgaw prison and I am not trying to run off. I will tell you all about it when I get thair. I will get thair as soon as I can. I have been walking ever sence I left and I will tell you all about it.”

Sam Walker’s letter reached Raleigh before word of Mr. Walker’s escape. Mr. Pitts was quoted as saying that “when Walker does show up in Raleigh, he will be sent back to serve the remainder of this sentence. He will lose whatever good time he has served and will be demoted in grade, as are all prisoners who escape.”

In the 1930’s, it was not unusual for an inmate to “walk away” from the prison camps. Mr. Pitts stated to reporters that “Every now and then, some prisoner with a real or imaginary grievance leaves a prison camp and walks to Raleigh to tell all about it. They know they will get a hearing from me and be treated fairly. It seems to help them get things off their minds, for many of them get the idea they are not being treated fairly, or are being discriminated against, I let them talk all they want to. Then I talk with them and usually make them see they have been in the wrong. In most cases, they see their mistakes and go back to their camps better satisfied and determined to make good records for the rest of their terms”.

Mr. Pitts was out of town when Sam Walker arrived in Raleigh and Walker spoke with the Assistant Director, L. G. Whitley. During their conversation, Sam Walker could not clearly speak as to why he left on foot since the food had recently shown improvement at the prison camp. Walker was remanded to Central Prison to rest his sore feet and finish out his term.

Learn more about the history of Burgaw!

The weather is getting cooler and it’s the perfect time to take a nice stroll through town...

Did you know we have a Historical Downtown Burgaw Walking Tour? This self-guided tour will take you down the streets of Burgaw and showcase some of the historical residences and places in town. Stop by Town Hall to pick one up today and take a stroll through our beautiful town!
Upcoming Recycling Pick-up Schedule

- September 23: East Side
- September 30: West Side
- October 7: East Side
- October 14: West Side
- October 21: East Side
- October 28: West Side
- November 4: East Side
- November 11: West Side
- November 18: East Side
- November 25: West Side
- December 2: East Side
- December 9: West Side
- December 16: East Side
- December 23: West Side
- December 30: East Side

SLOW DOWN IN OUR TOWN!

Help us alert drivers to slow down in our town!

There are still a few yard signs available free to town residents and can be picked up anytime between Monday-Friday 8am-5pm at the Police Department, located at 109 N. Walker Street.

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.

MEETING REMINDER

All town meetings are held at the Historic Train Depot, 115 S. Dickerson Street, unless otherwise posted.

Historic Burgaw Train Depot
Prints by Ivey Hayes
Available for purchase at Town Hall
Get yours today for only $20!
Makes great gifts for your Burgaw friends and family!