Our Town
Weekly Update

SEPTEMBER 21-25, 2020

Town Calendar

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

October 13 | 4:00 PM
Board of Commissioners Meeting

UPCOMING events

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

October 17
Spooktacular Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat

Stay in Touch

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

Fall Fun set for Saturday, October 17th

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.

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.

For questions about these events, please contact our Parks & Recreation Department at 910-300-6401. All COVID-19 guidelines will be followed and enforced during the events.

Keep our Pedestrians Safe

The Town of Burgaw has plenty of walking trails and sidewalks for our citizens to utilize every day. It is important to keep our pedestrians safe by knowing and following the laws of pedestrians’ right-of-way at crosswalks. General Statute § 20-173, Pedestrians’ right-of-way at crosswalks, advises where traffic-control signals are not in place or in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at or near an intersection. Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass such stopped vehicle. Also, the driver of a vehicle emerging from or entering an alley, building entrance, private road, or driveway shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian, or person riding a bicycle, approaching on any sidewalk or walkway extending across such alley, building entrance, road, or driveway.

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

We understand there has been some confusion about this year’s annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Please know we are planning to still hold the event this year with necessary modifications due to the pandemic. This event has always been a huge success for the town and we are doing all we can to continue the tradition to kick off the holiday season in Burgaw. Mark your calendars for Friday, November 27, 2020 and stay tuned for more information to come.
Parks & Recreation Department

- W. Ross Harrell Memorial Park will re-open to the public on Monday September 28th at 8:00am. We appreciate the patience from our community members as we conducted necessary maintenance. Please contact the Parks & Recreation Department regarding any concerns towards our local parks and green spaces. Please remember to follow the guidelines issued by the Governor’s office.

- 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 Parks & Recreation Department in order to assist with upkeep and beautification of our Town parks. Applications can be found by visiting burgawnc.gov/adopt-a-park. Please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at recreation@burgawnc.gov to be considered for adoption.

Police Department

- Saturday was the meet and greet with Kane at Southern Chic’s on Fremont Street. It went great and we received a lot of positive feedback from those who visited. Kane was on his best behavior and enjoyed getting so much attention. The ladies at Southern Chic’s were extremely hospitable and we are grateful for the opportunity to interact with our citizens.

- A big Thank you goes out to the Happy Tooth Orthodontics on S McNeil Street. The staff visited town hall and brought "goody bags" for each officer and a well crafted poster showing their support and appreciation of the police department, fire department, and town hall staff. It is great to have the outpouring support and love from our community and citizens.

- On Wednesday, Officers Bridgers and Ramirez attended Taser training and certification.

- I spoke at the Burgaw Rotary group Zoom meeting on Thursday morning. I was asked to tell about the department and the community outreach programs that the police department runs or offers. Thank you to Helle Jorgensen for the invitation.

Fire Department

- Remember, October 4th – 11th is Fire Prevention Week!

- We are still planning to have Halloween at the Fire Station! We will have a slightly different set up due to COVID-19 precautions, but we will do all we can to make it as enjoyable as it has been in the past.
Planning Department

- Planning does not have any public hearing items at the October Town Board of Commissioners meeting with the postponement of MeMa’s conditional use request.
- However with recent submittals, the Planning Board meeting in October will have four agenda items to discuss after the conclusion of the joint meeting:
  - Consideration of a Text Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance requested by the Burtons to enable the keeping of horses in the R-20 Zoning District on tracts of land of five acres or larger. The request would amend section 6-2 Definitions, 8-2 Table of Permitted Uses and 8-4 Use Standards.
  - Consideration of a Major Subdivision Final Plat amendment for Creekside Subdivision requested by Pender Creekside, LLC, by Robert H. Jackson for an amendment to the Creekside final plat to exchange open space land and platted lots.
  - Consideration of a Text Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance request by the Pender County ABC Board to amend Section 8-2 the Table of Permitted Uses to add “Alcoholic Beverage Control Warehousing” as a permitted use in the B-2 Zoning District.
  - Consideration of Chapters 14-17 of the new Unified Development Ordinance codified as part of the new NC G.S. 160D requirements.
- Worked this week on the Appendix(s) for the new UDO in preparation of a meeting with the Manager and Attorney Monday to review the final chapters for new UDO meeting on the requirements of 160D.
- Assisted the public with permits including; zoning certification and answered questions on permitted uses and the zoning of property.
- Working with the Permit Technician getting complaints resolved and keeping diligent on the notification process and follow up of complaints.

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.

Inspections Department

- New residential home permits have slowed but continue to trickle in. There is still a high demand for new homes. Contractors report that material costs increases as well as availability of materials has caused delays.
- There has been an inquiry for a new single-family development for South Hwy 117 and we are in discussions for utilities demand and upgrades needed to serve it.
- With the latest changes to pandemic mandates, we are resuming enforcement of single-family minimum conditions. These include structural deficiencies as well as minimum electrical, plumbing and heating code compliance. We have a couple of fire damaged homes as well as other non-occupied dwellings that have been neglected.
- The decorative lighting for Hwy 53 East shopping center are on go from DOT and Pike Engineering. Duke Power has materials on hand and the project is set to be completed by November 1st.
- We continue to offer Remote Live inspections, when approved, to those who are not comfortable meeting in person.
DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES continued

Public Works Department

- John, Robert and Ben H finished repairing a 6” water line at Pump Station 1 on Monday. This was contributing to some of the I&I issues in the area. They also fixed a water leak on Highway 53 West.
- A storm drain that had been called in by a resident was repaired on Whrens Street.
- Roland and Jeremy were on the grapple truck this week. We want to remind residents that white good and yard debris pick-ups occur throughout the week. We encourage you to get your items out for pick-up as early as possible before Friday to ensure they are not left over the weekend.
- Ben P, Lucas and Efrain did the downtown clean-up Monday then headed to the cemetery. The cemetery was finished up Tuesday and, joined by Brian, they mowed and trimmed the parks, walking trails, the museum, well sites, pocket park, Pump Station #2 and Clark Street sidewalk. Thursday and Friday they started sidewalk edging.
- John, Matt, Robert and Arthur started working on Ashe Street drainage and this project continued throughout the week.
- Chuck focused on weekly well and lift station rounds along with hydrant flushing. He was also on call for reconnects and work orders.
- Ben H repaired a broken spot in the sidewalk on West Fremont Street near Rochelle Furniture.
- Alan helped out with reconnects and work orders. He also notified the businesses on Fremont of the upcoming sidewalk pressure washing.

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.

Kelly Fox
Accounting/Billing Technician

Job Duties: Processes utility billing, accounts receivables, and customer service

How long have you worked for the Town? 4 years

What do you love most about working with the Town? I love my co-workers and serving the public.

Fun Fact about me: I am a grandmother to two beautiful, spunky granddaughters, Emerson and Finley.
July 13, 1909

It was just a normal Tuesday for Henry Hayes. Another morning for Henry to get up out of bed, put his pants on one leg at a time, eat breakfast, kiss his wife and walk out the door. Just another normal day for Henry to head to work at Burgaw Brick Works. It was just another “new normal” Tuesday for Mary Williams. Another morning for Mary to get out of bed, dress and find a new routine since she and her husband separated just three weeks previous. It however, was not just a normal Tuesday for Walter Williams. It was a morning filled with fear, grief, anger and revenge. It was a morning that Walter knew everything would change for Henry, Mary and himself. In just a few hours, it all would be over.

Mary Williams was a very independent woman. Prior to getting married, Mary had obtained a job up north as a cook. She had goals. She wanted to earn and save her money and bring it back to Burgaw to invest in property. When she returned to Burgaw, she purchased property and a nice home. In 1908, she sold a parcel of land to Burgaw Brick Works for their manufacturing plant. Mary never consulted her husband when it came to her financial affairs. She received her advice from her sister and her sister’s husband, Henry Hayes. Walter always thought he should have been the one she consulted and this created a wedge between Mary and Walter. At the end of June in 1909, Walter and Mary amicably divided their belongings and Walter left. He headed to Georgetown, South Carolina to stay with one of his bothers.

As the hours turned to days and days turned to weeks, the anger in Walter grew. It is unknown if Walter really missed his wife and wanted to be with Mary or if he just really wanted her money, but either way, Walter boarded a train and returned to Burgaw on Sunday July 11, 1909. He begged his wife to take him back, but unfortunately for him, she refused. He tried again Monday, and still she refused. Mary repeatedly went to Henry for protection every time Walter would come begging, and this enraged Walter even more. He would not try again on Tuesday.

No, Tuesday was not a normal day for Walter. That Tuesday was the day that Walter made a decision that would shock Mary’s sister and the whole community. That Tuesday morning at 8:30, Walter entered the Pender Hardware Co. store and purchased ten shells loaded with buck shot. He told the clerk that he was going hunting that morning. He also purchased some “sparkling hyso” to settle his nerves and he left the store and headed for Burgaw Brick Works.

As he entered the brick yard, he offered a drink to some of the laborers and continued drinking himself. Jim Bell, another Burgaw Brick Works employee, noticed Walter’s condition and attempted to get Walter’s gun. Walter fought back and told Jim that he will kill him if he tried to take his gun. Walter focused back on his mission, saw Henry and raised his gun. One of the employees shouted “Hayes lookout” and Henry turned his head just as the shot was fired. Henry died instantly.

Blinded by rage, Walter turned and walked across the railroad to find his wife. Mary saw him coming and turned to run, but she stopped. The reason is unknown, but she stopped and walked back in his direction. Maybe she thought she could talk sense into him or maybe she knew she would not be able to outrun him and his gun. Once she got within a few feet of him and he fired. Killing her instantly.

No, this wasn’t a normal Tuesday. Walter had a plan. With Henry dead and Mary dead, there was only one other thing to do. He reloaded the shot gun, turned it on himself and fired. The first shot was not a success. He walked about twenty steps, loaded his gun and fired again, this time dropping to the ground. Walter passed away about two hours later.
**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.

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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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**Remember to keep your phone number updated on your utility account!**

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**EYE ON WATER**

We would like to remind our residents of our Eye on Water program offered free to our utility customers. Eye on Water can help you track your water usage and alert you when a potential leak starts. Sign up by visiting our website or visit https://eyeonwater.com/signup. Signing up is simple and it will walk you through step by step on how to set up this service. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Customer Service at 663-3445.

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**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!