Come shop, sell, and eat with the Burgaw Tourism Development Authority this Saturday, October 17th from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM at their first ever **Community Yard Sale**! The event will be hosted at the Historic Burgaw Train Depot, rain or shine. Free shopping bags will be given to the first 25 shoppers! Masks are required and social distancing guidelines shall be followed at this event for all in attendance.

That afternoon, be sure to stop by our **Spooktacular Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat** from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Rotary Park (102 Industrial Drive) for the town’s annual Halloween event with a twist. Lots of giveaways and lots of candy! Guests are asked to remain inside their car at all times due to COVID-19 restrictions. Volunteers will assist vehicles as they make their way through the event.

**Burgaw Wants Your Input!**

The planning and design of improvements for Courthouse Avenue has begun! The purpose of the project is to improve the connection between the historic Railroad Depot, the Courthouse and all of Downtown by creating a safe, walkable environment that has great access and creates a unique event space.

**You are Invited!**

The Town of Burgaw invites residents and downtown business owners to the Historic Train Depot on October 28, 2020, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, to meet with the design team, the Town Board of Commissioners and town staff and to share your thoughts and ideas for the project.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for further details!
Board of Commissioners Meeting Recap  

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Special Requests/Presentation – Burgaw Tourism Development Authority (TDA) Update – Jennifer Hansen, Chairperson, gave an update on the efforts of the Burgaw TDA including a community yard sale occurring this weekend and preparing bags with various information to be given to new utility customers.

Special Requests/Presentation – Filming in Burgaw Update – Mike Hewett, Location Manager for “This Country” TV Series, announced to the Board of Commissioners that the TV Series, where the pilot was filmed in Burgaw earlier this year, has been picked up for its first series with much of the filming to occur in Burgaw. Exact dates and times of filming are being prepared now and a Film Permit Application will be submitted to the Town once this is finalized.

Burgaw Police Department Community Advisory Board – Jim Hock, Police Chief, presented a plan to develop a Community Advisory Board, a citizen board appointed by the Board of Commissioners, to allow for more input and involvement from the public within the Police Department. The Board of Commissioners were in favor of the proposal. Chief Hock will be working to prepare a detailed policy and structure for this board that will be brought back to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Courthouse Avenue Project Update and Scheduling of the Project Kickoff Meeting – James Gantt, Town Manager, gave an update on the status of the project stating the consultants were ready to schedule the project kickoff meeting and public input focus groups. Their recommended date for this meeting was October 28, 2020. The event would be held at the Depot and at various times during the day with a final wrap-up meeting at 5:30 pm. The Board agreed on the date. More information and schedule will be announced in the coming days.

Downtown Improvements – James Gantt, Town Manager, stated Public Works has obtained a quote and a purchase order has been approved to pressure wash the sidewalks in the Downtown area. The area currently defined is Fremont St from Dickerson St to Wright St and the west side of Wright St from Wilmington St to Satchwell St.

US Highway 117 Sewer Project Update – James Gantt, Town Manager, gave an update on the status of this project. The survey crews are currently working on mapping the area and proposed location of the force main and other infrastructure. Once this is complete, the town will work on obtaining easements while the design process continues.

Code Enforcement Update – Andrea Correll, Planning Director, gave an update on the status of code enforcement complaints. Letters have been set to the violators and the Planning Department is working through the process set forth in ordinance and NC general statues. Mrs. Correll did state there are a number of violations that are currently being remedied.

Public Comments – No comments from the public were made.
DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Parks & Recreation Department

- New dock boards are being installed at the Burgaw Train Depot in order to increase safety measures for our Town residents. All visitors are asked to be cautious when visiting the Depot as some area are blocked off while construction is under way. Please contact our office if you have questions or concerns.
- We also worked with our Public Works department this week in order improve landscaping at Hankins Park. New topsoil was placed around beds in order to grow new grass in some areas. We will also be installing new trash receptacles at the beginning of next week for Hankins Park.

Public Works Department

- John and Ben H. worked on ditching and drainage on Ashe Street.
- John, Robert, Ben P and Matt worked on removing dirt mounds and trimming oak trees at Hankins Park.
- Roland and Jeremy ran the grapple truck, picking up debris, white goods and C & D materials.
- Green team edged and trimmed trees along the walking trail and picked up litter on the railroad right-of-way.
- Ben P and Brian cleaned and trimmed around the Rotary Park sign and trimmed trees along the walking trail in Rotary Park.
- Willis and Lucas checked Christmas lights and edged sidewalks along South Cowan Street.
- Robert started mowing the right-of-way along US Highway 117.
- Everyone assisted with asphalt patching and traffic control on Thursday.

Fire Department

- Halloween is only two weeks away! Make sure to include a trip by the Fire Station when your kids Trick-or-Treat! Our members will be handing out candy in small, prepackaged bags.
- Remember, we recommend changing the batteries in your smoke and/or carbon monoxide detectors when the time changes, which will coincide with Halloween this year!
- The BFD responded to 11 incidents over the past week.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Ben Pell
Maintenance Worker I
Public Works Department

Job Duties: Cut grass around town, pruning and landscaping, assisting utilities and leak repairs.

How long have you worked for the Town? 8 months

What do you love most about working with the Town? I love that there is steady work to be done and that we have good co-workers.

Fun Fact about me: I like being out on the boat and fishing.
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
RELATIVE TO APPLICATION BY TOWN OF BURGAW
FOR FUNDING UNDER THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974, AS AMENDED

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Burgaw will conduct a public hearing on November 10, 2020, at 5:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the agenda will allow, at the Historic Train Depot, 115 South Dickerson Street, Burgaw, NC 28425 relative to the intention of the Town to apply for FY2020 CDBG funding under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act.

The Town of Burgaw intends to submit an application for a grant of approximately $1,288,965 in CDBG Infrastructure funds to rehabilitate 12,829 linear feet of sewer line with the goal of eliminating inflow and infiltration from the area tributary to the Bus Garage pump station. This will reduce the possibility of future overflows. The proposed project includes portions of the following areas: West Bridgers Street/Penderlea Highway, Cypress Street, Pine Street, Basden Road, Giles Marshburn Street, Henry Brown Road, and North Smith Street.

The following is a tentative list of proposed activities and an estimated budget. The final application will be reviewed at the public hearing.

- Infrastructure Improvements and Grant Administration Estimated Budget $1,288,965

The proposed project will provide benefits to households, where at least 51% of whom are low- and moderate-income individuals based on the LMI percentage of the Town. No individuals will be displaced nor will any require temporary relocation assistance as a result of the proposed project.

Citizens will be given the opportunity to provide oral and written comment on the Town’s past and proposed use of CDBG funds at the public hearing. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

If additional information is needed, please contact the Town Manager, James Gantt at 910-663-3440. Formal written complaints or comments concerning the application process that are submitted to the Town Manager prior to or following the public hearing will be responded to within ten working days by Town Manager. A copy of the completed project application will be available for public review after November 23, 2020, at Town Hall at 109 North Walker Street, Burgaw, NC 28425.

Persons with disabilities or who otherwise need assistance should contact Town Manager, James Gantt, at 910-663-3440 or jgantt@burgawnc.gov (TDD #711) by November 6, 2020. Accommodations will be made for all who request assistance with participating in the public hearing.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact James Gantt, at 910-663-3440, or at Town Hall (109 North Walker Street, Burgaw, NC 28425) for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con James Gantt, al 910-663-3440 o en Town Hall (109 North Walker Street, Burgaw, NC 28425), de alojamiento para esta solicitud.
The Night Watchman - Part Two

While on patrol at 3AM Saturday May 6, 1939, Officer Sam Brothers, Sr. was called to the curb from the Post Office, which at the time was located on Wright Street, by a slow moving car. As Sam approached the car, he was met with a 12-gauge shot gun pointing directly at his head. A shot was fired at close range, killing Sam instantly. Lewis Sparkman, who was in the Post Office at the time, ran out of the building, only to see the car driving away from the scene. Sam was 48 years of age at the time of his death, and left behind a lovely wife and 8 children.

A call was placed to law enforcement and an investigation quickly began to find the person who shot and killed Officer Sam Brothers. Oddly, it would be the dirt road that led investigators to the suspect. A stick had somehow gotten stuck in the springs of the car leading officers to the home of Thomas Bowden. Thomas was known to have had a grudge against Officer Sam and had threaten to kill him several times. Sam had previously arrested Thomas for violations of prohibition laws. Thomas was not alone in the car the night he shot Sam. Arthur Walker had been riding with Thomas earlier in the evening as they visited and had drinks with Paige Padgett. Following their visit with Paige, they took a keg of whisky to Arthur’s home, and then left again heading downtown. Upon seeing Sam at the Post Office, Thomas stopped the car and called out to Sam to come to his window. As Sam approached, Thomas took the 12 gauge shot gun across the lap of Arthur and pulled the trigger. As Sam fell back, Thomas drove off heading back to his house telling Arthur “if I hear you whisper of this, I will kill you”.

Both Thomas and Arthur were arrested by Deputy Raymond Bell and held in the New Hanover County Jail. The funeral for Samuel Joseph Brothers, Sr. was held on Monday May 8, 1939. District Solicitor David Sinclair had announced plans to bring Thomas to trial in Pender County Superior Court on Wednesday afternoon July 19, 1939. The State sought a first degree murder conviction. The attorney for Thomas Bowden, Rivers D. Johnson of Warsaw, asked the court for a jury pool from outside of the county to try the case. But the case took an unsettling turn when Judge Henry I. Stevens ordered the trial to take place in Bladen County. It was determined that in order for a fair trial to be held, it should not just be held before jurors from outside the county, but be held outside the county altogether. The next term of criminal court for Bladen County was not scheduled until September 18, 1939. Judge Stevens requested that the Pender County Commissioners petition the Governor for a special term of court for the trial to be held in Elizabethtown in mid-August. District Attorney David Sinclair, along with attorneys Woodus Kellum of Wilmington and Clifton Moore of Burgaw, fought the transferal of the case.

Check back next week for Part Three of the Night Watchman to find out if there was a conviction and if so, the sentence. I think you will be surprised the outcome of this historical tale.
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.

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.

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

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.

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!