**Merry Christmas**

FROM THE TOWN OF BURGAW

Christmas gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us - a time when we can look back on the year that has passed and prepare for the year ahead.

-David Cameron

Town offices will be closed December 24, 25 and 28 for Christmas. There will not be a newsletter published for the week of December 21-25.

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**Shop with a Cop 2020**

On Friday, the Burgaw Police Department and Town Staff took a trip to our local Walmart to shop for families in need of assistance this Christmas. Several families will receive everyday necessities, such as kitchen supplies, clothing, etc. and of course, the kids will receive some toys. Christmas is a time of giving and the annual program is a way for us to give back to the community. We would like to thank the employees at our local Walmart for assisting us during the shopping extravaganza!

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**Advisory Committee Vacancy**

The Town of Burgaw is currently accepting applications for a vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. Applicants must be residents of the corporate limits of Burgaw. Members of this committee shall have the primary responsibility of collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Director for future capital projects as well as special events related to parks and recreation.

Application may be downloaded from our website at burgawnc.gov or picked up at Town Hall. Completed applications must be submitted to Town Clerk Kristin Wells at 109 N Walker Street, Burgaw, NC 28425.
1952 Burgaw Letters to Santa

Burgaw, N. C., Box 513
December 16, 1952
Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl 3 years old. I have
tried to be good. I have helped my mother a lot this year.

Christmas is almost here and I have decided that I want three things. I want a Teddy Bear, a billfold and a Bible.

Your good friend,
SUSAN SONG.

Burgaw, N. C., Box 891
December 16, 1952
Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little boy nine years old. I am in the fourth grade. I would like for you to bring me a pair of cowboy boots, spurs and tent. Please don't forget me.

Your best friend,
DONALD WELLS.

Burgaw, N. C., Box 101
December 16, 1952
Dear Santa Claus:

I am nine years old and in the fourth grade.

This Christmas I want you to bring me a tent, air rifle, croquet set, hunting knife, and a bow and arrow.

I will leave some cookies and milk on the kitchen table for you.

Your friend,
FRANK FUTCH.

Burgaw, N. C.
December 15, 1952
Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl nine years old. I have tried to be a good girl. I help my mother and father. I have not missed a day of school.

Christmas I want a doll set, a ball and a goal, candy and nuts and a Bible, and a notebook with a 25¢ pack of paper.

Love,
LINDA WATERS.

Burgaw, N. C.
December 15, 1952
Dear Santa Claus:

I am nine years old. I am in the fourth grade, I have tried to be good. I want a book of Treasure Island, accordion, cowboys and Indians, Treasure Island, accordion, cowboys and Indians.

Love,
LOUIS LEIMONE.

Burgaw, N. C., Box 266
December 16, 1952
Dear Santa Claus:

I am ten years old. I have tried to be good and help my mother. I want you to bring me a pair of cowboy boots, two guns and holster set, and a wrist watch. I will leave you a piece of cake and a glass of milk.

Your friend,
BOB LEWIS.

Burgaw, N. C., Box 191
December 16, 1952
Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl 9 years old and in the fourth grade at school. I have not missed a day of school this year. I love to read books and I have more than a hundred books.

I want a book for Christmas, a leotard, a pair of jeans, a pair of shoes and a weaving set. Pick out what you can bring me.

Your little friend,
ADELAIDE BLAND.

Burgaw, N. C., Box 267
December 16, 1952
Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl nine years old. I want you to bring me a doll, a nurse set and a Bible.

I will have you a piece of cake.

Love,
HAZEL LANIER.
Parks & Recreation Department

- Make sure to tune in on December 31st for our Virtual New Year’s Eve Blueberry Drop. The event is hosted by WWAY anchor Jeff Rivenbark and will feature the tribute band, The British Invaders. Find out more about this event by visiting burgawblueberrydrop.com or by tuning into WWAY on December 28th and 31st. Our department will sit down with WWAY to tell you all about the fun you can have that evening.

- This week, our department attended CPR training to stay up to date on the proper protocols for handling emergencies. This tool ensures that our department is remaining proactive when offering events to the public.

- Is your organization looking to become involved within the community? Sign-up today for our newly formed Adopt-A-Park program to better serve our local parks and greenspaces. This program is designed as a yearlong commitment to the Parks & Recreation Department 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.

Inspections Department

- There are several downtown properties that are in the process of design work for upfits and renovations. Some are simply working for occupancy type changes for code compliance. All are going well.

- The 2nd floor of the “Brown Dog” property has been altered and approved for use in filming. All the film project managers have been great to deal with and are just as interested in code compliance and safety as we are.

- Walmart is working on designs for stand-by generator to improve their ability to serve the community and protect their product.

- Annual fire inspection of Laurel’s of Pender was completed this passing with flying colors. We were through screened and given extra Personal Protective Equipment. All COVID measures for protection of residents and staff are exemplary and in compliance with state codes.

- We had one new home permit this week and new construction remains steady.

- Courthouse renovations are moving along well but are still mostly in rough-in stages. There are no problems.

- Reminder that anyone who wants their inspection to be done “Remote Live” may request one to reduce exposure. This has been allowed by the Department of Insurance during this pandemic.
Public Works Department

- Town Hall parking lot was patched Friday by John, Robert, Ben H, Jeremy and Matt.
- Green team focused on cleaning and beautifying the cemetery early in the week before switching to rain detail Thursday.
- A water leak on North Walker Street was fixed Monday and sewer service was jetted on West Ashe Street. One of the manholes on Annie P. Faison road was also repaired this week.
- Roland brought all Public Works trucks in for inspections Wednesday. The vac trailer and sweeper also received some maintenance.
- Ben and Lucas went around town Wednesday fixing Christmas lights that were out, hanging low or had other minor issues.
- The water meter at the Courthouse was replaced Thursday.

Police Department

- The police department has made a conditional offer to Jessica Rossi for our vacant police officer position. Ms. Rossi has accepted and will complete the hiring process over the next few weeks. Her tentative start date is January 4th, 2021. We are excited for the addition to the department a look forward to her training to begin.
- The PD and some Town Hall employees completed the second week of CPR, AED, Narcan, Stop the Bleed, Hazmat, and Blood Bourne Pathogens training on Tuesday. These are important and required training for law enforcement officers that are utilized in everyday operations of the police department.
- We are continuing to provide our annual Shop with a Cop program this year. However, we have had to modify some of our traditional processes to be COVID safe for our employees as well as the families we are trying to help.
- Officer Ramirez has met with most of our RU Okay? participants and delivered their Christmas presents. It is always good to see their smiling faces and have good conversations. This year, we were not able to have our annual luncheon with them, due to COVID, but we still want them to know that we are here for them and we wish the a Merry Christmas.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

ZACKARY BRIDGERS
Patrol Officer, Burgaw Police Department

Job Duties: Traffic control, reports, assist with events, protect the citizens of Burgaw, other duties as assigned

How long have you worked for the Town? 8 months

What do you love most about working with the Town? Enjoy helping the citizens of Burgaw

Fun Fact about me: Enjoy exercising
2021 Town of Burgaw Meeting Schedule

Below are the 2021 regularly scheduled meeting days and times for all Town Boards and Committees.

All meetings will be held at the Historic Train Depot, located at 115 S. Dickerson Street, Burgaw, unless otherwise posted.

Meeting agendas can be found on the town’s website at BurgawNC.gov.

Notices for cancelations and special called meetings will be posted on the town’s website and weekly newsletter when necessary.

For questions or assistance, please contact the Town Clerk at 910-663-3441 or kwells@burgawnc.gov.

Board of Commissioners Meetings
Second Tuesday of every month | 4:30 PM | Public Forum/Public Hearings at 5:30 PM

Planning & Zoning Board Meetings
Third Thursday of every month | 5:30 PM

Burgaw Area Tourism Development Authority
First Thursday of every month | 8:30 AM

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
Second Monday of January, March, May, July, September, November | 5:30 PM

HISTORICAL FEATURE OF THE WEEK

A Disrupted Christmas Eve Dinner

On December 24, 1920, W. R. Sellers and his family had just sat down for their Christmas meal in their home in Rose Hill, North Carolina when the family members heard strange noises coming from inside the house. Everyone at the table quieted down and listened intently then screamed in horror as three unknown men wearing overalls entered the dining room. The family was told to keep their seats and not move as the three men rummaged through the house taking every cent they could find. Once they were satisfied that they found every dollar they could, they grabbed the turkey, pies and cakes and walked out the front door. Mr. Sellers immediately called law enforcement to report the robbery.

During their investigation, three sailor uniforms where found in the backyard bushes and three pairs of overalls were found to be missing from the laundry basket that had be left on the back porch. They searched in the direction the three sailors were last seen walking, following the trail of turkey bones and cake and pie crumbs and tins dropped along the way and it was determined that they were headed south to Burgaw walking along the railroad tracks. It was communicated to Burgaw law enforcement to be on the lookout for the three responsible for the crime.

It was presumed that the three managed to hop aboard a through freight train and headed for Wilmington never to be seen or heard from again.
**Upcoming Recycling Pick-up Schedule**

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**REMINDER FROM TOWN STAFF**

*We ask all visitors to wear a face covering while visiting town facilities.*

When possible, please conduct business over the phone or by email. If you are sick, please do not visit town facilities and call 259-2151 for assistance.

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**Ivey Hayes Depot Prints For Sale**

We have the perfect Christmas gift for all of your local friends and family - a beautiful Ivey Hayes print of the Historic Train Depot. The prints are size 12” x 16”, and are numbered and signed renowned artist Ivey Hayes. Stop by Town Hall any time between 8 AM and 5 PM, Monday through Friday to purchase one (or two!) for just $20 each.

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**2021 Recycling Calendars now available at Town Hall and online!**

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**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](http://BurgawNC.gov)