



# Pender County Government Update

## Department

### COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**To:** Pender County Commissioners / County Manager

**From:** Mark Seitz, County Extension Director

**Date:** February 5, 2021

**RE:** Bi-weekly Program Update

#### **4-H Youth Education – Liz Peterson**

- -Taught Vision Board Workshop with Johnston County 4-H
- -Planned virtual workshop series in partnership with Brunswick County 4-H and Cape Fear Workforce Development for Youth
- -End of year reporting for state and federal systems
- -Prepping for re-enrollment and rollout of 4HOnline 2.0
- -Registering youth for the 2021 Coastal Plains Chicken Project
- -Creating presentation for the 2021 4-H Volunteer Leaders Conference
- -Planning 2021 Southeast District 4-H Winter Fling with other Agent Advisors and District Officers

#### **Consumer Horticulture – Tiffanee Boone**

- The Horticulture Agent has been doing home visits and answering phone calls, texts, emails, and Facebook posts about everything gardening.
- She has been watching zoom webinars about the new Master Gardener intranet website and doing biodiversity training through NC State University.
- Master Gardeners volunteers have been weeding the teaching gardens around the Extension office, Burgaw library, Hampstead library, and Poplar Grove.
- The next Speakers Bureau's event will be conducted by webinar instead of in person. They have a schedule of different gardening topics to do by webinar.
- They have an Ask a Master Gardener booth at the Poplar Grove Farmer's Market to answer questions that they will be starting in the spring. They have been getting training about the new intranet through zoom. They have been working to update our Pender Extension Master Gardeners webpage.
- Due to covid restrictions they are recording videos for the teachers to use and working on a YouTube channel to continue the Horticulture in the Classroom Program that has been going on for many years in Pender County Schools.

### **Admin Secretary – Reatha Hoffman**

- Paying invoices and reconciling salary and benefits costs with NCSU/Pender County
- Hounding the County Director to finishing training for an requesting a new NCSU PCard.
- Answering and directing citizen phone calls to Agents and other county departments

### **Natural Resources – Amy Mead, Area Agent**

- Taking registration for a Backyard Sustainability Workshop Series. 55 people signed to date.
- Attended the Learn and Burn Forestry Management Workshop run by NCSU Extension Forestry at Camp Kirkwood. At the workshop I learned about timber pests, cost share programs and other resources for property owners, and how to help these owners create forestry management plans.
- Corresponded with Pender County residents to discuss streambank erosion and native plant habitat restoration.

### **Empowering Youth & Families / 4-H Program Assistant – Traci Spencer**

- 4-H Juntos/EYFP Food Drive: Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, 2021\.. Loaded and handed out Food boxes to 4-H Juntos families, EYFP families and public families.
- Planned, prepared and participated in the EYFP Community Action Planning events on Sat. Jan. 23rd and Sat. Jan. 30th for our EYFP families.
- Organizing a public event for Pender County with the Pender Co. Health Dept, NHRMC, Police Dept., Sheriff's Dept., Coastal Horizons, Social Services, Pender Co. Public Schools.....

### **CED / Agriculture / Commercial Horticulture – Mark Seitz**

- Working on FY 21-22 county budget proposal.
- Reviewing applications for a three year Expanded Foods and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) Assistant position funded by NCSU. Hope to have the position filled by March 1.
- Coordinated pickup of empty, recyclable pesticide containers at RP Waste Collection site with US Ag Recycling Company. Containers are ground up for sewer and industrial pipe to keep them out of recycled food grade plastic.
- Learn & Burn Forestry Management Workshop – Feb 2, 2021 at Camp Kirkwood had 13 participants on a very cold day.
- A wide selection of field crop, tobacco, peanut, cotton and pesticide education classes are available online for farmers to participate in.
- Cold weather continues to keep our blueberry and strawberry growth slow or dormant, which is a good thing!
- Winter wheat fields are suffering from nutrient deficiency due to continued wet weather. Land application of fertilizer is impossible. Some farmers are having nitrogen applied by airplane at nearly double the cost of land application with the hope of having a crop to harvest in May/June.



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### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

EM Responses- 6

Fire Investigations- 11

Weather Events- 1

Deployments- 0

Fire Technical Review for New Development- 9

Plan Review & New Construction Inspections- 42

Required & Requested Fire Inspections- 18

Other Inspections- 7

- Staff participated in the NCEM Forum
- Participated in the Arvida Spur Road community meeting with CMO
- Completed 2021 Annual Fire Drills for County buildings
- EM staff supervised the COVID Information Call Center for 13 days (111 hours) in the EOC
- Completed a 2 day survey of fire stations for the Fire study
- Presentation for the SAFER Firefighter Academy on Pender EM/FM duties
- Sarah Taylor completed the Emergency Management 101 & 102 Academy
- EM staff worked on the NAB for FY21-22



# Pender County Government Update

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LIBRARY

## **African American History Month**

National African American History Month in February celebrates the contributions that African Americans have made to American history in their struggles for freedom and equality and deepens our understanding of our Nation's history. Check out our book displays at both Pender County Library locations to find works by African American authors such as Angie Thomas, Maya Angelou, Colson Whitehead, Candice Iloh and many more!

## **"Take and Make" Valentine's Day Kits**

Both Pender County Library locations are offering "Take and Make" kits for children to make Valentine's Day cards. The Hampstead Branch Library is also offering kits for teens to make Valentine's Day keychains. Such ready-to-go craft kits have proven to be very popular over the past several months as families look for quality activities for their children to do at home.

## **Online gardening classes**

Pender County Library has partnered with Pender County Master Gardeners to offer a monthly online gardening class. Master Gardener Martha Highsmith will teach a new class the second Saturday of each month at 11 a.m.! For the upcoming session on February 13, she will be discussing seed starting.



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### PARKS & RECREATION

Friday's Drive-in Valentine's movie has been canceled due to the weather.

- Join us for Cupid's Drive-in bingo tomorrow February 6th. We will have locations in Burgaw and Hampstead. Prizes include restaurant gift cards, steaks, chocolates, and more! Preregistration is highly encouraged. You can register online at <https://penderpr.recdesk.com/Community/Program>.
- Staff continues to meet with Pender County Schools to plan for Summer Camp.
- Our indoor cornhole league at Penderlea will conclude on February 9th.
- Our youth athletic partners are gearing up for the Spring season.

# Drive-in Cupid's



\$5 per person for 10 games of bingo. The Bingo caller will be transmitted through your vehicle's FM radio.

Saturday, February 6th

Pender Memorial Park at 1:00pm  
Hampstead Kiwanis Park at 3:30pm



Prizes Include:  
Restaurant Gift Cards,  
Steaks, Chocolates,  
and more!

Register at:  
<https://penderpr.recdesk.com/Community/Page>  
OR scan the QR code.





# Pender County Government Update

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### PENDER FIRE AND EMS

Nothing further to report

PENDER EMS AND FIRE 2021								
EMS Operation				EMS Call Type Summary				
			Weekly	YTD			Weekly	YTD
Station 1	Burgaw		42	192	Cancelled		35	152
Station 14	Sloop Point		29	116	Refusals		60	253
Station 16	Hampstead		31	142	Stand By's		1	7
Station 18	Scotts Hill		0	0	Transported		113	488
Station 23	Surf City		20	73	Treated and Released		12	55
Station 29	Currie		6	43			221	955
Station 4	Topsail Beach		9	24				
Station 5	Union		15	77				
Station 7	Rocky Point		42	172				
Station 13	Maple Hill		0	11				
Station 9	Atkinson		27	105				
			221	955				
Fire Operations				Fire Call Type Summary				
			Weekly	YTD			Weekly	YTD
Station 1	Burgaw		9	38	FIRE		3	8
Station 14	Sloop Point		7	31	Motor Vehicle Crash		8	33
Station 16	Hampstead		9	43	Search and Rescue		0	0
Station 18	Scott Hill		7	20	Service Calls		5	35
Station 29	Hwy 421 South		3	13	EMS First Response		30	112
Station 21	Long Creek		6	24	Cancelled		11	40
Station 4	Topsail—OR		0	0	Ocean Rescue		0	1
Station 13	Maple Hill		4	29			57	229
Station 17	Penderlea		6	20				
Station 28	Island Creek		6	11				
			57	229				

Suicide Deaths YTD							Overdose YTD					
	Attempts											
	Actual	0 to 18	18 to 45	45 to 65	65+	Total Attempts		Heroin	Pills	Other Illegal Substance	Deaths	LEO Nancan
January	1	0	2	2	1	5	January	2	2	6	2	1
February							February					
March							March					
April							April					
May							May					
June							June					
July							July					
August							August					
September							September					
October							October					
November							November					
December							December					
YTD TOTAL	1	0	2	2	1	5	YTD TOTAL	2	2	6	2	1

  

Traffic Accident Deaths YTD		
	Deaths	Accidents
January	0	72
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
YTD TOTAL	0	72





## Pender County Government Update

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REGISTER OF DEEDS

REGISTER OF DEEDS 1/01/2021 TO 1/31/2021	
Maps Recorded	22
Marriage License Issued	34
Passport Applications	85
Passport Photos	83
Notary Oaths Issued	13
Deeds of Trust Recorded	446
Deeds Recorded	346
Vital Certificates Issued (Birth/Death/Marriage)	433
Miscellaneous Documents Recorded	781
Total Fees Collected	\$186,035.65



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### TOURISM

Olivia Dawson and Stephanie Key represented Pender County Tourism, virtually, at the **North Carolina Association of Festivals and Events' annual ShowFest**. We're pleased to announce that the New Year's Eve celebration, Blueberry Drop, won state awards for best poster and best sponsor. This is an honor because it is an event of peers from across the state. Stephanie and Olivia attended ShowFest, virtually. Olivia is Vice President of the statewide organization.

On Jan. 26, Pender County Tourism met with Surf City officials in our ongoing pursuit of collaboration.

The executive committee of the **North Carolina Beach Inlet and Waterway Association** met, followed by the general quarterly board of directors meeting. In the meeting board members expressed the desire for a newsletter. We met with Executive Director Kathleen Riely to discuss production of a newsletter.

We met virtually with our web master, **BlueTone Media**, for an annual update of their service.

We met with the county manager, both assistant managers, and finance to review our **Fiscal Year 21/22 Financial Plan**.

We continue our collaboration with **Cape Fear Community College** regarding their September event in Burgaw.

We celebrated **Genesis Block** grants virtually. The Newkirks presented grants to minority-owned businesses, including Pender County businesses.

We continue to work with Smithfield, Burgaw, health care works, and first responders for the **Hometown Heroes luncheon on Feb. 10**.

We met with **JM's On The Water** and shared information with them about the tourism office. They are located in the former Cheri's restaurant in Surf City.

We met with the new executive director at the **Greater Topsail Area Chamber** to discuss projects and events.

We attended a Duke University workshop on the **Blue Economy**.

We are working with the North Carolina Beach Inlet and Waterway Association in the planning of their **spring conference**.

Our staff received a late proof of our **visitor guide** and worked to get the final proof to the publisher. The guide has been printed and will be delivered this afternoon (Feb. 5).

We attended, virtually, both the **commissioners' meeting and the Surf City council meeting** (to keep apprised of the paid parking issue).

We are pleased to report filming continues in Burgaw, the Town Hollywood Loves.

Communications

We worked with WECT to set up interviews regarding COVID.

We met with the sheriff's office regarding social media issues.

We have written numerous press releases for various departments.

We have kept the media apprised of COVID updates.

We have worked with Smithfield's marketing department for the Hometown Heroes Luncheon.

We have posted announcements and news on the county website as well as on social media.

We have fielded a myriad of media inquiries and calls.



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### UTILITY OPERATIONS

#### PENDER COUNTY UTILITIES (PCU) & WATER DISTRICTS:

The Kiwanis Park well is now operational. The final work on the Annex well has begun for its permanent facilities construction, so that well is temporarily out-of-service until all the work is completed. We have not been operating the Annex well since Christmas due to prep for final construction and lower demand. Staff has been working on some hydraulic issues within the system along and near Sloop Point Loop Road to assist with the operation of the new Kiwanis Park well.

PCU restarted water use from the Town of Wallace on January 25th. We had only been using Wallace water sporadically since the end of the summer due to lower demands and obligations to use scheduled quantities of raw water from LCFWASA. We plan to continue using Wallace water as needed to benefit the overall system, with a goal to reach our contracted annual minimum purchase volume.

The physical connections to the existing Maple Hill water system were completed this week on NC 50 and Wooten Road for our interconnections project with ONWASA. Contractors inserted a new valve on the end of the existing water main on NC 50, and we did a temporary shutdown on Wooten Road to tie into that water main. Remaining work is to complete the valve vaults and backflow preventer enclosures, and final clean-up.

We currently have 3 personnel vacancies at PCU. We completed interviews this week for the Water/Sewer Maintenance Technician position and hope to make an offer soon. We are scheduling interviews for the 2 Utility Clerk vacancies (55 applicants).

#### Staff work and status updates since last report:

- Completed pressure test on domestic line and witnessed chlorination at Southside Commons and on Wooten Road in Maple Hill.
- Four taps installed and repaired service. One service leak repaired.
- Water flushing at Arden Drive, Wooten Road, and John Pickett Road.
- 246 locate requests fulfilled in the last two weeks.
- Inspected Southside Commons second water main tie-in on Forest Sound Road.

- Met with two contractors for quote on 2" water line from Salters Haven to Factory Road. We are working on a third quote, and hope to begin work this month.
- Multiple meetings and contact with contractor for the ONWASA interconnection at Maple Hill on Hwy 50 and Wooten Road.
- Met with Carolina Water Service about their valve configurations around Kiwanis Park.
- Planned and implemented System Pressure Advisory in Maple Hill for area affected by ONWASA tie-in work.
- Met with developer for last phase of Whitebridge development.
- Met with T&H Construction for pre-construction meeting in Wyndwater.
- Still using automatic flush valve on Belt Road to address water quality concerns on dead-end line.

#### WATER PRODUCTION NUMBERS:

October 2020 Daily Avg: 1.45 MGD from WP, 0 MGD from Wallace, 0.778 MGD to Hamp/SH, 0.098 MGD from Annex Well

November 2020 Daily Avg: 1.20 MGD from WP, 0.049 MGD from Wallace, 0.710 MGD to Hamp/SH, 0.082 MGD from Annex Well

December 2020 Daily Avg: 1.326 MGD from WP, 0 MGD from Wallace, 0.663 MGD to Hamp/SH, 0.086 MGD from Annex Well

January 2021 Daily Avg: 1.37 MGD from WP, 0.096 MGD from Wallace, 0.715 MGD to Hamp/SH, 0 MGD from Annex Well

#### WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Yearly calibrations on all flow meters are complete. We are continuing to prepare for the annual draining and cleaning of the sedimentation basins, flocculators and rapid mix chambers.

Lauren (Lab Technician) completed Physical/Chemical Grade 1 School and Erin (new Operator) completed C-Surface Operator School. Both schools were held virtually.

After many jar tests and thorough backwashing of the filters to remove the inadequate Ferric Sulfate,

the plant is back to normal operations. The entire staff worked hard to ensure that the plant always remained in compliance.

Production numbers for January: 42.6 million gallons for an average of 1.37 MGD

#### PCP WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - MKKAES (Melinda K. Knoezer Adaptive Ecosystem)

We have had some challenges since our last update, but we have kept the plant in compliance. Some of the work recently accomplished includes:

- Replaced our chemical feed pump.
- Replaced chemical feed lines.
- Rebuilt UV unit #2.
- Painted inside Conex box.
- Finished putting floor down in Conex box.
- Cut plants back in greenhouse.
- Changed outside laboratory for more reliability.

#### SOLID WASTE

The Transfer Station scale house building had a small issue with our septic system which was recently addressed with the help of the Facilities department. We are creating about 80 tickets daily for disposal records. Waiting time at scales is about 6 minutes IN and 6 minutes OUT.

Our scale house credit card machine has not been working since Wednesday morning. Staff has worked with the merchant company and our IT department to try to get it operational again. As of Friday morning, it still was not working. IT staff is scheduled to replace some hardware on Friday to get it working again. We are not able to charge for disposal at this time, so we have been taking customers' information with the fee amounts and will be calling them for payment once the credit card machine is fixed.

#### SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL TONNAGE FOR JANUARY 2020

MSW Kitchen trash collected 2195.83 tons

Construction & demolition 604.44 tons

Recycling 107.74 tons

Tires recycled info not available yet

Scrap metal recycled (shreds) info not available yet

Whitegoods recycled info not available yet

TV & Electronics info not available yet



2/4/21 Contractor work to connect Maple Hill water interconnection on Wooten Road



020421\_WootenRdVault&Connection.jpg



Conex storage box repainting & floor repair at PCP\_WWTP

