



# Pender County Government Update

## Department

### COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**CED / Agriculture / Administration – Mark Seitz**

#### **Administration**

- Conducted and reviewed 16 applicants, followed by the background and reference checks on candidate to hire full time 4-H Youth Development Agent to replace Liz Hamm, who resigned effective April 6.
- Began the process of replacing the part time 4-H program assistant and the part time Expanded Youth and Families (EYFP) Program Assistant.
- Pender County Extension received funding from NCSU to purchase a commercial drone for research, education and demonstration purposes. Per FAA and NCSU regulations the County Extension Director will be taking the drone pilot license exam before utilizing this resource.
- Helped the Topsail HS Agriculture teachers conduct interviews for the schools' seven Future Farmers of America (FFA) officer positions for the 2021-2022 school year. Topsail High School has the largest FFA chapters in Pender County. In addition to learning about livestock and food production, FFA members learn about the importance of agriculture in Pender County, NC and the USA, as well as leadership, commitment, honesty and integrity.
- Assisted Wilmington Area YMCA staff in connecting with Pender County community leaders to recruit individuals and companies to participate in health and wellness classes. YMCA has grant funding to conduct these classes at no cost to area residents.
- Spearheaded the Pender County Farm Worker Health Task Force to help local farm workers get Covid-19 vaccinations. A mobile vaccination clinic is scheduled at the Cape Fear Middle/Elementary school parking lot on May 8, 15 and 23 to help get these people their vaccines.

#### **Agriculture – Mark Seitz**

- Two freeze events in April slowed down and or damaged some strawberry and blueberry fields. No significant crop loss.
- No significant crop loss occurred in wheat across the county.
- Field corn planting is nearly complete as dry conditions throughout April allowed farmers to plant without interruption. However, almost no rain fell in the month of April and hot, sunny, windy conditions in late April, with no rain in the forecast, is going to put this corn crop at risk of suffering from significant drought stress.
- With assistance from Han-dy-Land Farms in Maple Hill, a 16-variety field corn demonstration plot was planted on April 26. The site is on Hwy 53 about 1 mile south of the Hwy 50/53 intersection right along the highway. NC Cooperative Extension signs identifying the individual varieties verysoon.
- Another test will be planted in this area to look at the effectiveness of having soybean seed treated with a fungicide/insecticide versus not being treated to control seedling diseases.
- The Vacation Supported Agriculture (VSA) program led by NCSU is helping area farmers connect with people who rent homes, or condominiums in Surf City, receive a basket of fresh, local produce. The VSA program is open to any produce farmer in Pender, New Hanover or Brunswick County who wants to sell produce to visitors here at the coast.

**4-H Youth Development** – the 4-H Youth Development Agent resigned April 6. The position is expected to be filled in early May.

#### **4-H Program Activities – Traci Spencer, 4-H Program Assistant**

- 4-H Coastal Plains Chicken Show – Alex Grover from Pender County finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the district. This program helps youth learn about raising and caring for livestock.
- Embryology – Surf City and Rocky Point Elementary received eggs to incubate in their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms.
- 4-H Teen Retreat was held April 20 via Zoom. Lillie Hansen was elected as the Southeast Extension District Teen Vice President.
- Zane Anderson, 4-H club member with the High Fliers 4-H Club in Hampstead, applied for the state level vice president position of 4-H Teen Council.
- Finalizing plans for 4-H Summer Day Camp programs at the Pender County Extension office. Call Traci Spencer, 4-H Program Assistant at 910-259-1393 for more information.

#### **Empowering Youth and Families Program (EYFP) – Traci Spencer, EYFP Program Assistant**

- Sessions A, B, C and D of the spring 2021 cohort for Pender County families involved in the EYFP program were held in conjunction Lee County families on a virtual basis.
- EYFP Assistant attended the Watauga Compassionate Community Initiative Conference via Zoom.
- Program Assistant attended the Pender County resiliency task force meeting. Working on plans for community outreach. Met with the Community in Schools representatives to coordinate efforts.

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

- Agent attended a 3-day Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals Climate Professional Improvement Conference. Focused on climate related programming within Extension and Federal level priorities and programs.
- Concluded the 8-week Backyard Sustainability Class series this week. This was a big success and I will hold this series again next spring
- I participated in Pollinator Palooza, an online web event highlighting pollinators and native plant habitat. This was hosted by the NC Coastal Landtrust and was a collaboration with NC Cooperative Extension, the City of Wilmington, and Airlie Gardens.
- Planning a Pender County Rain Garden/Stormwater workshop for early summer with the Pender County Consumer Horticulture Agent.

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

- The Horticulture Agent conducted home visits and answered gardening and pest questions by phone, text, email and Facebook.
- Participating in professional development sessions: NC State University Plants, Pests, and Pathogens webinars and NC Forestry Council webinars.
- Cut down several cat briars and volunteer oak trees in shrubs of the Burgaw Extension garden.
- Pender County Extension Master Gardeners volunteers have been weeding, mulching, and flame torching the teaching gardens around the Extension office, Burgaw library, Hampstead library, and Poplar Grove. Other maintenance work included: water sealing the stairs, picnic table, planting table, and storage shed ramp at the Burgaw Extension

garden. They dug up and framed the walkway in front of their shed in preparation for a concrete pour by Pender County Fleet and Facilities staff. It has been a great partnership!

- The next Pender County Extension Master Gardeners Speakers Bureau event will be conducted by webinar. They have a schedule of different gardening topics to do by webinar. They are partnering with the library system to bring these presentations to more people. The last one was about general gardening. They will meet in May to plan next year's Speaker's Bureau topics and dates that will go back to being in person.

- Pender County Extension Master Gardeners: have an "Ask a Master Gardener" booth at the Poplar Grove Farmer's Market to answer gardening and lawn questions; they have been meeting through zoom and will start in person meetings in May; have been working to update our Pender Extension Master Gardeners webpage; and they made 30 new calendars which serves as their fund-raising project.

- Due to Covid-19 restrictions Horticulture in the Classroom YouTube videos are being created for use by Pender County Elementary School teachers to use to continue the Horticulture in the Classroom Program that has been going on for many years in Pender County Schools. Recent topics for first grade students are: pollinators, butterflies, and insects.



# Pender County Government Update

Department

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

As Hurricane Season approaches do you have a plan for your family, pets and love ones?

## **Emergency Management County Update – April 2021**

**EM Responses 6**

**Fire Investigations 12**

**Weather Related Calls**

**Other Calls 1**

**Fire Technical Review for New Development: 3**

**Plan Review & New Construction Inspections: 24**

**Required & Requested Fire Inspections: 42**

**Other Inspections: 25**

- Attended April TRC and looked at 4 projects.
- First budget meetings with all Fire Department and EMS.
- Pender EM hosted Fire Inspector Con-Ed Staff with CFCC and Staff completed 20-21 training.
- Monthly meeting with NCEM Area Coordinator.
- Old Long Creek School Site visit and process start to burn two structures on the site for fire service training.
- Additional Meeting with Steve Knight on Fire & EMS Study
- Covid Call Center continued to scale down staffing.
- Spring School Inspections started
- Staff attended Fire Association Dinner Meeting hosted by Penderlea VFD.
- Job Opening for Fire Marshal/EM Officer posted
- Working on rewriting the EOP
- Completely updated the Resource tracker for WebEOC.
- Animal Awareness 101 for Disaster Response
- State Fire Marshal/ Insurance Commissioner thing at Union
- Met with the state regarding Debris Monitoring contract
- Participated in NC Trees & Storms webinar regarding tree vulnerability & taking preventative actions.

Running Deer Trail Fire-Continues to burn multiple agencies have and still are monitoring this fire. Day 74 since it was first reported on Feb 15, 2021.



*The pile was still very hot this morning and not visible flames early Friday morning April 30, 2021.*



Pender County staff and a few other agencies participated EOC activation for  
Hurricane Derrick Exercise on April 28, 2021





# Pender County Government Update

## Department

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Over the past 2 weeks HR has hired 5 full-time and 4 part-time employees. We implemented an additional orientation meeting for all new hires which takes place 2 weeks after an employee is hired. This gives our new hires an opportunity to come and ask further questions about benefits, training, or any other questions they might have about Pender County. Also, HR sent the first of many County-wide surveys out to gauge employee satisfaction levels. We will be reviewing the information in the upcoming days and sharing this information with the Manager. HR also participated in the mock hurricane exercise that took place last Wednesday at the EOC. Finally, we held an informational retirement orientation for those who are nearing or considering retirement.





# Pender County Government Update

## Department

## LIBRARY

We are excited to begin offering in-person storytime for the first time since the start of the pandemic! Starting the first week of May, we will offer storytime programs on the lawn at each location: Tuesdays at 10:00 at the Hampstead Branch Library and Thursdays at 10:00 at the Main Library in Burgaw. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket. Per the governor's new executive order, masks are not required. However, the CDC does still recommend masks for adults & children over 2 in outdoor settings where consistent social distancing is difficult to maintain, as may be the case in a storytime program with small children. The Library will make free, disposable masks for children and for adults available to any attendees who would like one. It is wonderful to be able to offer this critical service again, thanks in large part to the vaccination campaign. Many thanks to the Health Department for their excellent work in getting the people of Pender County vaccinated!

### Programs for Adults & Teens

#### Adult Book Club (online)

May 6 @ 4:30 pm

Join us for a discussion of *The Lost Queen* by Signe Pike!

\*Registration required.

#### Rain Gardens (online)

May 8 @ 11:00 am

Learn about rain gardens, which are attractively landscaped shallow depressions designed to capture rainwater.

\*Registration required.

#### Virtual Game Night: Movie Trivia (online)

May 11 @ 5:45 pm

Join us for a night of virtual fun for all ages with Movie Trivia! Test your knowledge of your favorite movies!

\*Registration required.

#### World Bee Day (In person @Main Library in Burgaw)

May 20 @ 4:30 pm

Join us in person on the library's front lawn in Burgaw for a craft afternoon dedicated to feeding the bees! Or skip the event and pick up your kit to take home with you. We'll paint clay pots and plant one of a bee's favorite snacks: dandelions!

Registration required for the event. Go to [penderpubliclibrary.org](http://penderpubliclibrary.org) and click on Events.

*\*Join us in a group video chat (Zoom)! No need to create a Zoom account—just register through the calendar on our website, or by calling us, and we'll email you a link.*

## Pender County Library

### May 2021

### Programs for All Ages

#### In a Flash! Virtual Photography Club

Twice monthly

Join the library's NEW Virtual Photography Club! Every month on the 1st and 15th, the library will post a Word of the Month on social media.

Participants of all ages can submit up to 3 original photos that represent that month's word. Selected photos will appear on the library's social media pages. Submit your photo(s) any time the Word of the Month inspires you! Email submissions to [infodesk@pendercountnc.gov](mailto:infodesk@pendercountync.gov).

#### Virtual Escape Room

May 24–31

Test your wits and pass the time with a virtual escape room! Find hidden clues and solve puzzles, all from the comfort of your home.

Access from May 24 to 31 on [penderpubliclibrary.org](http://penderpubliclibrary.org) on the events page.

**Pender  
County  
Library**

**Main Library**  
103 S. Cowan St. | PO 879  
Burgaw, NC 28425  
910-259-1234

**Hampstead Branch**  
75 Library Dr.  
Hampstead, NC 28443  
910-270-4603

[penderpubliclibrary.org](http://penderpubliclibrary.org)

## Online STEAM Programming

For ages 6-12

### Mother's Day Flower Pop-Up Card

Wed, May 5 @ 4:00 pm

Make a card that pops for someone special in your life!

(Materials needed: paper, crayons and scissors, scotch tape)

\*Registration required.



### Reader's Theater: Lifecycle of a Flower

Wed, May 12 @ 4:00 pm

We'll be the stars of this reader's theater performance while learning about the life cycle of flowers!

(Materials needed: pencil, paper)

\*Registration required.



### Puzzle-Making Fun

Wed, May 19 @ 4:00 pm

Make your own puzzle!

(Materials needed: paper, pencil, scissor; optional: camera phone)

\*Registration required.



### Tower Challenge

Wed, May 26 @ 4:00 pm

How high can you build a tower? You'll need a dozen identical plastic cups and a dozen popsicle sticks. Pick up cups and popsicle sticks at the library before the program or use your own.

\*Registration required.



\*Join us in a group video chat (Zoom)! No need to create a Zoom account—register through the calendar on our website, or by calling us, and we'll email you a link and

## Outdoor Storytime Fun

Starting the first week of May!

Tuesdays @ 10:00

Hampstead Branch Library

Around the back of the library, by the wooded area.



Thursdays @ 10:00

Main Library in Burgaw

On the front lawn, facing Cowan St.

Stories, songs, and movement outside!

**Suggested for ages 3-5.**

- Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket.
- Storytime will be canceled on rainy days.
- Masks aren't required, but the CDC recommends masks for adults & children over 2 in outdoor settings where consistent social distancing isn't possible.

### Book Club for Kids:

#### *The World According to Humphrey*

May 20 @ 4:00 pm

Read the book *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney and join the book club for a fun discussion and activity.

(Reserve your book or e-book copy through Pender County Library)

Ages 6 - 12

\*Registration required.





# Pender County Government Update

## Department

### PARKS & RECREATION

- Summer Camp registration is currently underway for Topsail Elementary and Rocky Point Elementary. Register online at <https://penderpr.recdesk.com/Community/Program>. Flyer is attached.
- Join us for our upcoming public input meeting for our parks and recreation master plan update. Additional dates have been schedule in Burgaw, Currie, Surf City and Maple Hill. For more information about the public meetings or the master plan update process contact us at 910-2591330 or [parksandrec@pendercountync.gov](mailto:parksandrec@pendercountync.gov). Flyer is attached.
- Let your voice be heard! Take our parks & recreation master plan online survey at <https://form.jotform.com/211042953364047> to help us plan for the future. For more information or to request a paper copy of the survey contact Pender County Parks and Recreation at 910-259-1330 or [parksandrec@pendercountync.gov](mailto:parksandrec@pendercountync.gov).
- Planning is underway for several Summer special events. More information to be released soon.





# *Pender County* **Parks and Recreation** *Master Plan Public Meetings*

## **4/27 Poplar Grove Barn**

10200 US-17, Wilmington, NC 28411

## **4/29 Penderlea Gym**

231 W H Robbins Road, Willard, NC 28478

## **5/04 Hampstead Annex**

15060 US HWY 17, Hampstead, NC 28443

## **5/06 Cape Fear Middle Gym**

1886 NC-133, Rocky Point, NC 28457

## **5/18 CFCC Surf City Campus**

621 NC-210 E, Hampstead, NC 28443

## **5/20 Moores Creek National Battlefield**

40 Patriots Hall Dr. Currie, NC 28435

## **5/25 Maple Hill Volunteer Fire Department**

115 Old Maple Hill Rd N, Maple Hill, NC 28454

## **5/27 Pender County Administrative Building**

805 S. Walker Street Burgaw, NC 28425

Come share your vision for Parks and Recreation activities and facilities in Pender County.

**All meetings are from  
4:30pm - 7:30pm**

These are floating meetings, drop by anytime between 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm to share your thoughts.

**Call 910-259-1330 or email [ParksandRec@pendercountync.gov](mailto:ParksandRec@pendercountync.gov) for more information.**



Scan the QR code to fill out the community survey.

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# SUMMER CAMPS

JUNE 7 - AUGUST 6

TOPSAIL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ROCKY POINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

AGES 5 - 12

**\$110 PER WEEK**

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES,  
FIELD TRIPS, GAMES  
ARTS AND CRAFTS,  
GUEST SPEAKERS & MORE!

**\$25 DEPOSIT PER CHILD PER WEEK**

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 22ND

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO

<http://penderpr.recdesk.com/Community/Page>  
or scan the QR code



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# Pender County Government Update

Department

PENDER FIRE AND EMS

Have a good day

## PENDER EMS AND FIRE 2021

### EMS Operation

		Weekly	YTD	EMS Call Type Summary	Weekly	YTD
Station 1	Burgaw	47	698	Cancelled	41	535
Station 14	Sloop Point	34	454	Refusals	52	922
Station 16	Hampstead	28	538	Stand By's	1	21
Station 18	Scotts Hill	0	0	Transported	114	1820
Station 23	Surf City	15	322	Treated and Released	16	196
Station 29	Currie	1	72		224	3494
Station 4	Topsail Beach	7	94			
Station 5	Union	18	271			
Station 7	Rocky Point	50	653			
Station 13	Maple Hill	7	57			
Station 9	Atkinson	17	335			
		224	3494			

### Fire Operations

		Weekly	YTD	Fire Call Type Summary	Weekly	YTD
Station 1	Burgaw	6	119	FIRE	7	56
Station 14	Sloop Point	18	154	Motor Vehicle Crash	6	111
Station 16	Hampstead	2	116	Search and Rescue	0	0
Station 18	Scott Hill	2	74	Service Calls	8	105
Station 29	Hwy 421 South	6	63	EMS First Response	27	409
Station 21	Long Creek	3	101	Cancelled	11	141
Station 4	Topsail--OR	0	0	Ocean Rescue	0	10
Station 13	Maple Hill	10	100		59	832
Station 17	Penderlea	11	62			
Station 28	Island Creek	1	43			
		59	832			

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 Naran
January	1	0	2	2	1	5	January	2	2	6	2	1
February	0	0	3	1	2	6	February	2	4	2	0	1
March	0	1	0	2	0	3	March	1	3	4	0	0
April	1	1	1	0	0	2	April	2	0	2	0	1
May							May					
June							June					
July							July					
August							August					
September							September					
October							October					
November							November					
December							December					
YTD TOTAL	2	2	6	5	3	16	YTD TOTAL	7	9	14	2	3

  

Traffic Accident Deaths YTD				AirLink Calls			
	Deaths		Accidents				
January	0		72	January	1		
February	0		71	February	1		
March	0		54	March	2		
April	2		55	April	1		
May				May			
June				June			
July				July			
August				August			
September				September			
October				October			
November				November			
December				December			
YTD TOTAL	2		252	YTD TOTAL	5		



# Pender County Government Update

## Department

### TOURISM

County Update April 16-30, 2021

#### *Tourism*

We have had an **increase in visitors** coming through the office.

Tourism staff attended the annual **Visit NC conference**, Visit NC 365. It was virtual this year.

The tourism staff continues to **mail many visitor-guide** requests. The demand exceeds the demand of the last six years.

Olivia met last week with the Burgaw TDA, the Town of Burgaw Parks Recreation & Tourism staff, and the Burgaw Area Chamber of Commerce to discuss **tourism ideas in the Burgaw area**.

The Tourism Staff prepared giveaway bags for the I-95 NC Welcome Center for the **National Tourism Week**.

We continue to monitor **travel sentiment** by virtually attending Destination Analysis Webinars.

Stephanie met virtually with **NC Arts Council Staff** to research potential grant opportunities for various projects.

Stephanie is working with our historical entities and the **NC Folklife Institute** on several grant nominations for the first round of applicants in the **NC Legends and Lore Marker program**.

Pender County Tourism's **African American Heritage Trail** committee is growing, due to overwhelming interest. We met on April 30 virtually.

We attended the **North Carolina Beach Inlet and Waterway Association** spring conference, virtually.

Olivia attended the **monthly tourism meeting** with Surf City.

We continue to update our **social media platforms** – tourism has six pages.

**Sharks Night** is confirmed for Sunday, June 6. We look forward to hosting that evening with Parks & Recreation. We will begin promoting that event.

The **2021 Nature Photography** has already received many entries. The contest accepts entries through May 3.

**Beach Week** continues to be well received as visitors are increasing as the season begins.

Pender County attractions are opening after COVID closures and upcoming events are being scheduled which increases our visitors to the area, so we are working to make sure we have that **up-to-date information available**.

We continue to share pertinent information for business loans, restaurant restoration loans, from the

state and federal government to our **tourism-related businesses**.

We continue to participate in various **sub-committees** for county employees.

We attended our **tourism budget meeting** with the commissioners.

### **Communications**

We participated in the **hurricane response drill** as the communication team.

We submitted a **press release** for the library, parks and recreation, and the health department.

We continue to monitor our **Facebook pages and post** information.

We updated the **county website with the state's COVID** restrictions and Gov. Cooper's new executive order.



# Pender County Government Update

## Department

### UTILITY OPERATIONS

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

The Annex & Kiwanis Park well facilities are operational, although a few punch list items are still being completed at Kiwanis. Also, the new driveway at the Kiwanis Park well site is still under construction.

The Maple Hill water system interconnections with ONWASA began operational testing this week. There are some operational issues we are working on that may require a change order to allow automatic operation of the connection. Full switch-over from Chinquapin to ONWASA water for the Maple Hill water district is still expected to be accomplished no later than June.

#### Field staff work and status updates since last report:

- Automatic flush valve on daily flush on Riverland Drive and Old Landing Road
- 5 water taps by staff and two service repairs
- 7 water taps by Utilitech (contractor)
- 349 locates in the last two weeks. Several located for gas company totaling over five miles. The amount of locates limits the staff's ability to complete other tasks, especially with us still being one technician short (new technician to start May 17th).
- Coordinated ONWASA trial at both inter-connections in Maple Hill.
- One meter reader out until mid-June.
- Met and discussed spray irrigation crop management with provider.

#### WATER PRODUCTION NUMBERS:

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

February 2021 Daily Avg: 1.25 MGD from WP, 0.287 MGD from Wallace, 0.730 MGD to Hamp/SH, 0 MGD from Annex Well

March 2021 Daily Avg : 1.20 MGD from WP, 0.267 MGD from Wallace, 0.762 MGD to Hamp/SH, 0.0009 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells

April 2021 Daily Avg (thru 28th): 1.43 MGD from WP, 0.248 MGD from Wallace, 0.921 MGD to Hamp/SH, 0.147 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells

WATER USAGE IN HAMPSTEAD IS UP 26.7% IN APRIL COMPARED TO 2020 (Daily Avg is 1.067 MGD)

## WATER TREATMENT PLANT

We've had 3 tours of the Water Plant over the past 2 weeks. These groups of students were from the Cape Fear Community College Marine Tech program.

Hach was on-site for the plant's quarterly turbidimeter calibrations.

Backwashed GAC #3 (see attached photos). With the new protocols in place for GAC backwashing we are seeing more efficiency and longer run times.

We are starting to see an uptick in water usage and we are gearing up for the usual high demand increase around Memorial Day Weekend.

Production numbers through April 28th: 39.9 million gallons for an average of 1.43 MGD.

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

Discharge numbers continue to be great. We have conducted three more plant tours with CFCC. Site mowing has commenced. Monthly report has been completed. Staff is working on quotes for upcoming projects.

## SOLID WASTE

The Transfer Station scale house staff is creating about 115 tickets daily for disposal records. Waiting time at scales is about 10 minutes IN and 10 minutes OUT.

ITS is installing new computer with updates. We are handwriting all disposal tickets until we will be

able to put information in computer application.

#### SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL TONNAGE FOR MARCH 2021

MSW Kitchen trash collected	2493.03 tons
Construction & demolition	791.13 tons
Recycling	128.70 tons
Tires recycled	72.51 tons
Scrap metal recycled (shreds)	132.62 tons
Whitegoods recycled	2.46 tons
TV & Electronics	18.68 tons







Water Plant GAC  
Final Rinse After  
Backwash