



Pender County Government Update

Department

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Please see below.

Pender County Cooperative Extension
Bi-weekly program report

Administration – Mark Seitz / Reatha Hoffman

Conducted interviews for the Expanded Foods and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) and Empowering Youth and Families (EYFP) program assistant positions. An offer was made to the EYFP candidate and that position is expected to be filled by September 1, 2021 pending background checks. No candidate was hired for the EFNEP position. That position has been re-advertised with the goal of conducting interviews in early September and filling the position by October 1. That application can be found at: <https://jobs.ncsu.edu/hr/postings/148539/preview>

NC Cooperative Extension hosted the 'First Night' dinner for the NC County Commissioners Annual Conference on August 12, 2021. All foods for this meal were from local farms. Pender County blueberries from Ivanhoe Farm were used for a delicious blueberry vinaigrette salad dressing. All Pender County Extension Agents and staff assisted with table set up and photography at this event.

Agriculture – Mark Seitz



- Corn harvest is underway across the county with farmers reporting good to excellent yields. Some corn yields are pushing 200 bushels per acre or more, which is excellent for this county. Soybeans look good in the county with some insect pressure.
- One field near the Angola Bay ~~Game Lands~~ was the site of a unique insect invasion that completely destroyed a 200-acre field. Fall armyworm invaded this field and destroyed the foliage, and the crop with 100% loss. This is something I have never seen in 40 years in agriculture. One other example of this also occurred in Hyde County this year.

4-H Youth Development – Traci Spencer

- Attended the Millstone 4-H Camp August 2-8th with Brunswick County girls. Pender and Brunswick county partner together to make sure there is a 4-H Agent attending camp with youth every year.

- Due to staffing problems Pender youth who were scheduled to go to the Millstone 4-H Camp in Ellerbe, NC went to Betsy-Jeff Penn and the Eastern 4-H Center for camp this year. Youth at all these camps enjoy wall climbing, ropes courses, a giant swing, swimming, kayaking, fishing, team sports, hiking, arts and crafts, group challenges and outdoor living skills. Spots for Millstone summer 2022 will open up soon.
- Fifteen Pender County 4-H youth and adults attended the NC Zoo: Zoo Snooze Aug. 10-11. Participants enjoyed building bat houses, inspecting owl pellets, night hike with zoo staff, up close encounters with some zoo critters (tarantula, hedgehogs, salamander...), tent camping and a day touring the zoo.
- Took 13 4-H youth to Camp Kirkwood for an End of Summer Blowout summer camp day. Youth enjoyed group challenges, low ropes course, zip lining, a giant swing, hiking and swimming.

Area Natural Resources Agent – Amy Mead

Rain Garden Workshop scheduled for Saturday, September 11th from 10am-12pm at the Cooperative Extension office called "Water, Water, What to do? A Homeowner's Guide to Rain Gardens." Workshop participants will learn why stormwater is important, how to design, site, and maintain a rain garden and how to plant it with low maintenance native plants. To register for this event go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/water-water-what-to-do-a-homeowners-guide-to-rain-gardens-tickets-166831885601?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Consumer Horticulture - Tiffanee Boone

- Pender County Extension Master Gardener (PCEMG) volunteers are planning for the 2021 Speakers Bureau programs. The first one will be September 1st by zoom about deer resistant plants. You can see the rest of the schedule on this website: <https://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/08/pender-county-extension-master-gardeners-speakers-bureau-update/>
- PCEMG volunteers will resume offering the Horticulture in the Classroom program for Pender County elementary students through Zoom.
- Research is being conducted on disease resistant basil varieties. A variety highly susceptible to mildew has been planted with five new varieties that are supposed to be resistant to the mildew in sites all over NC. Pender County is one of the test locations for this research. The first case of the mildew was found on a plot in Pender County in Hampstead at the end of July and served as a warning to the entire state.
- Working on 2 videos after taking a 3-day video production workshop.

Mark Seitz
North Carolina Cooperative Extension
County Extension Director - Pender County



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FACILITIES AND FLEET

- A very successful Courthouse Dedication ceremony was held on August 6, 2021 to commemorate the completion of the renovation project that was prompted by Hurricane Florence damages.
- The Grounds crew has recruited and hired two positions. We are happy to welcome Rebecca Hewett and Michael Johnson to the team!
- The Facilities crew is preparing to assist in all areas related to further Covid preparations for both employees and the public.
- All Facilities and Fleet employees have completed OSHA 10 certification training.



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HUMAN RESOURCES

Thank you to all the employees that completed the ICS 100 and 200 training class! Our Staff Development Coordinator, who also serves as the EOC Food Coordinator, had the pleasure of attending the ICS 300 and 400 courses as well. Last week, the Health and Wellness committee was held as well as a meeting with local HR representatives from New Hanover, Brunswick, Town of Leland, and City of Wilmington to discuss ideas on bring talent to Southeastern NC. Human Resources and ITS began discussing the timing of the new Munis upgrade and Employee Open Enrollment to ensure a smooth benefits season for all. Additional planning meetings were held for the Employee Fall Tailgate party.

7 new employees were hired, and a post-orientation meeting was held for the previous orientation group. These meetings help ITS and HR address any issues or concerns that arise in the first few weeks of employment.

Our Intranet, My Pender, has some new updates that we'd like our employees to check out such as: the Tickets at Work Program and the Employee Assistance Program. We've also included another great new hire spotlight!



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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICE

Please see below.

1. Enterprise Applications Services:

- A. A/V Room Restructuring
 - 95% Complete
- B. Library – Cybrarian System Implementation
 - 10% Complete
- C. Door Access Clean-up
 - 40% Complete
- D. Computer Replacement FY 21-22
 - Computers Ordered
 - 10% Complete
- E. Munis Upgrade to 2019.1
 - 30% Complete
- F. Multifactor Authentication
 - 80% Complete
- G. FY 20-21 Computer Replacement
 - 100% Complete
- H. Cost Per Copy
 - 100% Complete
- I. Chromecast Deployment to Conference Rooms
 - 100% Complete
- J. Laserfiche – Admin Departments Deployment
 - 40% Complete
- K. Sheriff's Office – AVL/GPS deployment
 - 100 % complete

2. Geographic Information Systems (GIS):

- A. NextGen 911 GIS Updates (Target goal is to ensure 98% of geospatial errors are resolved.)
 - ALI to RCL – 98.33% (98%) Required
 - 95 K Non-Critical Errors Remain
- B. Paddle Trail Mapping Project
 - In Progress - 99% Complete
- C. GIS Division Request
 - 5 Request Competed in Service Desk Plus
 - 100% Completed
- D. Penderlea Fire District Mapping Project
 - In Progress – 98% Complete
- E. Damage Assessment Application Project
 - In Progress – 75 % Complete
- F. **Addressing**
 - Address Points Edited: 47
 - Addresses Created: 24
 - Address change letters prepared: 1
 - New road created: 0
 - Existing roads modified: 4
 - Plats reviewed & approved: 0
 - TRC cases reviewed and responses given: 4
 - 1 Preliminary Addressing & Road Range Reports

3. Operations & Communications:

- A. Courthouse Renovation - IT Items
 - Current Status: Complete
 - 100% Complete
- B. Infrastructure Capacity Upgrades
 - Current Status: Complete
 - 100% Complete
- C. VNX Data Migration to Unit
 - Current Status: In Progress
 - Cut-Over scheduled for 8/21
 - 50% Complete
- D. Hampstead Kiwanis Park Security CCTV Project
 - Current Status: Delayed
- E. XM Fax Implementation
 - Current Status: Complete
 - 100% Complete
- F. 911 Radio Console Equipment Replacement
 - Current Status: In Progress
 - Planning Stage
 - 30% Complete
- G. Manage Engine MDM
 - Current status: Delayed
 - Researching Zero touch deployment for android devices
 - 70% Complete
- H. 911 Hosted ESINet
 - Current Status: In Progress
 - Working with ATT on Readiness items
 - 50% Complete
- I. Switch Replacement – Social Services
 - Current Status: Complete
 - 100% Complete

- J. Switch Replacement – Hampstead Library
 - Current Status: In Progress
 - Configuring Equipment
 - 10% Complete
- K. Switch Replacement – Burgaw Library
 - Current Status: In Progress
 - Switch migration scheduled for 8/21
 - 60% Complete
- L. Switch Replacement – Heritage House
 - Current Status: Complete
 - 100% Complete
- M. Access Point Replacement
 - Current Status: In Progress
 - Replacing Access Points
 - 60% Complete

4. Technical Support Services:

Total completed IT Work Orders MTD: **100**

Request count by Priority

Critical: 0
High: 5
Medium: 94
Low: 1

5. Scheduled Maintenance, Upgrades, and Updates:

- 08/21 - VNX to Unity Migration
- 08/21 - Burgaw Library Switch Migration
- 08/24 – August PCSO Server Updates
- 09/02 – August County Server Updates



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LIBRARY

On Thursday, August 19 at 6 p.m. at the Main Library in Burgaw, Pender County Library hosted a meteorologist from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for an exciting talk about hurricanes, storm safety, and being prepared during hurricane season. Evacuation maps, information about evacuation zones and shelter locations, hurricane prep checklists, pet preparedness, and other informational materials were available at the event.

On August 17 at 6:00 p.m., the Main Library in Burgaw hosted the first of a new monthly book club we're calling Fit Lit. When the weather is nice, we will go for a walk on the Osgood Canal Trail and discuss books that participants read in a given genre each month. For August, we discussed historical fiction novels; on September 21 at 6:00 p.m., we will be discussing mystery novels.



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PARKS & RECREATION

- Connor Reiderer has completed his eagle scout project at Hampstead Kiwanis Park. His project was a 20'x25' wooden stage. This stage will be used for our Summer concerts at Hampstead Kiwanis Park and other special events. A picture of the stage is below.
- Next Tuesday 8/24 is our final concert of the Topsail Sounds series featuring the British Invaders. The concert begins at 6:30pm at the Topsail Beach Town Center. Flyer is attached.
- Concrete cornhole boards have been installed in the Penderlea Community Park and in Hampstead Kiwanis Park. A picture of one of the cornhole boards is attached.
- Registration is now open for our Kick or Treat Kickball tournament. The tournament will take place on Saturday Oct. 23rd at Hampstead Kiwanis Park. Teams can register online at: <https://penderpr.recdesk.com/Community/Program>. Event flyer is attached.







PENDER COUNTY
Parks & Recreation

KICK OR TREAT

HALLOWEEN KICKBALL TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 23RD 1PM HAMPSTEAD KIWANIS PARK

COSTUMES ENCOURAGED

6-15 PEOPLE PER TEAM

SINGLE ELIMINATION

\$50 PER TEAM

PRIZES FOR:

WINNING TEAM

BEST DRESSED TEAM

BEST DRESSED INDIVIDUAL

REGISTER AT [HTTPS://PENDERPR.RECDESK.COM](https://penderpr.recdesk.com)

OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION



**LIVE MUSIC
FOOD TRUCKS
AND MORE!**

2021 SUMMER CONCERTS

TOPSAIL SOUNDS



Town of Topsail Beach
Town Center
624 S Anderson Blvd

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
ALL CONCERTS BEGIN AT 630 PM

June 22nd
The Cruise Brothers

July 27th
The Imitations

August 24th
British Invaders





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TOURISM

County Update, Aug 7-20, 2021

Pender County Tourism

The tourism department has jokingly agreed we should also go into the catering business after the many compliments received from the **Pender County Courthouse Open House and Dedication**. In all seriousness, the Courthouse event was a historic and beautiful event, which has been documented in photos taken by Stephanie Key. We provided a flash drive of all photos, the history, and other elements related to the courthouse to Pender County Assistant County Manager Allen Vann.

Our **Beach Week** campaign continues with excellent results.

We met with the YWCA of the Lower Cape Fear to discuss **programming** amid the recent COVID outbreak.

While Tammy attended the monthly manager's meeting, Stephanie attended (virtually) the Mid-Year Advertising Marketing Workshop from **VisitNC**.

We continue to work with the **Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail** in expanding and improving the trail through Pender County and the Coastal Crescent. There is the possibility of applying for several grants.

We attended the Town of Topsail Beach Commissioners' meeting on Aug. 11, to discuss the **Rufa Red Knot**, a shorebird that is considered to be a critical habitat situation. Possible legislation will impact Topsail Island. We attended a conference call with Wildlife Resources and have been researching the proposed legislation. Public comment is being accepted through Sept. 13.

On Aug. 12-13 we joined forces with Wilmington and Beaches CVB and Brunswick Isles TDA to showcase the tri-county area to the **North Carolina Association of County Commissioners**. We had drawings for three jars of much-coveted blueberry jelly. Pictured is Stanly County Commissioner Peter Ascutto, picking up his prize.

We met with the leaders of the **Pender Arts Council** to discuss possible collaboration on upcoming events, including a Barn Quilt Trail/event as well as Art in the Park.

We met with **Step Up Wilmington** to discuss connections so the group can fulfill their charter of serving Pender County. We were going to work with Step Up Wilmington on a fundraiser for Pender County Christian Services, but it has been delayed due to COVID.

We are working with the Town of Burgaw for the **New Year's Eve Blueberry Drop**. Olivia attended the meeting as our tourism office representative.

We met with **Topsail Beach** officials to discuss holiday events, including a tree lighting ceremony and lighted parade.

Pender County Tourism is designing a Media Pitch Sheet for the **Visit NC Media Mission** on Oct. 19\\.

We are developing an addition to our **Pender Spender** campaign for fall and winter, leading into holiday shopping.

We are discussing options and events for **NC Oyster Week**.

Jeep Week is gearing up under creator and organizer Peter Sloan. He has turned this into a tourism event that introduces our visitors to our attractions, such as the sea turtle hospital, Missiles and More Museum, and a Maple Hill Motorcross course.

Communications

We have spoken with several journalists looking for information. We have directed their calls or obtained the answers for them.

We have updated social media and the county website.





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UTILITY OPERATIONS

PENDER COUNTY UTILITIES (PCU) & WATER DISTRICTS

PCU staff have been performing rigorous flushing in the water distribution system within the areas of Sloop Point Loop Rd. and the Wyndwater Subdivision. This extensive flushing is performed to address some water quality concerns within the area and to provide the required maintenance to the available fire hydrants.

Recently we have discovered a correlation between water quality concerns and some homes that are equipped with tankless water heaters. Tankless water heaters are energy-efficient devices that can save money on electricity in the long run, but their efficiency is very dependent on the frequent preventive maintenance that is required by the manufacturer. It is our experience that most owners are not aware of this fact and are not performing the required maintenance. Most homes equipped with this type of water heaters could experience issues with mineral scaling and some discoloration that could be caused as a result of maintenance not being performed as required. We are working on preparing some education material that we can provide to customers that are experiencing this type of situation.

We continue installing automatic hydrant flushers throughout the County. These devices are programmed to activate during the hours of low water demand. Their use provides the necessary water flushing maintenance needed in the distribution system in order to assure fresh water and proper disinfection residual as required by regulations.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Tom Hedrick worked with staff from Brunswick Utilities in the troubleshooting of the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority Raw Water Meter. This meter is used to totalize and process the billing of the water purchased by Pender County from the Lower Cape Fear River. A new meter was installed and calibrated by professionals, assuring that the daily readings are accurate and that all parties are able to receive the same meter information by methods of digital data.

BFPE (a fire protection equipment supplier) was at the plant site to perform the annual sprinklers and backflow preventer inspection. This inspection is required by the State and Local Authorities to ensure that all fire protection equipment is working properly.

A monthly safety meeting was performed by Tom Hedrick to address the topic of Heat Stress. This is an important topic that is addressed yearly during the hottest months of the year to ensure that the plant personnel is taking the necessary precaution when working outside during the hot days.

The water plant personnel have noticed the presence of very poor raw water quality coming into the plant for the past two weeks. Ferric Sulfate dosages has been increased from our normal 90mg/L to 240mg/L. Even with these challenges, the plant continues to produce good quality water.

Water production numbers for August through the 18th: 27.4 Million Gallons, for an average of 1.52 MGD.

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

The wastewater plant is running very well considering the recent weather events and the high

temperatures. The staff experienced some strong water quality coming into the plant on August 6, but it was quickly addressed with the help from the Pender Commerce Park customers and the quick response from Kurt Lonander, the Operator Responsible in Charge.

The plant staff moved a conex box from the BASF site and into the plant facility. This box is being used to store plastic media that is used in the plant's treatment process. A forklift was rented in order to complete the transfer and installation of the media. This equipment is also being used in the relocation of other articles that are needed to be removed from the BASF site as well.

The plant staff is also working on the seasonal cut back of some of the plants in the greenhouse area. This is a preventive maintenance step performed yearly as needed to ensure the proper growth of the vegetation.

SOLID WASTE

The Transfer Station Scale House continues operating efficiently during the transition of new leadership and Scale House operator. Our new part-time employee will begin employment on Monday, September 6, 2021.

Susan Barnhill is working on the maintenance of the Scale House. A new refrigerator was purchased to replace the old one that recently broke down, and quotes are being obtained for the replacement of flooring that is due for an upgrade.

The Transfer Station is creating daily approximately 100-115 disposal tickets while waiting time at the scales is approximately 3 minutes in and 4 minutes out.

TONNAGES FOR JULY 2021

Construction debris 609.51

Household garbage 2885.27

Household recycling 127.70

Scrap metal recycling 115.05

Whitegoods recycling 7.25

Scrap Tires 51.48

Work
performed at
the Wastewater
Treatment Plant

