



Pender County Government Update

Department

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Pender County Elections just completed the 2021 Municipal Election event and will be immediately entering the 2022 Primary Election. Candidate filing begins December 06, 2021 @noon and runs until December 17, 2021 @ noon for the March 2022 Primary election. This election event covers the offices of:

Board of Commissioners Districts 1,2 and 3

Board of Education District 1,2 and 4

Sheriff

Clerk of Superior Court

District Attorney District 5 (covers all of Pender County)

State Senate (changed from district 08 to 09 and covers all of Pender)

State House Rep District 16 (covers all of Pender)

US House of Rep (changed from district 07 to 03 and covers all of Pender)

US Senate

Soil and Water (files June 13, 2022 through July 1, 2022)



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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Bi-Weekly Programming Update – Nov 12, 2021

NC Cooperative Extension Agents work with Pender County residents and farmers, helping them find research-based solutions to problems. We work in agriculture, horticulture, natural resources and the environment (storm water, erosion, wetlands restoration, water quality, etc.) and 4-H Youth Development teaching civic leadership and community development.

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Consumer Horticulture – Tiffanee Boone

- Pender County Extension Master Gardener volunteers (EMGV) released the 2021 Speakers Bureau program. The schedule is available at: <https://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/08/pender-county-extension-master-gardeners-speakers-bureau-update/>. The next one will be done in person and through zoom at the Hampstead library.
 - Pender EMGV will resume their Horticulture in the Classroom program for Pender County elementary students in person in January.
 - Pender EMGV will be making evergreen arrangements for nursing homes Pender Memorial Hospital on December 14 at 9 AM. Anyone wishing to assist can join us at the Agriculture Building, 801 S. Walker Street to help.
 - A new initial Master Gardener class is planned for January. Applications are due December 1st and can be found here: <https://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/01/nc-state-extension-master-gardener-pender-county-initial-certification-training/>
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Area Environment and Natural Resources Agent – Amy Mead

- The Agent spoke to the Hampstead Beekeepers Association about Storm Water Solutions for Homeowners: rain barrels, rain gardens and other features with native plants that can help pollinator populations.
- New Hanover County Extension is hosting a conference titled: Stormwater Management on Wetland Soils for county planners, developers and engineers to talk to about issues pertaining to wetland soil management. This conference will be at the New Hanover County Extension office, December 8, 2021 from 9 AM. Email Amy Mead at: afmead@ncsu.edu for more information.

* * *

4-H Youth Development – Traci Spencer

- The 4-H Youth Goat Show took place October 30. Thirty youth had the opportunity to learn about goats, their health and how to show them.
- Pender County 4-H wreath fund-raiser sale is complete. Fifty wreaths were ordered, which will provide funding for 4-H camp scholarships for Pender County 4-H youth.
- Any parents interested in having their children attend 4-H summer camps in 2022 please contact Traci Spencer, 910-259-1392.
- Four, 4-H youth are participating in the 4-H Egg-cellent Competition. Judging wraps up Nov 12 and the winners will be announced December 16.
- Twenty-two youth and parents attended 4-H information night to learn about club and program activities coming up in 2022.
- Emily Cuttic, from UNCW will join the Pender County Extension office as an intern for spring semester. She will be working on the 4-H Health Rocks, EYFP and the Pender County Health Department's Community Health Assessment survey work.

* * *

Administration – Mark Seitz & All Extension Staff

- Completed interviews for the Pender County Expanded Foods and Nutrition Program Assistant position. Cindy Rivenbark, from Ivanhoe, NC, will join the Extension office team in this position on December 1, 2021. This is funded by NCSU and will deliver food and nutrition education to elementary age youth from limited resource families throughout Pender County.

Agriculture / Commercial Horticulture – Mark Seitz

- Agronomically very little has changed since the Oct 29 report. Dry conditions continue and will have impacts in spring 2022 if rainfall doesn't come through the winter months.

Community Development – Mark Seitz

- Agent attended the National Extension Tourism Conference in Savannah, GA with funding from the USDA Sea Grant program. The focus of this conference was to help agritourism industries strengthen their resiliencies in light of the pandemic and natural disasters. The Agent will be sharing ideas and concepts learned with the Pender County Tourism office and farmers in Pender County.
- They Agent is working with three new/expanding agritourism venues in the county on resiliency planning and marketing opportunities.



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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

October 2021

SUMMARY

Emergency Management staff is happy to say hurricane season is over for us! We had no land falling storms on the Carolina coast. We still are in dry conditions for this time of the year. Staff has started working towards the 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant. We are working on a few different Tabletop exercises in the next few months. The EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) goes before the County Commissioners for approval on November 15. New projects, neighborhoods and construction is keeping the fire marshal office very busy. ISO Inspection completed with NC DOI & Pender EMS & Fire

The EM Office has hire Mark Haraway as the new Fire Marshal and starts on November 1. He brings 42 years of fire service to the office. Staff has a new weather station up at the EOC and 2nd one coming online in November at the Hampstead Annex with more on this coming soon. We have started working 2022-2023 budget. Continued maintenance on equipment and looking into the cold weather and holiday activities we support. We attended the October Fire Association & Fire Commission Meeting hosted at Shiloh-Columbia Fire Department.

Staff attended the Atkinson Town Hall Meeting to talk about Debris options for the town. We attended the October TRC meeting. EM & Sheriffs Office staff organized the storage warehouse bay behind the Sheriff's Office. The 67th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel was October 15th. Ironman Race completed with no major events on Oct 23rd.

Calls

EM Responses-1

Fire Investigations-7

Weather Related-1

Assist Other Agency-0

No Fire Injuries this month

Deployment of Personnel and/or Equipment:

1. Lighting equipment to the Ghost Walk Event

Code Enforcement

Completed Annual Fire Inspections: 43

Attempted Inspections: 30

Building Finals: 5

Final Plat: 2

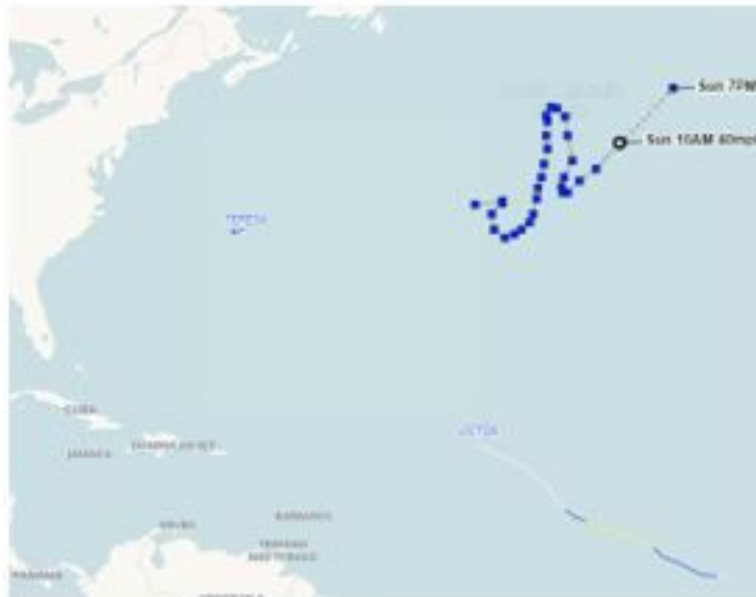
New construction Plan Review: 16

Tents: 10

Total: 106

Staff Report of Events

- Eight Named Tropical Systems in September
 1. Teresa
 2. Victor
 3. Wanda



- Pender EMS & Fire ISO Inspection



- Burgaw Rotary invited the Emergency Management Office to present at the October Breakfast meeting



- Emergency Operation Center Request for Proposal for the Audio/Visional Refresh went out and is out for a 2 time



- Fire Chiefs attended the fire study meeting and presentation to the Commissioners
- Emergency Management Staff hosted a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) kick off meeting

- Live Burning training with almost all the fire departments in Pender County



Water haul operations moved over 125,000 gallons of water in less than 1.5 hours for fire suppression training

- Emergency Plane landing in a corn field in Currie resulted in no injuries





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HUMAN RESOURCES

As October came to an end so did Open enrollment. We rolled into November by kicking off the Evaluation season. All employees were given the opportunity to complete their self-evaluations and now supervisors are beginning to complete annual evaluations. Last week HR held a Retirement Orientation for employees that are considering retiring in the next year or so. We also held our first mock Supervisor Orientation. We invited 4 supervisors from various departments, and requested feedback and critique before taking the process county-wide.

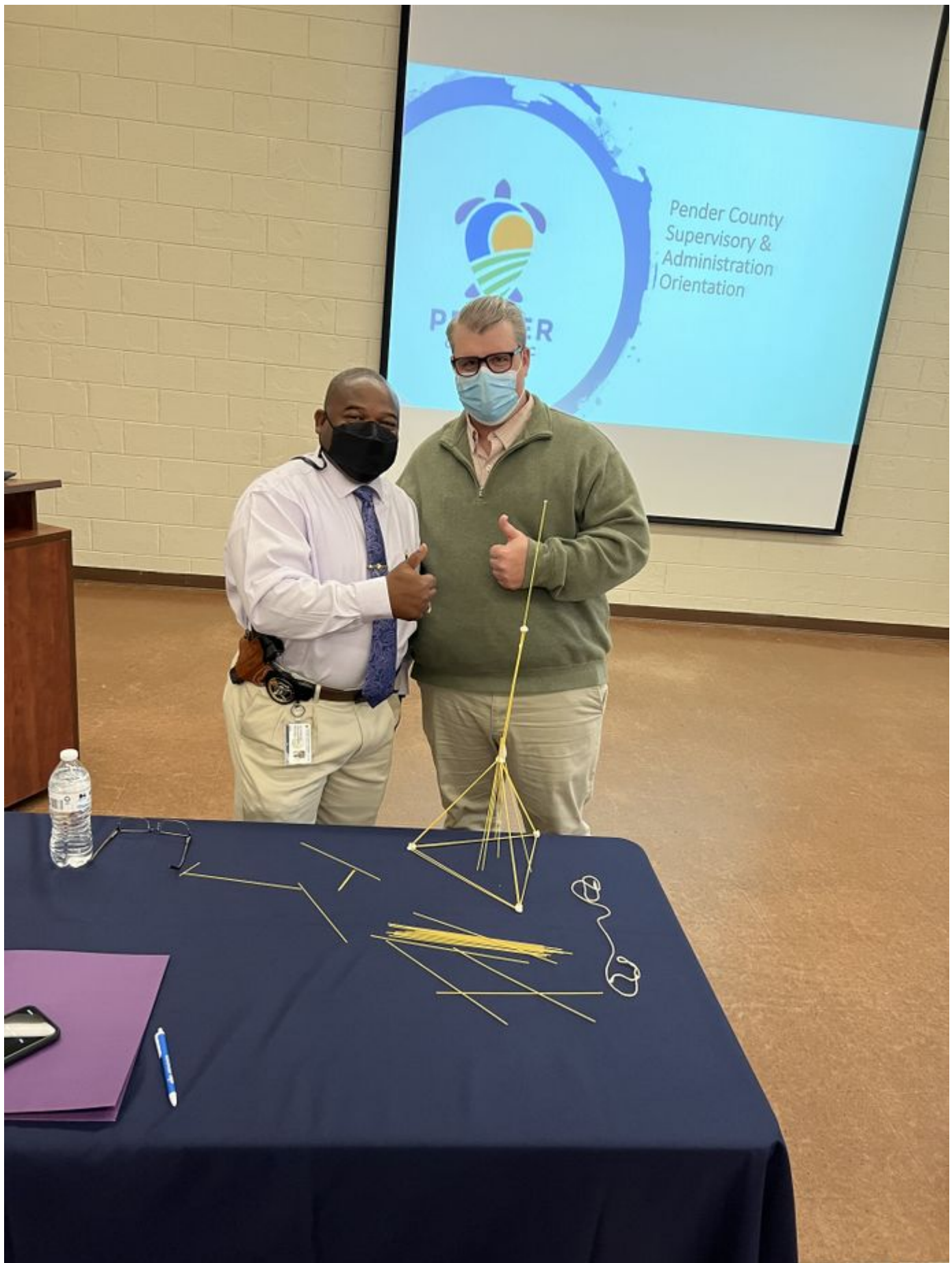
Post orientation meet-up took place with 6 of our new hires in attendance, allowing them the opportunity to share how their first 2 weeks at Pender County are going.

Our Risk Management Specialist completed a School of Government Diversity Course last week, as well as onboarded over 10 new hires in the past two weeks.

The Holiday Party Planning Committee has met, set a date, cater, and assigned tasks in order to prepare for the event.

October's Think Different Expect Different nominations have been posted on My Pender and the winners have been notified.







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LIBRARY

Library statistics for October 2021

Visitors entering library buildings	6,767
Physical books, books on CD, DVDs, & other physical loans	17,108
E-books and downloadable audiobooks	5,111
Total physical + digital loans	22,219
Questions requiring in-depth assistance	1,197
Wireless Internet sessions	3,317
Programs for children	40
Attendance for children's programs	444
Programs for teens	7
Attendance for teen programs	128
Programs for adults	8
Attendance for adult programs	76
Community events in meeting rooms	19
Hours contributed by volunteers	134
PreK classrooms receiving Early Literacy Outreach services	55



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PENDER FIRE AND EMS

Have a good day.

EMS Operation				EMS Call Type Summary			
		Weekly	YTD		Weekly	YTD	
Station 1	Burgaw	39	1865	Cancelled	17	1470	
Station 14	Sloop Point	32	1390	Refusals	61	2999	
Station 16	Hampstead	35	1610	Stand By's	9	174	
Station 18	Scotts Hill	0	3	Transported	94	5232	
Station 23	Surf City	20	1219	Treated and Released	15	576	
Station 29	Currie	0	102		196	10451	
Station 4	Topsail Beach	5	486				
Station 5	Union	23	825				
Station 7	Rocky Point	28	1711				
Station 13	Maple Hill	1	171				
Station 9	Atkinson	13	1038				
M-6 QRV	East Side	0	31				
		196	10451				
Fire Operations				Fire Call Type Summary			
		Weekly	YTD		Weekly	YTD	
Station 1	Burgaw	7	294	FIRE	2	135	
Station 14	Sloop Point	12	498	Motor Vehicle Crash	17	348	
Station 16	Hampstead	12	378	Search and Rescue	0	5	
Station 18	Scott Hill	5	206	Service Calls	11	302	
Station 29	Hwy 421 South	3	177	EMS First Response	28	1240	
Station 21	Long Creek	9	257	Cancelled	7	407	
Station 4	Topsail--OR	0	10	Ocean Rescue	0	16	
Station 13	Maple Hill	3	276		65	2453	
Station 17	Penderlea	8	219				
Station 28	Island Creek	6	138				
		65	2453				

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 Narcan
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	1	0	3	April	2	1	3	0	2
May	2	0	6	3	1	10	May	0	2	1	0	0
June	1	3	3	3	2	11	June	2	2	2	0	1
July	0	0	3	2	0	5	July	3	3	1	0	2
August	0	0	1	1	0	2	August	3	1	1	0	1
September	1	0	4	1	1	6	September	5	3	3	1	2
October	0	0	1	0	0	1	October	0	1	0	0	0
November							November					
December							December					
YTD TOTAL	6	5	24	16	7	52	YTD TOTAL	20	22	23	3	10

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		62		April	1		
May	1		87		May	2		
June	1		83		June	1		
July	1		88		July	1		
August	1		62		August	0		
September	2		76		September	1		
October	1		35		October	0		
November					November			
December					December			
YTD TOTAL	9		690		YTD TOTAL	10		



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PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Permit Data: Pender County's Permitting Division continues its excellent work recovering from significant challenges faced during the spring of 2021. Using single-family residential building permits as an indicator of success, the average turnaround time for this type of permit since August 1, 2021 of this year still hovering around 15 business days. While the average turnaround time is on the County's general turnaround time target, the Permitting Division is committed to bringing this turnaround time figure down going forward. The Permitting Division should be fully staffed before the end of November, which will help us considerably in this regard.

In terms of single-family permits issued, the County has seen a decline in the number of permits issued per month over the last four months. After seeing 112 single-family residential permits issued in June, July saw 88, August saw 61, September saw 47, and October saw 39 of that particular permit type issued. So far in November (as of November 12th), 22 of these permits have been issued. We anticipate a number of subdivision projects moving forward to the platting phase soon, and as they do and we move back into warmer weather, we anticipate these numbers starting to rise again.

Building Inspections: Greg Lawrence, Building Inspector has passed another standard certification test, this time his Mechanical Level 1 test. We are very proud of his continued efforts to build his knowledge.

Long Range Planning: Pender County Planning has working to assist the Parks and Recreation Department in an update to the Pender County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Board of County Commissioners approved a contract with McGill Associates on September 17th, 2021 and since that time, Staff in Parks and Rec as well as Planning have working to get the project underway, with multiple stakeholder meetings and focus groups having been conducted over recent weeks. The steering committee for the project will be meeting in the coming weeks, and the drafting of the first chapters of the new plan will commence shortly.

Meanwhile, the Pender County Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted the update to the Pender County Collector Street Plan on October 18th, 2021. This update is the result of collaboration between the County and the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization, with WSP serving as a consultant, and we cannot thank them enough for their assistance in getting this project to completion. The Plan is now moving on to be considered by the WMPO's Board (of which Commissioner David Piepmeyer is Chairman) on November 17th, 2021, where the consultant, WMPO staff, and County staff will be present.

Current/Project Planning: Pender County Planning staff continue to work on a number of cases, including residential, commercial, and industrial projects. Staff are particularly excited to be currently working on a number of commercial and industrial projects that will seek to bring many exciting new opportunities to Pender County in terms of providing needed goods and services, as well as employment opportunities, to County residents.

The Board of Commissioners will be holding public hearings on three projects at their November 15th, 2021 meeting in Burgaw, while the Pender County Board of Adjustment has three cases slated for its November 17th docket, also in Burgaw. Appropriate public notice has been or will be provided for each of these cases in accordance with state statute and local ordinance. If you are interested in any project the Department is currently working on, please give us a call at (910) 259-1202. At this point, neither the Board of Commissioners nor the Planning Board will have planning hearings in December, though the Board of Adjustment is anticipated to have two cases to review at their December meeting.

Floodplain Management and Resiliency: Emmons Garner (Watershed and Drainage Technician) and Daniel Adams (Floodplain Administrator) are continuing to work diligently on the Beaver Bounty program as well as assist citizens with drainage and beaver issues throughout the County. As the County continues to oversee stream restoration work under the Emergency Watershed Protection grant program, Emmons has successfully trapped beavers already on nearby sites, working to further increase the effectiveness of the work completed under the grant program. More information will be published on these programs in the very near future.



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Department

REGISTER OF DEEDS

REGISTER OF DEEDS 10/01/2021 TO 10/31/2021	
Maps Recorded	22
Marriage License Issued	51
Passport Applications	45
Passport Photos	56
Notary Oaths Issued	13
Deeds of Trust Recorded	409
Deeds Recorded	392
Vital Certificates Issued (Birth/Death/Marriage)	387
Miscellaneous Documents Recorded	629
Total Fees Collected	\$214,525.30

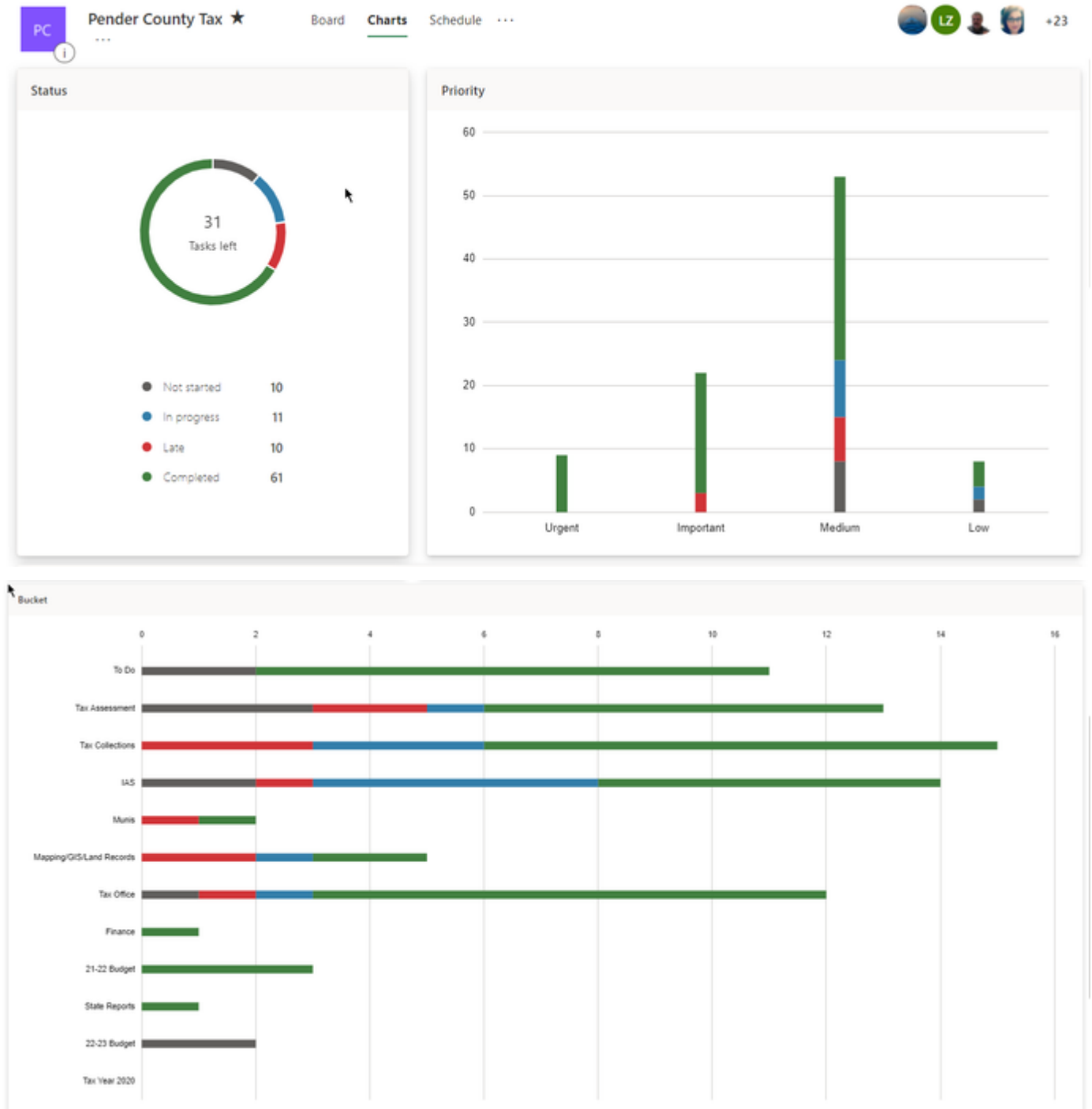


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TAX ADMINISTRATOR

Fourth-quarter in the tax office begins a slow ramp-up of activity. The bills have been generated, which begins to increase foot traffic into the tax office for tax value items to be addressed as well as payments. The fourth quarter also begins a series of reports and queries that are required to be sent to the DOR.





Tax office KPIs

Collections	
Counter Transactions	888
Mail	158
Lockbox	674,663
Credit Cards	-
Foreclosure Check	-
Transfer Letters Mailed	667
Voicemails Returned	178

Assessment

As Of 11-11-2021		County		R2000s		County		R2000s	
		Permit Open By Year		Permit Open By Year		To Be Measured		To Be Measured	
Open Permits :	2,164	2021	231	2021	922	Dwellings		Dwellings	
Revisits :	648	2020	86	2020	400	2021	36	2021	549
		2019	95	2019	248	2020	22	2020	111
County Open :	438	2018	24	2018	154	2019	37	2019	22
County Revisits :	248	2017	1	2014	1			2018	5
		2016	1						
R2000s :	1,726					County		R2000s	
Revisits :	400	County Revisits		R2000s Revisits		Revisits		Revisits	
		2021	45	2021	4	Dwellings		Dwellings	
		2020	85	2020	270	2021	13	2021	1
		2019	58	2019	37	2020	30	2020	225
		2018	21	2018	41	2019	3	2019	1
		2017	33	2017	43			2018	2
		2016	6	2016	1			2017	1
				2015	3				
				2014	1				



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TOURISM

County Update, Nov. 12, 2021

Tourism Update

Mrs. Claus is coming to town, and she is booking shopping visits for videos on our It Matters Where You Shop campaign. This shop local program has sparked interest in our local retail and restaurant establishments. We started creating videos of Mrs. Claus shopping for the holidays, which will be posted on Facebook. We are using the hashtags #shoplocal #shopsmallbusiness #shoppender #shopburgaw #shoptopsail.

Tammy has been asked to serve as secretary of the Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail Board of Directors in 2022.

We are working with Topsail Beach's lighted Christmas parade and tree lighting. It is set for Nov. 27. It will snow for the parade. We guarantee it.

We are working with Pender County Parks and Recreation's first Hampstead Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 3. A new tradition begins!

Nov. 4-5 was the annual fall conference of the North Carolina Beach, Inlet, and Waterways Association. This year was the highest attendance to date, including online attendees through the hybrid conference. Tammy serves as secretary and on the events committee for NCBIWA.

NC Coast Host, a membership organization with the mission of promoting all counties and attractions East of I-95, is conducting a virtual Christmas Party. Pender County Tourism is a member of NC Coast Host.

We attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Spot Real Estate's new location in Hampstead. Pender County David Piepmeyer attended and welcomed the new office to the area. Photos of the event were posted on Facebook.

Pender County Tourism is working on the Blueberry Drop, the annual New Year's Eve celebration, with the Town of Burgaw.

Pender County Tourism is busy juggling numerous holiday events and promoting community events such as the Atkinson Parade, etc. on our holiday Facebook pages, It's a Pender County Christmas and Hometown Christmas, as well as Pender County Calendar.

Tourism continues to serve on the Employee Christmas Party planning committee.

Communications

We worked with the Board of Elections to clarify questions about municipality voting.

We worked with Pender County Health Department regarding messaging about booster shots.

We worked with Pender County Health Department which is announcing the roll-out of the children's

COVID shots.

We monitored the LCFPUA waterline leak throughout the weekend while also answering media questions, sharing a press release and updates. This will be a three-week process.





Pender County Government Update

Department

UTILITY OPERATIONS

PENDER COUNTY UTILITIES (PCU) NEWS

PENDER COUNTY UTILITIES (PCU) & WATER DISTRICTS:

The public water demand is slowly dropping throughout the water distribution system as expected for this time of the month. Consequently, the forty eight inch in diameter water main that provides surface raw water to our water treatment plant was affected when a pipe joint became separated releasing approximately 2500 gallons per minutes. The main brake was discovered on Friday November 5, 2021 which activated an immediate emergency response from all the utilities involved. Once the emergency response plan was put in effect, members from Cape Fear Public Utilities Authority, Brunswick, and Pender County, have been communicating and collaborating daily to make sure that the proper repairs are done and that customers continue having water services. State Utility Contractors was recruited to performed the necessary repairs, and full completion is expected to be done by the end of the month. The contractor is performing the construction of a bypass water line that will allow for water to continue flowing to the Pender water treatment plant during repairs while reducing the amount of operation shutdowns. At this time Pender County have plenty of water capacity available from various sources including water purchased from the Town of Wallace and the two new groundwater wells recently built in Hampstead. Customers have been advised to voluntary practice water conservation as much as possible while the repairs are performed.

FIELD STAFF WORK AND STATUS UPDATES SINCE LAST REPORT:

Our water distribution staff have been concentrating in obtaining water and sewer certifications required by the state of North Carolina for the operations of the water system. James Proctor (Water and Sewer Superintendent) recently obtained a C- Surface Water Operator Certification, while Antony Colon (Deputy Director) obtained a B-Distribution certification. Glenn Garvin, Bobby Banks, and Brian Dandridge are scheduled to attend the sewer collections state examination on December 9th in Raleigh.

In the last two weeks the staff performed 199 underground utility locates while completing the full installation of 4 water taps. These tasks were performed while also addressing the needs for water main flushing, proactive maintenance, grounds keeping, and cutting grass around the county water hydrants.

WATER PRODUCTION NUMBERS:

September 2021 Daily Average: 1.49 MGD from Water Plant, 0.194 MGD from Wallace, 0.895 MGD to

Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.265 MGD from Annex and Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.160 MGD for Hamp/SH).

October 2021 Daily Average: 1.37 MGD from Water Plant, 0.213 MGD from Wallace, 0.837 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.171 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 1.008 MGD for Hamp/SH).

November 2021 Daily Average (thru 9th): 1.22 MGD from Water Plant, 0.307 MGD from Wallace, 0.783 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.213 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 0.996 MGD for Hamp/SH)

PCU WATER USAGE IN HAMPSTEAD/SCOTTS HILL FOR 2021 VS. 2020 WAS UP 13.06% IN AUGUST, UP 34.96% IN SEPTEMBER, AND UP 26.30 IN OCTOBER.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT:

BFPE was on site to conduct yearly fire extinguisher inspections and quarterly inspection of the sprinkle system.

The new recycle pump for the plant's pond discharge was finally delivered. This is the second replacement of three recycle pumps. We recently replaced one of the three pumps early this year.

The plant staff is preparing to begin this year's sedimentation ponds sludge removal. The staff is expecting for Synagro to begin work within the next couple of weeks. It all depends on weather conditions.

Water quality coming in and leaving the plant has been excellent regardless of the disturbances being done during the raw water main repairs. The water plant is running well with no issues to report.

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

It has been a very busy two weeks for the plant staff. In the first week, the plant needed to be run in manual mode to address some communication equipment issues that required for personnel to work over the weekend in order to perform manual daily backwashes. Custom Controls was then brought on site to address SCADA issues that needed to be corrected.

Also, the plant experienced several power outages due to a nearby forest fire that affected a power poll that supplies power to the plant. All these events together kept the staff working overtime in order to meet state compliance. Once all the issues were corrected, the staff brought the plant back up and running in automated mode. The disk filters and the chemical feed system were brought back on line and normal operation was then resumed.

Staff also cleaned the plant's headwork and received a bulk delivery of Aluminum Sulfate.

SOLID WASTE - Transfer Station Report

The Transfer Station Scale House continues working well. All three scale house operators are doing great and are in good health.

Susan Barnhill (Solid Waste Coordinator) has been working in obtaining quotes from vendors to replace the flooring at the scale house. Susan should received the final quotes this week and she will then proceed in selecting a vendor who will removed the old carpets and will install the new flooring.

The Transfer Station is creating approximately 100 to 115 daily disposal tickets.

Waiting time at the scale is approximately 3 minutes in and 4 minutes out.





48" WATER LINE REPAIRS BEING DONE.