



# Pender County Government Update

## Department

### UTILITY OPERATIONS

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

James Proctor has been promoted to PCU Deputy Director and Brian Dandridge has been promoted to WWTP Operator from our water distribution crew. Both of these promotions are effective on January 10th. We are currently advertising to fill the positions being vacated by these employees (W&S Superintendent and WS Maintenance Technician), as well as the new Solid Waste Maintenance Technician position.

Work is still proceeding on the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority raw water main break repairs. The bypass of the break area is functioning well, with no current issues for our water plant.

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

- All monthly reports last month completed and submitted.
- No complaints over the last two weeks regarding discolored water.
- 3 taps performed in last two weeks by staff.
- 272 locates in the last two weeks.
- Glen passed Grade 3 wastewater collections certification.
- Line break on Carver Drive at NC 133 on December 18th was due to an HDPE joint weld failure.
- Line break on NC 210 in front of Lowes in Surf City on December 14th was due to contractor boring into 6-inch main.

At the Maple Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant, staff is working on installing a staff gauge in the lagoon. Also, we are evaluating options for routine mowing of the spray irrigation fields.

#### WATER PRODUCTION NUMBERS:

September 2021 Daily Avg: 1.49 MGD from WP, 0.194 MGD from Wallace, 0.895 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru

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

October 2021 Daily Avg: 1.37 MGD from WP, 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 Avg: 1.28 MGD from WP, 0.162 MGD from Wallace, 0.707 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.191 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 0.897 MGD for Hamp/SH)

December 2021 Daily Avg (thru 20th): 1.28 MGD from WP, 0.178 MGD from Wallace, 0.729 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.117 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 0.846 MGD for Hamp/SH)

## WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Synagro completed this year's sludge removal project from the North Pond at the Water Plant. Final removal numbers will be available by the next County update.

Carolina Management Team is on-site performing rehabilitation services to our Clearwells. Pressure washing is complete. Caulking and painting will take place in the coming weeks.

Calgon was on-site to perform carbon media exchange on GAC #1. The vessel was backwashed and put online afterwards.

All state reports for November have been completed and submitted. Raw water quality continues to allow the plant to operate at 60 mg/L ferric sulfate dose.

Water Production numbers for December through the 22nd: 28.2 million gallons for an average of 1.28MGD

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

The wastewater plant is running well. All our numbers have been good.

- We have sent out two small pumps to be repaired.
- We had a clog in our chemical line on the 11th which had staff on-site till midnight.
- Worked on cleaning the yard.
- Getting quotes for up-coming projects.

- Monthly reports submitted.

## SOLID WASTE

The Transfer Station scale house is operating well. We are awaiting a PO to replace the flooring in the scalehouse building, and hope to have that work done in January.

Transfer Station daily creates about 100 - 115 disposal tickets daily. Waiting time at scales is about 3 minutes in and 4 minutes out.

## SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL TONNAGE FOR NOVEMBER 2021

MSW Kitchen trash collected	2,198.73 tons
Construction & demolition	566.84 tons
Recycling	116.74 tons
Tires recycled	65.59 tons
Scrap metal recycled (shreds)	79.89 tons
Whitegoods recycled	6.01 tons
TV & Electronics	17.89 tons

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12/14/21 Water main break, bored through





12/18/21 Water line repair at Carver Drive & NC 133



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### TOURISM

#### *Tourism update*

On Dec. 13, Pender County Tourism participated in a planning meeting with representatives of the beach towns and conservationists to discuss marine debris and trash left on the beach. Pender County Tourism and the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce will co-sponsor a luncheon with guest speakers to educate our local businesses and tourism-related businesses on small ways they too can contribute to reducing glass on the beach, proper floating dock construction, etc. The luncheon is set for Feb. 3, 2022 at the Assembly Building. Invitations will be sent.

The Photo Contest Calendars are printed and available at the Tourism office in Burgaw.

Pender County Tourism participated in an educational webinar entitled "How to get your organization started on Tik Tok. After the class, the staff talked about ways we thought we could apply this social media to our messaging.

Stephanie and Tammy attended the Gullah Geechee National Corridor meeting to learn about opportunities and marketing ideas to spotlight the culture in our area as well as what other communities are doing. Right now, we are the northernmost portion of the Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor, but Jacksonville and New Bern have compelling historical proof of the Gullah Geechee culture in their region as well. The corridor stretches from Jacksonville, Florida to Poplar Grove and inland 30 miles.

Tammy met with Nick Cannon of the WMPO to discuss better communications with the organization and the region it serves.

Tammy met with a recruiter from the National Guard who wanted to get connected with the community. The recruiter is a Hampstead resident and wants to participate in community events.

Pender County Tourism participated in the NC Coast Host Virtual Christmas Party on Dec. 17. The organization promotes all counties and attractions west of I-95. The organization is a great networking opportunity to share best practices.

The 2022 Visitor Guides arrived Monday, Dec. 20. The delivery was early- which was a good thing because we used all our 2021 guides. The guides will be shipped to all welcome centers in the state and portions of South Carolina and Virginia. The guides will also be distributed at RDU. The tourism staff will select a day after the holidays to make deliveries to all of our rental agencies and partners.

Pender County Tourism is working with a collaborative community effort called the CF Pope Project. It is an oral history of people who attended CF Pope School when it was a segregated school. The school has produced amazing alumni.

Stephanie's run as Mrs. Claus is about to wind down. She has visited a multitude of businesses and reminded shoppers of the wonderful items available locally. Mrs. Claus also assisted at the Topsail Chamber's Flotilla. She rode in the lead boat and greeted children at the park.

Tourism's staff - Stephanie and Olivia- organized their annual Christmas Light Decorating Contest. The three top winners in the Burgaw Area were selected by judges.

## Communications

- The communications team has issued several press releases and worked with media inquiries.
- We met with the Cape Fear Communicators, and we urged the WMPO representative to join the organization as well.
- We responded to the questionnaire by Wilmington Business Journal.
- We have updated the county website, especially for the health department as well as providing the public with updates relating to utilities, holiday hours, and events.
- We continue to update our social media and monitor the media.



# Pender County Government Update

## Department SOCIAL SERVICES

### Medicaid

Starting July 1, 2021, most Medicaid beneficiaries began receiving the same Medicaid services in a new way called "NC Medicaid Managed Care." Beneficiaries choose a health plan and get care through a health plan's network of doctors. Some beneficiaries are remaining in traditional Medicaid, which is called NC Medicaid Direct.

As of 11/30/2021, Pender County had a total of 16,103 – Medicaid/NCHC beneficiaries. 9,226 were enrolled in a health plan. The total percentage of Medicaid/NCHC beneficiaries enrolled with a health plan was 57.29%.

### Child Care

Monitoring of the Child Care program was conducted by the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) on September 14-15, 2021. Results were recently received. Of the 333 points possible for the monitoring review, 318 were accurate and 15 were in error. This resulted in an initial compliance score of 95.50%. To comply, the County must receive a final compliance score of at least 95%. DCDEE found Pender County Subsidized Child Care Assistance program in compliance with the terms, conditions and requirements specified in State and Federal policies and regulations.

	Child Protective Services				
	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
Screened In	48	47	41	48	35
Screened Out	29	40	48	39	34
Courtesy Request	22	15	22	25	15
In-Home Services	0	0	1	0	0
Preventions Services	1	1	1	1	0
Substance Affected Infants	0	0	0	4	4
	Adult Protective Services				
	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
Screened In	14	11	8	14	11
Screened Out	6	4	1	2	3
Outreach	3	4	1	2	0
Guardianship	0	3	1	0	0
Information & Referral	0	0	0	0	0
Courtesy Request	0	0	0	0	0





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### PARKS & RECREATION

- Open Gym continues at the Penderlea Community Park Gym. Youth open gym is on Mondays from 6:00pm-8:00pm & Adult open gym is on Thursdays from 6:30pm-8:30pm.
- Staff continues to work with McGill and our steering committee on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update.
- Registration is open for the Winter 2022 Cornhole league in the Penderlea Gym. Register your team online at: <https://penderpr.recdesk.com/Community/Program> ;
- Staff is working on events and programs for 2022. More information to come soon.



*Penderlea Community Park*  
**CORNHOLE**  
*League*

**Penderlea Community Park Gym**  
**Jan. 11th - Feb. 8th**

**Five-week doubles cornhole league**  
**Every Tuesday starting at 6:30**  
**\$25 per team**

**Space is limited!**

**Register online by scanning the  
QR code or go to**



**<https://penderpr.recdesk.com/Community/Page>**

# Open Gym

Youth: Monday's 6:00-8:00pm

Adults: Thursday's 6:30-8:30pm

**at Penderlea Gym**

231 WH Robbins Road, Willard, NC 28478

Come to Penderlea Gym to play half court Basketball, Cornhole, Pickleball, or other recreational activities.

**For more information call 910-259-1330**



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# Pender County Government Update

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### LIBRARY

#### **Free help signing up for health insurance**

Pender County Library is partnering with Legal Aid of North Carolina, a statewide, nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services in civil matters to low-income people in order to ensure equal access to justice and to remove legal barriers to economic opportunity. They are providing free help to those that are looking to enroll in affordable health plans on HealthCare.gov. A representative visited the Main Library in Burgaw on December 20 (10:00-2:00) and will return on January 4 (10:00-1:00) and January 5 (10:00-1:00). Open enrollment via the HealthCare.gov Marketplace ends January 15, so be sure to take advantage of this opportunity while you can!

#### **Mental health resources for people impacted by the pandemic**

Pender County Library is partnering with Trillium Health Resources, a local governmental agency that manages serious mental health, substance use, and intellectual/developmental disability services in eastern North Carolina. Their program One Community was established to help our community members whose mental health and well-being were impacted by the pandemic. This free resource will help connect people with tools for emotional support, opportunities to thrive, social connections through community groups, substance abuse resources, and support for living with a disability. A One Community representative is hosting pop-up events at both Pender County Library locations where you can find additional information about these offerings. Two such events were held at the Hampstead Branch Library on December 8 and 10, and another at the Main Library in Burgaw on December 17. The next event will be on Friday, January 7 from noon to 2:00 at the Main Library.

For more information, call Trillium Health Resources at 1-877-685-2415 or visit the One Community program page on their website at [trilliumhealthresources.org/for-individuals-families/one-community](https://trilliumhealthresources.org/for-individuals-families/one-community).

#### **Blood drive with American Red Cross**

Pender County Library, in partnership with the American Red Cross, is hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, December 29 from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Main Library in Burgaw. Your blood donation could bring a patient home for the new year. Visit [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) and use special code "Pender" or call 1-800-Red-Cross (1-800-733-2767) to schedule your appointment today. Let's help save lives together this holiday season!





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### FACILITIES AND FLEET

The process of emptying the former BASF warehouse continues ahead of demolition to take place within the upcoming weeks.

Recruitment and interviews continue for both grounds and facilities maintenance positions.

Emergency roofing repairs at the Sheriff's Office are underway.

An auxiliary parking lot has been implemented at the Sheriff's Office with finishing details in process to allow for much needed overflow use.

The porch decking to the Penderlea auditorium was recently replaced. As was the ramp leading to the Penderlea Gym.

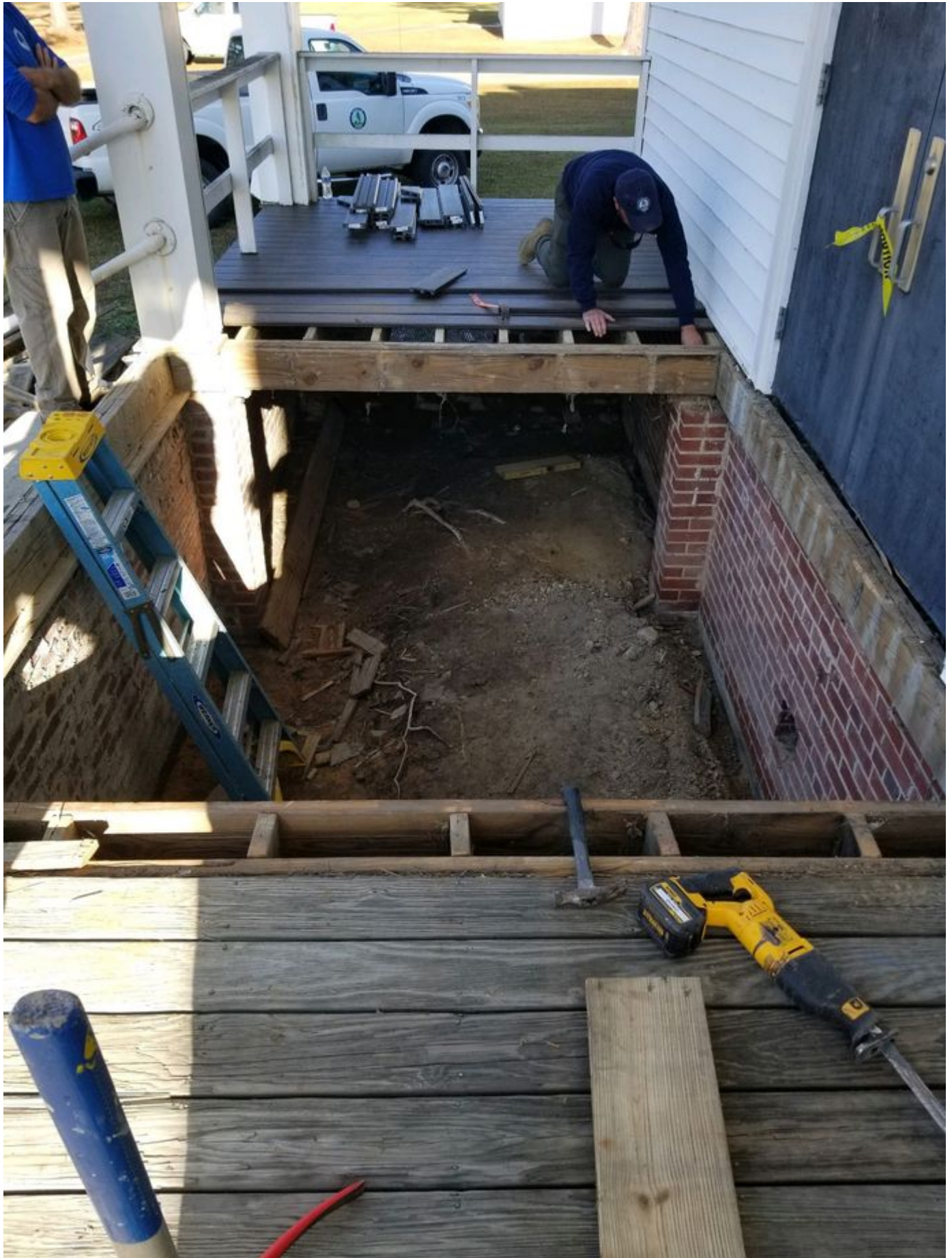
The Courthouse surplus files relocation process will begin with the first phase during mid-January.













# Pender County Government Update

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### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Elections: December 2021  
 NEW REGISTRATIONS - 294  
 VOTER CHANGES - 1245  
 LIST MAINTENANCE - 105  
 CONFIRMATION CARDS - 1452  
 BIENNIAL LIST MAINT - 0  
 NCOA CONFIRMATIONS - 0  
 NVRA SURVEYS- 10  
 VOTER CANCELLATIONS- 0  
 INFORMATION REQUESTS- 15

PARTY CHANGES:		NEW PARTY				Total
		DEM	LIB	REP	UNA	
ORIGINAL PARTY	DEM	0	0	2	5	7
	LIB	0	0	0	1	1
	REP	0	1	0	13	14
	UNA	3	0	7	0	10
Total		3	1	9	19	32

The Elections Board meet December 14, 2021

We are hosting Candidate filing for the March 08, 2022 Primary was suspended and the new filing period is to be announced.

Staff Attended 2 State Mandated Teams Meetings

The Board has approved new implementations for the ELIN program (Election Information Outreach)