



Pender County Government Update

Department

UTILITY OPERATIONS

PENDER COUNTY UTILITIES (PCU) & WATER DISTRICTS:

We are currently reviewing applications to fill 3 open positions. We plan to conduct interviews later this month.

Work is still proceeding on the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority raw water main break repairs. The contractor is more than halfway finished, but recent rains has delayed completion. 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:

- Automatic flush valve on daily flush on Riverland Drive and Michigan Avenue.
- 2 taps performed in last two weeks by staff.
- Three-line breaks fixed by staff and 1 by contractor. (Photos attached).
- 172 locates performed in the last two weeks. The amount of locates is very limiting to staff to complete other tasks. Taps, flushing, pro-active maintenance, grounds-keeping, and training activities are reduced due to the number of locates to be completed.
- All monthly reports last month completed and submitted.
- Started electronic water reporting for NC public water.

At the Maple Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant, the spray irrigation fields were mowed last week. Staff are completing the installation of a staff gauge in the lagoon this week.

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: 1.31 MGD from WP, 0.202 MGD from Wallace, 0.752 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.094 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 0.846 MGD for Hamp/SH)

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Carolina Management Team has completed caulking and 1st coat of paint on Clearwell #1 and have started Clearwell #2.

Yearly calibration and verification completed on all plant flow meters.

Pulled transfer pump #1 to be sent off for service (Photo attached).

Overall, the plant is running well with no major issues. Ferric sulfate dose is still 60 mg/L.

Final production numbers for December: 40.5 million gallons for an average of 1.31 MGD.

Production numbers for January through the 5th: 6.4 million gallons for an average of 1.28 MGD.

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

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

- We moved our gantry crane over to the water plant to help pull a big pump.
- Burned plants cut and dried out of the green house (photo).
- Reset equipment after power outage.
- Delivered samples to lab after missed pickup / saved us from a violation.
- Still seeing snakes at the outfall as late as last week (photo).

SOLID WASTE

The Transfer Station scale house is operating well. Traffic has slowed due to the holidays. Staff is taking precautions and staying healthy.

We have been approved for new flooring in the scalehouse. Farrior’s Flooring & Interiors has ordered this and will be installing it.

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

.



1/5/22-Water Plant transfer pump pulled for repairs



12/23/21 water line break on Goose Neck Rd W in Rocky Point due to tree roots



12/27/21-Water moccasin
at PCP_WWTP



12/29/21-Burning cuttings from greenhouse at PCP_WWTP



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TOURISM

Between Christmas and New Year's Pender County Tourism backed up, updated, and organized files for 2021. We created new files in anticipation of 2022. We also prepared for the Blueberry Drop.

Regarding the Blueberry Drop, Stephanie purchased noise makers and other New Year's paraphernalia for giveaways and props for photos. We contracted this year with Patriot Illumination, based in Hampstead, to take the photos with their specialty equipment that emails or texts photos to attendees. We estimate that 4,000-5,000 people attended this year's event.

Jan. 3, the staff prepared more than 600 2022 visitor guides to mail to inquiries that have been received by our department.

The staff met for several hours to outline new projects and events for 2022. We discussed utilizing county facilities to host various events.

The tourism staff met with the parks and recreation staff to coordinate calendars so that we do not compete against one another.

The New York travel show has been moved back to March 18-20.

Staff met virtually with Wilmington Sharks manager, Allan Lusk, to discuss a Pender County Night. This is a collaborative effort with Pender County Parks and Recreation. This event is to bring together the family of coworkers, but our little leagues, and a community of baseball lovers. Pender County Night at the Wilmington Sharks is slated for June 5, 5 p.m. at Legion Stadium.

Pender County Tourism submitted a nomination for the YWCA Women of Achievement Award.

Pender County Tourism is working in collaboration with Topsail Island Shoreline Protection and the Greater Chamber of Commerce to host an informal luncheon about keeping our beaches and waterways safe and clean. The event is Feb. 3.





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REGISTER OF DEEDS

REGISTER OF DEEDS 12/01/2021 TO 12/31/2021	
Maps Recorded	29
Marriage License Issued	22
Passport Applications	41
Passport Photos	52
Notary Oaths Issued	17
Deeds of Trust Recorded	411
Deeds Recorded	478
Vital Certificates Issued (Birth/Death/Marriage)	256
Miscellaneous Documents Recorded	684
Total Fees Collected	\$372,156.85



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LIBRARY

Library Statistics, 2020 vs 2021

We have seen an increase of 23% in loans of physical books and other materials (books on CD, DVDs, music CDs, and magazines.)

In 2021, we substantially increased the number of programs offered for teens and adults compared to recent years, moving from only occasional programs for each to offering at least monthly programs at each location.

The library receives a great deal of assistance from community volunteers. We had stopped allowing volunteers throughout most of 2020 due to the pandemic, but resumed welcoming volunteers in 2021 as the vaccines helped reduce risks associated with the pandemic.

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	2020	2021	Change	Change (%)
Visitors entering library buildings	63,424	71,159	7,735	12%
Printed paper books & other physical loans	155,176	190,829	35,653	23%
E-books, downloadable audiobooks, and streaming video	54,195	50,851	-3,344	-6%
Grand total physical + digital loans	209,371	241,680	32,309	15%
Info/help desk questions requiring in-depth assistance	16,364	19,016	2,652	16%
Wireless Internet sessions	32,457	34,021	1,564	5%
Programs for children	212	277	65	31%
Attendance for children's programs	2,345	2,982	637	27%

Programs for teens	1	32	31	3100%
Attendance for teen programs	1	183	182	18200%
Programs for adults	7	49	42	600%
Attendance for adult programs	139	364	225	162%
Hours contributed by volunteers	523	1,142	619	118%
PreK classrooms receiving Early Literacy Outreach services	60	56	-4	-7%



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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Bi-Weekly Programming Update – January 7, 2022

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. All Agents and staff took some time off between Christmas and New Years to visit family and friends and recharge for 2022.

ADMINISTRATION – MARK SEITZ

- After almost 28 years Reatha Hoffman, Administrative Assistant for Cooperative Extension will be retiring at the end of January. Her new career path is 'Grandma' and she is very happy about the opportunities that new role brings her way. As CED I want to publicly thank her for her devotion to the NC Cooperative program and Pender County. She will be greatly missed.
- Working on getting the Administrative Assistant position posted so we can find candidates to interview to fill this position as soon as possible. Anyone interested in applying for this position can do so at: <https://jobs.ncsu.edu/postings/155380>. It has been announced on Facebook Jobs for distribution purposes but do not submit applications to Facebook. The NCSU site is the only site where candidate applications will be reviewed.
- CED is working to advertise a part-time Empowering Youth and Families Program Assistant position. That position will be posted on the NCSU Jobs website as well: <https://jobs.ncsu.edu>
- We have a 4-H Intern from UNCW starting Jan 12. Emily Cuttic will be helping us with 4-H Youth Development Programs and the Pender County Health Department to conduct the County's Health Assessment Surveys in 2022.

AGRICULTURE - MARK SEITZ

- Helped other Agents and NCSU faculty put together the following winter meeting schedule for release across the region. Agriculture inputs: fuel and fertilizer, have nearly doubled since January 2021 and these meetings will focus on helping farmers navigate the decision-making process for 2022.
- Hosting a two-hour program on Agritourism Emergency Planning on January 10, 2022 at the Pender County Tourism Office in Burgaw at 10 AM. Please go to this website to register if you are interested in attending: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/nc-cooperative-extension-pender-county-20130328772>
- Working on plans to for educational tours to the Horticulture Crops Research Farm in Castle Hayne as part of the NC Blueberry Festival in June. Stay tuned for details.

NC Winter Meetings for Eastern NC Farmers hosted by NC Cooperative Extension and NCSU Extension Faculty Across Southeast North Carolina

Email the Agent listed for each meeting to register or to request virtual access. All auxin herbicide training meetings will be done virtually.

- **Johnston County Corn and Small Grain Meeting (In Person) - Tuesday, January 25·12:00 – 2:30pm**

Ron Heiniger - field corn, Angela Post - small grains, Stephanie Kulesza - animal waste, and Charlie Cahoon - weed control Johnston County Extension Center 2736 Hwy 210, Smithfield, NC Contact: Tim Britton, Field Crops Agent. TimBritton@ncsu.edu

- **Columbus/Bladen Grains Meeting (In Person)** - Friday, January 28·10:00am – 12:00pm Rachel Vann - soybeans, Luke Gatiboni - soil fertility, Ron Heiniger - field corn Columbus County Extension Center 45 Government Complex Rd. Suite A, Whiteville, NC Contact: Lydia Miles, Field Crops Agent. LydiaMiles@ncsu.edu
- **Craven, Carteret, Pamlico & Jones Corn & Soybean Agronomic Update (In Person)** - Monday, January 31·9:00 – 11:00am Ron Heiniger - field corn, Rachel Vann - soybeans Craven County Extension Center 300 Industrial Drive, New Bern, NC Contact: Mike Carroll, Field Crops Agent. MikeCarroll@ncsu.edu
- **Lenoir County Grain Meeting (In Person)** - Wednesday, February 2·9:00 – 11:00am Ron Heiniger - field corn, Rachel Vann - soybeans Lenoir County Extension Center 1791 Hwy 11 55, Kinston, NC Contact: Stephen Killelte, Field Crops Agent. StephenKillelte@ncsu.edu
- **Duplin Area Grains Mtg (In person)** - Tuesday, February 1·2:00 – 4:00pm Ryan Heiniger - variety selection, Nick Piggott - ag economics Duplin County Extension Center 165 Agriculture Way, Kenansville, NC Contact Della King, Ag Agent. DellaKing@ncsu.edu
- **Onslow, Pender Agronomy Mtg (In Person)** - Tuesday, February 1 - 6 PM to 8:30 PM Nick Piggott - ag economics, Stephanie Kulesza - animal waste mgmt, Charlie Cahoon - weed management (tentative) Onslow County Extension Center 4024 Richlands Hwy, Jacksonville, NC Contact: Melissa Huffman, Ag Agent. melissahuffman@ncsu.edu
- **Johnston County Soybean Meeting (In person)** - Thursday, February 10·5:30 – 8:30pm Rachel Vann - soybeans, Dominic Reisig - entomology, Wes Everman - weed management, Nick Piggott - ag economics, Adrienne Gorny - plant pathology Varietal, Nutrient & Water Management (In person and virtual) Thursday, February 17·9:00 – 11:00am
- **Jones County Civic Center, Trenton, NC (In Person)** - Ryan Heiniger - variety selection, Deana Osmond - soil fertility, Chad Poole - water management Contacts: Mike Carroll, Craven County Extension - 252-633-1477 or Jacob Morgan, Jones County Extension - 252-448-9621
- **Wilson, Edgecombe and Nash Regional Grain meeting (In Person)** - Thursday, February 17·10:00am – 12:00pm Angela Post - small grains, Dominic Reisig - entomology, Wesley Everman - weed management, Rachel Vann - soybeans Location: Farmers Market 1006 Peachtree St, Rocky Mount, NC 27804, USA Contact: Norman Harrell, CED / Field Crops Agent. Norman_Harrell@ncsu.edu
- **Wayne County Grains Meeting (In Person)** - Friday, February 25·8:30 – 10:30am Location: 3114 Wayne Memorial Dr., Goldsboro, NC 27534 Charles Cahoon - weed management, Dominic Resig - entomology, Ron Heiniger - field corn Contact Daryl Anderson via email @ daryl.anderson@waynegov.com

AUXIN TRAINING (virtual) - All meetings - 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM

- Jan 20 - Charlie Cahoon
- Feb 1 - Charlie Cahoon
- Feb 17 - Charlie Cahoon
- Mar 1 - Wes Everman
- Mar 15 - Wes Everman
- Mar 30 - Wes Everman

CONSUMER HORTICULTURE – TIFFANEE BOONE

- The Horticulture Agent has been taking phone calls about Christmas cactus and poinsettia care, and management of winter weeds in lawns.
- She was planning a pruning class, but because of Covid switched it to an outside format with very limited people.
- Until further notice all Pender County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers Speaker's Bureau gardening presentations for the public will be held virtually because of Covid.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – TRACI SPENCER

- *Completed year end reports for NCSU and 4-H Online 2021*
- *Taking registrations for upcoming Coastal Plains Chicken Project*
- *Planning 2022 Summer Fun Days programming*

EXPANDED FOODS AND NUTRITION PROGRAM (EFNEP) – CINDY RIVENBARK

- *Completing mandatory online certifications and trainings*
- *Meeting with Pender County Extension Agents to plan programs for 2022*
- *Contacting Pender County elementary schools to schedule EFNEP programs for youth*

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE – AMY MEAD

- *January 8, 2022 – presenting a program titled: Resilient Trees for Coastal NC as part of the Pender County Extension Master Gardener Speakers Bureau series. Hampstead Library. Attendees will learn about native tree species that are well adapted to our coastal climate as well as the wildlife and stormwater benefits of building a resilient tree canopy.*
- *Working on plans for the Spring 2022 Sustainability Series beginning in March. This virtual 8-week program will cover stormwater solutions for homeowners, native plants and trees to support wildlife, recycling, composting, and more.*