



Pender County Government Update

Department

VETERANS SERVICES

January 2022 has been an exciting and busy month for our department!

- Roy Horne, Pender Co. Director of VSO retired on December 3, 2021 after 28 ½ years of service.
- Matt Wesley and I continue to maintain both offices as we still have a vacant position at our Hampstead location.
- During the month of January, we continue to service our veterans and dependents in person and teleworking as we are still in the pandemic. We are seeing an increase in Financial Hardship, Mental Health/Suicides and Homelessness.
- We collaborated with multiple departments and local's agencies to include: Tax Office, Reg. of Deeds, DSS, Sheriff Department, Housing Authority, Parks & Rec., NCDMVA, NC Works, NC Serves, NC Veterans Home of Kinston, UNCW Veterans Services, Cape Fear Council of Government/Tri-HIC and Coastal Horizons, Eugene Ashley House, several Food Banks, Access Wilmington/Project Soar, American Legion Post 165, American Legion Post 167, and Marine Corps League Det. 1321.

VBA & VHA News

- **Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)**-All offices are still not completely staffed as 50% are still working from home. Pending C & P Claim are currently at 667,000.00 claims still pending.
- **Veterans' Health Administration (VHA)**-Clinics are open however, Telehealth appointment are encouraged. This can be done through Myhealthvet or by calling your local VHA clinic.
- Good News- FINALLY when a claim is filed for a Veteran for C&P, they are automatically enrolled into VHA for VA Healthcare.

Vet Center-PTSD Support Group

- **Hampstead Annex**- PTSD Group meeting is currently by appointment only via Telehealth as the pandemic has increased. Looking to combine our PTSD Support Group with UNCW CAP/Student Veterans Organizations in Spring/Summer.
- Plans for adding a Support group for Burgaw location soon, for now call appointments are via telehealth.
- New Vet Center Open house is on hold until late April/ early May. Jacksonville Vet Center maybe reached by calling 910-577-1100 or **Vet Center Call Center 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)**

Local Veterans Organization News

- **American Legion- Hampstead Post 167** is hosting a **Dine in or Take Out Dinner** every 4th Monday night from 4-7pm. Cost is \$8.00 a plate to include Drink/Deserts
- Every **Wednesday** from 12-2 pm the **American Legion Auxiliary** meets for quilting and crafts. Items are sold at different events to raise monies for our local and state Veterans within the communities to include homeless/housebound Veterans and dependents in need.
- **February 10th** – Blood Drive from 10 am- 3pm at the Post located at 16660 US HWY 17 Hampstead, NC

For more info on the above please call 910-270-3767 or email bradf@ncalpost167.org

Marine Corps League Det. 1321

- Feb 8th @ 6pm the charter will be celebrating their Charter Anniversary before the Membership meeting in which will be held at 7 pm.
- They meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Topsail Senior Center located at 20959 US Hwy 17 Hampstead NC 28443
- For more info call **Matt Wesley MCL Det. VSO at 910-270-5005** or email Matt at: mwesley@pendercountync.gov or Frank Wood, Commandant at 410-279-1095 or email at commandant1321mcl@gmail.com

Local State Governor's News

Did you know Governor Cooper declares January 31st "Veterans Service Organization Day"!

He recognized the 433 registered veterans service organization (VSOs) in NC to include the American Legion (AL), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Disabled American Veterans (DAV) among others with a proclamation on January 31. These organizations represent over 700,000 veterans and their families across North Carolina, providing information and voice in local and national legislation as well as the local communities they live and work in.

Veterans' Scholarship Info

Also, Governor Cooper declares January 10th as "NC Children of Wartime Veterans Scholarship Day." This is a program that was established in 1934!

I mention this because we can assist with Scholarship awareness for our Veterans and Military Dependents! Call or email us, Burgaw VSO 910-259-1203, or Hampstead VSO 910-270-5005.

- **American Legion Scholarship & American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship**- Contact your local VSO at 910-259-1203 or call Brad Fisher @ 910-270-3767 email bradf@ncalpost167.org
- **Marine Corps League- Hampstead Det. 1321**- For more info call **Matt Wesley MCL Det. VSO at 910-270-5005** or email Matt at: mwesley@pendercountync.gov or Frank Wood, Commandant at 410-279-1095 or email at commandant1321mcl@gmail.com
- **NC Association of County Veterans Service Officers Scholarship**- Deadline March 1st- See your local VSO. NCDVMA Scholarship deadline for Classes II and Class III is Feb. 14th. If you are interested in learning more reach out to our office or go online for details. Note this scholarship must be submitted online as paper forms are not accepted. The link for more info is: [Scholarships | DMVA \(nc.gov\)](https://www.ncdvm.org/scholarships)
- **PMFF- Patriot Military Family Foundation**- [Scholarships - Patriot Military Family Found \(patriotmilitaryfamilyfoundation.org\)](https://patriotmilitaryfamilyfoundation.org)
- **Syracuse University IVMF- Scholarship Opportunity | Open Now (mailchi.mp)** Janene McGee was a former Mecklenburg Co. VSO whom we lost was a fellow Veteran and advocate who assisted in Homelessness and Suicide Prevention. Applications are open now as of Feb. 1, 2022 as the deadline is March 31st. Please submit the complete application packet to Lyndsey Hodkinson, at LHodkins@syr.edu. Scholarship awardees will be announced on April 22, 2022. Awardees will have until April 30, 2023 to use their scholarship.
- **Caption Call Audiology Scholarship** Deadline is Feb 14th! [Audiology Student Scholarships | Caption Call](https://captioncall.org/scholarships)

<u>Pender Co. VSO</u>	<u>January Totals (combined)</u>
<u>Correspondence Out</u>	
faxes/e-mail	440
D. Upload/SEP/Written	207
Phone calls	253
<u>Request for Service</u>	
Telephone/Email (electronic)	142
OEF/OIF (in-person)	26
Gulf War (in-person)	82
Vietnam (in-person)	89
Korea (in-person)	7
World War II (in-person)	9
Other/Peace Time (in-person)	22
Widow/Other (in-person)	35
<u>Federal, State and Local Government Forms complete</u>	
4138-development and follow-up	43
Compensation	77
DIC/Burial/Marker	14
0995/ 0996/ VAF 9	28
DPRIS/ SF 180	5
Pension Vet / Widow	17
EVR - 21-8416	3
Education and Scholarships	5
Department of Defense	15
Medical	65
North Carolina Benefits	55
Intent to File	8
Miscellaneous	165



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

NC CHILDREN OF WARTIME VETERANS' SCHOLARSHIP DAY

2022

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the NC Children of Wartime Veterans Scholarship program was established in 1934, and;

WHEREAS, over 20,000 scholarships have been awarded to dependents of World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and the Global War on Terror veterans, and;

WHEREAS, this year more than 2,000 dependents are currently approved to receive a scholarship, and;

WHEREAS, these children are the dependents of disabled Veterans, deceased Veterans, and Missing in Action Veterans / Prisoner of War Veterans, as well as all the other Veterans that have honorably served both North Carolina and the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim January 10, 2022, as "NC CHILDREN OF WARTIME VETERANS' SCHOLARSHIP DAY" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.




Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this seventh day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION DAY

2022

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, there are 433 registered veterans service organizations in North Carolina, including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans among others; and

WHEREAS, these organizations represent over 700,000 veterans and their families across North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, these groups provide information, commendery, a voice in both local and national legislation, and a link between veterans and the communities they reside in;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim January 31, 2022, as "VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION DAY" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.




Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-eighth day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.



The Power of Self Advocacy

Your Suicide Prevention Team:

Maira Munir, MSW, LCSW, CCTP-II
Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Fayetteville VAMC
910-488-2120 ext. 5464

Kendra Danzer, MSW, LCSW
Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Fayetteville HCC
910-475-6359

Ramona Smerz, LCSW, CST
Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Jacksonville CBOC
910-219-6801

Schimona McBryde, MSW, LICSW
Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Wilmington HCC
910-343-5300 ext 3659

Brittany Jenkins, MSW, LCSW
Suicide Prevention Case Manager
Fayetteville VAMC
910-488-2120 ext. 7644

Kim Ba, LMSW, LCSW
Suicide Prevention Case Manager
Fayetteville HCC
910-475-6353

Christopher Williams, MSW, LCSW
Suicide Prevention Case Manager
Jacksonville CBOC
910-353-6406 Ext. 2054

Tamela Bryan, MSW, LCSW
Suicide Prevention Case Manager
Wilmington & Brunswick
910-343-5300 ext. 3833



Suicide Prevention Caring Communication - JANUARY 2022

Big life moments can be really intense. Veterans, Service Members and their families don't have to go through the hard stuff alone, take a moment to **REACH OUT** and ask for help. For Veterans, these moments can be heightened by their experiences during military service. When emotional issues reach a crisis point, it's time to call on your Suicide Prevention Team or the Veterans Crisis Line for support. This caring communication is intended to provide you with support, options for care, and skills to assist in managing your mental health treatment at the VA and in your communities.

Self-Advocacy: The dictionary says that self-advocacy is the action of representing oneself or one's views or interests.

January is here, 2022, and what a journey this past year has been for everyone! In a world that has been difficult to navigate the past two years, people have been pushed at times to move around barriers and systems that may prevent them from managing their own emotional and physical needs.

Knowledge is the key to self-advocacy. Like anything else, the more you know, the better you **understand**, and the easier it is to explain. Self-advocacy helps to **empower** you, to speak-up for yourself and make decisions about your life. Self-advocacy is knowing your **rights and responsibilities** as well as improving **assertiveness**. You can become better at negotiating for one's self, others or even for a cause.

This journey of self-advocacy is an ongoing process, as individual needs change over time. Becoming an effective self-advocate includes, **knowing yourself, knowing your needs,** and **knowing how to get what you need.**

Here are a few tips to support oneself in knowledge building and how to self-advocate.

1. What are your values? Decide what you need to speak up about.
2. What matters to you most and why? How can you plan to speak up? Believe that you are able to make change towards things that are important to you.
3. What are your needs? At home? At work? In your relationships? Be the expert in your life and make decisions with authority over self.
4. What do you need to accomplish tasks? Who can help you if needed? The final decisions can be yours, but it is good to

Fayetteville VA Medical Center

2300 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Walk-In Mental Health Support
910-488-2120 | 800-771-6106

Fayetteville Health Care Center

7300 South Raeford Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304
910-488-2120 | 800-771-6106

Brunswick Co. Outreach Clinic

20 Medical Campus Dr. Ste 106
Supply, NC 28462
910-754-6141

Goldsboro Clinic

2610 Hospital Road
Goldsboro, NC 28462
919-731-4809

Hamlet Clinic

100 Jefferson St.
Hamlet, NC 28345
910-582-3536

Jacksonville VA Clinic

2580 Henderson Drive
Jacksonville, NC 28546
910-353-6406

Jacksonville CBOC

4006 Henderson Drive
Jacksonville, NC 28546
910-353-6406

Jacksonville 2 VA Clinic

306 Brynn Marr Road
Jacksonville, NC 28546
910-353-6406

Robeson Community Care Clinic

139 Three Hunts Dr.
Pembroke, NC 28372
910-272-3220

Sanford CBOC

3112 Tramway Blvd.
Sanford, NC 27332
919-775-6160

Wilmington Health Care Center

1705 Gardner Road
Wilmington, NC 28405
910-343-5300

Homeless Program

910-488-2120 ext. 7744

LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator

910-488-2120 ext. 5762

Military Sexual Trauma

910-488-2120 ext. 5938

Substance Use Treatment

910-488-2120 ext. 5483/7770

have people who can support those decisions.

5. What do you need to feel respected and maintain your emotional, physical or financial well-being?
6. What are your strengths?
7. Where do you need to grow? Where can you be more responsible for your decisions and current circumstances.
8. Speaking to someone in person is the most effective way to advocate for yourself. Plan what you are going to say. Practice with a friend, rehearsing while driving in the car, or mirrors if you feel unsure of yourself.
9. Ask questions if you do not understand.

Practicing speaking up for yourself and others creates several important benefits.

1. You empower yourself and others by practicing. When you are able to communicate what you need, it can build confidence in many aspects of your life.
2. You take control of your own life. You set the boundaries and make choices based on your values. You understand what matters most to you and why.
3. With your increased self-awareness, understanding of the needs of others, and knowledge, you become better at decision making.
4. You use open-ended questions to engage in conversations. You become better able to hear the perspectives of others that you hadn't previously considered.
5. You become an effective problem solver. You know how to research the problem, present a solution in a way that is compelling to yourself and others.

Self-advocacy is useful in mental health treatment:

1. When you want to be listened to.
2. When you are being assessed or treated by a provider.
3. When you are voicing a concern or filing a complaint.
4. When you are building a care plan or reviewing current treatment.

Self-advocacy can **prepare** you for obstacles. You may get distracted, discouraged or overwhelmed. But if you have simple tools to advocate for self you can remain on track and stay **focused**. So in 2022, celebrate the things you are doing to improve yourself and make progress in whatever way you have deemed important for you.

References:

1. Petroziello, A. (2020, June 25) Self Empowerment and Self Advocacy in Mental Health. Retrieved from <https://eymtherapy.com/blog/self-empowerment-advocacy-mental-health/>
2. Moe, K. (2021, August 26) Self Advocacy: Improve your life by speaking up. Retrieved from <https://www.betterup.com/blog/self-advocacy>
3. (2021) What is Self-Advocacy. Retrieved from <https://selfadvocatenet.com/what-is-self-advocacy/>

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Fayetteville Health Care Center
7300 South Raeford Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304
910-488-2120 | 800-771-6106

 **Military/Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

#VETSREACHOUT

Suicide Prevention Caring Communication - February 2022

Connecting with Support at your local VA

People experience emotional and mental health crises in response to a wide range of situations—from difficulties in their personal relationships to the loss of a job. For Veterans, these crises can be heightened by their experiences during military service. When emotional issues reach a crisis point, it's time to call on your Suicide Prevention Team or the Veterans Crisis Line for support. This monthly newsletter is intended to provide you with support, options for care, and skills to assist in managing your mental health treatment at the VA.

A Focus On the Most Important Relationship



February is a month in which there tends to be a spotlight on romantic relationships. We see this everywhere from Hallmark movie commercials to grocery store aisles advertising Valentine's Day cards and a culturally-expected culmination of exchange of gifts and elaborate dates and meals on February 14 for those who are companioned. Although this type of love is absolutely a worthy reason to celebrate, there is less attention (or as much commercialization) on one of the most important relationships that we can have in our lifetime: **the relationship with ourselves.**

Self-love is a state of appreciation for oneself that grows from actions that support our **physical, psychological, and spiritual** growth. It means having a high regard for your own well-being and happiness. Self-love means taking care of your own needs and not sacrificing your well-being to please others. Self-love means not settling for less than you deserve.

Self-love (or **self-care**) can mean something different for each person because we all have many different ways to take care of ourselves. Figuring out what self-love looks like for you as an individual is an important part of your mental health.

Some people may feel very uncomfortable with this concept and argue that this can feel very selfish or narcissistic to turn inwards. This can feel especially strange for those who have spent their entire lives taking care of others. Self-love is not about believing that we are better than others; it is a practice in which we learn how to set healthy boundaries and make healthy choices for ourselves. People who love themselves in a healthy way know that they are flawed and make mistakes and they accept and care about themselves **despite their imperfections.**

Regardless of your family background, whether you come from a collectivist (tribe or family-oriented) or individualistic perspective, taking care of your whole health is essential. If you have traveled on airplanes, you've seen the trainings on oxygen masks: "You have to put your own oxygen mask on first before helping others."

When we are kind and accepting of ourselves, we are more likely to be kind and accepting of others too. Some of us have the reverse issue; we tend to be significantly more understanding and patient with others than we are of ourselves (not extending the same compassion and grace to ourselves). Being able to appreciate and love ourselves has a positive impact on those around us.

Health Clinic Locations

Brunswick Co. Outreach Clinic
20 Medical Campus Dr. Ste 106
Supply, NC 28462
910-754-6141

Goldsboro Clinic
2610 Hospital Road
Goldsboro, NC 28462
919-731-4809

Hamlet Clinic
100 Jefferson St.
Hamlet, NC 28345
910-582-3536

Jacksonville VA Clinic
2580 Henderson Drive
Jacksonville, NC 28546
910-353-6406

Jacksonville CBOC
4006 Henderson Drive
Jacksonville, NC 28546
910-353-6406

Jacksonville 2 VA Clinic
306 Brynn Marr Road
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139 Three Hunts Dr.
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3112 Tramway Blvd.
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919-775-6160

Wilmington Health Care Center
1705 Gardner Road
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910-343-5300

Helpful Contacts

Homeless Program
910-488-2120 ext. 7744

LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator
910-488-2120 ext. 5762

Military Sexual Trauma
910-488-2120 ext. 5938

Substance Treatment and Recovery
910-488-2120 ext. 5483/7770

Women Veterans Program Manager
910-488-2120 ext. 1248

What Self-Love Looks Like

- * Setting healthy boundaries
- * Saying positive things to yourself
- * Forgiving yourself when you mess up
- * Meeting your own needs
- * Being assertive
- * Not letting others take advantage of or abuse you
- * Prioritizing your health and wellbeing
- * Spending time around people who support you and build you up (and avoiding people who don't)
- * Asking for help
- * Letting go of grudges or anger that holds you back
- * Recognizing your strengths
- * Valuing your feelings
- * Making healthy choices most of the time
- * Living in accordance with your values
- * Pursuing your interests and goals
- * Holding yourself accountable
- * Accepting your imperfections
- * Setting realistic expectations
- * Noticing your progress and effort

It is normal to be ambivalent about self-love or making any changes. However, loving yourself doesn't mean you have to change everything about your life. **Just try to treat yourself a little better than you did yesterday.** Some people have never experienced a healthy model of self-love or have experienced trauma that creates challenges. Please seek professional support if this is something you struggle with.

Benefits Of Practicing Self-Love

Improved mental health: People who are kind to themselves have positive emotions, less anxiety and depression, and better self-esteem.

A happier home: If you treat yourself with love and respect, the people around you will be much more likely to do so too. This creates a healthier relationship both at home and at work.

Increased productivity: People who love themselves take responsibility for their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors and understand that there are external events and people that are outside of their control.

Making a difference: Self-compassion can influence compassion for others. Examples include acts of kindness, volunteering, or charity.

More fulfilling relationships: People who engage in self-care tend to have more fulfilling and satisfying relationships with others. This is because they are not always looking for validation from others; instead, they find it within themselves.

References

Aggarwal, N. (2022, January 2). *Self love: Your guide to personal acceptance*. Mantra Care. Retrieved January 5, 2022, from <https://mantracare.org/therapy/self-care/self-love/>

Brain & Behavior Research Foundation. (2020, July 9). *Self-love and what it means*. Retrieved January 5, 2022, from <https://www.bbrfoundation.org/blog/self-love-and-what-it-means>

Martin, S. (2019, May 31). *What is self-love and why is it so important?* Retrieved January 5, 2022, from <https://psychcentral.com/blog/imperfect/2019/05/what-is-self-love-and-why-is-it-so-important/#Why-do-we-need-to-love-ourselves?>

Resource Spotlight: Guiding Wellness

Guiding Wellness offers free yoga classes for active duty, retired servicemembers, their spouses, and family members. Here is the current schedule:

TUESDAY: Mindful Movement Chair Yoga @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

THURSDAY: Mindful Movement Chair Yoga @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

FRIDAY: Therapeutic Yoga Mat Class @ 9:15 - 10:30 am

They are located at 143 Skateway Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304. Please call 910-864-6257 for more information.

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Scholarship



North Carolina Scholarship Program was created to show its appreciation for the services and sacrifices of its war veterans. The scholarship program applies to North Carolina schools.

The scholarship is for eight academic semesters and the recipient has eight years to utilize the eight academic semesters.

The Scholarship program has been established for a child, as that term is defined in 37 U.S.C. § 401 of certain class categories of deceased, disabled, combat, or POW/MIA veterans. Applicant must be under the age of 25 at the time of application. The veteran's qualifying criteria must have occurred during a period of war. At time of application, applicant must be domiciled and a resident of North Carolina.



Qualifying Criteria for Veteran Parent:

The veteran's qualifying criteria must have occurred during a period of war. (Exception: Eligibility may exist for peacetime veterans or reservists/National Guard if disability or death was incurred as a result of armed conflict or while engaged in extra-hazardous service.)

Class IA Dies during wartime service or service-connected death.

Class IB Is or was at the time of his death receiving compensation for a wartime service-connected disability of one hundred percent (100%) as rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Class II Is or was at the time of the parent's death receiving compensation for a wartime service-connected disability of twenty percent (20%) or more, but less than one hundred percent (100%), as rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, OR

Was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds received as a result of an act of any opposing armed force, as a result of an international terrorist attack, or as result of military operations while serving as part of a peacekeeping force.

Class III Is or was at the time of his death drawing pension for permanent and total disability, nonservice-connected, as rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

OR

Served in a combat zone, or waters adjacent to a combat zone, or any other campaign, expedition, or engagement for which the United States Department of Defense authorizes a campaign badge or medal.

Class IV Former POW or MIA.

For Class II & III, the application must be submitted on or before February 14th Annually.

One hundred Class II and Class III are awarded Annually, on or about July 1.

Class IA, IB or IV must be submitted on or before December 1 to be awarded on or about January 1; or submitted on or before June 1 to be awarded on or about July 1.



For Additional Information About the Scholarship Program

Call 844.624.8387, Option 2

**Or Visit www.milvets.nc.gov/services/scholarships
<https://scholarships.milvets.nc.gov>**

For Class II and III scholarships, a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA is required to continue receipt of the scholarship.



American Legion Auxiliary Post 167 - Hampstead Spaghetti Dinner

Monday, February 28 & Monday, March 28

Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM or until sold-out

16660 US Highway 17, Hampstead, NC 28443

Come out and help us, help our Veteran's.

Cost: \$8.00 a plate

Includes: Spaghetti with meat sauce,
Garlic bread, California blend veggies, dessert, and a drink (Soda or
water).

We have a lot of new people in the Hampstead area, and we would love for you to come out and meet some longtime residents. You can either dine in with us at Post 167 or take the food to go. Great family atmosphere and everyone is welcome.

Most local restaurants are closed on Monday's, so why not come join us for dinner and support our local Veterans.



Pender County Government Update

Department

UTILITY OPERATIONS

PENDER COUNTY UTILITIES (PCU) & WATER DISTRICTS:

We are currently scheduling interviews to fill 2 open positions, and just advertised an opening for Utilities Inspector. The Water & Sewer Superintendent position has been filled through a promotion of our Inspector, Glen Garvin.

Work has been completed on the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority raw water main break repairs. State Utility Contractors is demobilizing from that job and heading over to Factory Road.

Materials are being delivered for the Factory Road Water Extension, with construction work starting next week. Water will be installed from the current end of PCU's pipeline at Lea Drive to the end of Factory Road and down Broadview Lane to the end of pavement. Property owners are being notified of the project to encourage connection to the PCU water system.

Field staff work and status updates since last report:

- Automatic flush valve on daily flush on Riverland Drive, Michigan Avenue
- 3 taps performed in first two weeks of January by staff.
- Sewer line break fixed on Hwy 210 with the aid of CFPUA providing 3 Vac Trucks. This repair was on the main discharge line from the Regional Pump Station to CFPUA. CFPUA removed 20,000 gallons of wastewater to drain 3 miles of 6" line. Once the line was drained the PCU staff removed a failed joint and replaced it with a 6" isolation valve. In the future we will need to do this in a couple more locations so in a future break only a portion of line will need to be removed. The job was a seven-hour repair and required 5 PCU staff and six CFPUA staff.
- 191 locates in the first two weeks of January.
- All generators were filled with diesel for recent ice storm.

- Implemented a second employee during ice storm to ride with on-call operator for safety and training.

WATER PRODUCTION NUMBERS:

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)

January 2022 Daily Avg: 1.31 MGD from WP, 0.258 MGD from Wallace, 0.838 MGD to Hamp/SH (thru 210 BPS), 0.007 MGD from Annex & Kiwanis Wells (Total 0.845 MGD for Hamp/SH)

MAPLE HILL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

On Thursday, January 27th Charles R. Underwood Inc. came to put the chain on the gearbox for the rotating biological contactor. The chain was stretched too far so they returned on the 28th and installed a new chain on the gear box which we had in storage.

Pumps in the EQ basin are not alternating, and the electrician said it needs a new PLC board, which is being ordered. Fixed broken pipe at the transfer station office up the hill.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Final numbers from Synagro: 1.3 million gallons of liquid sludge was removed from the north discharge pond.

Carolina Management Team has completed power washing, repairs and repainting of our 2 Clearwells. (Before and after pic of Clearwell #2 attached)

Tom met with Tracey Foster with Harrington Group to flow test the fire hydrants at the Commerce Park.

Raw water quality was poor from the rain storms 2 weeks ago. This led to our ferric dose being increased to 140 mg/L. Quality has improved the last few days and we are back down to our normal 90 mg/L.

All state reports for December have been completed and submitted.

Updated production numbers:

January 2022: 40.6 million gallons for an average of 1.31 MGD

February 2022 through the 2nd: 2.2 million gallons for an average of 1.1 MGD

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

The wastewater plant is running well. All our numbers have been good. Photos of activities included.

- We had our new operator Brian start last week (transfer from PCU field staff)
- Staff has started training new operator
- We have moved diesel tank from BASF to 210 booster station
- We disconnected BASF guard shack in order to move to Maple Hill WWTP
- Cut plants in green house back just a start!
- Installed scum pump after having it rebuilt
- Continue to coordinate access with contractors over at BASF to keep site locked / give out keys
- Remove gate operator from BASF for spare parts
- We had power outage over the weekend where we had to come in to reset all equipment
- Ordered carport to cover disc filters

SOLID WASTE

The Transfer Station scale house is operating well. We had some staff illnesses in January, but all is back to normal.

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 DECEMBER 2021

MSW Kitchen trash collected	2,885.27 tons
Construction & demolition	609.51 tons
Recycling	131.19 tons
Tires recycled	39.90 tons
Scrap metal recycled (shreds)	68.20 tons
Whitegoods recycled	6.50 tons
TV & Electronics	22.91 tons





Jan. 14th force main repairs







Pender County Government Update

Department

TOURISM

1.21.22 To 2.4.22 County Update

Tourism Update

Olivia traveled to Charlotte for the 2022 North Carolina Association of Festivals and Events annual conference called ShowFest. Stephanie spearheaded the nominations to North Carolina Association of Festivals and Events (NCAFE) so that our local events get state recognition. Olivia was pleased to report that OceanFest, an October event by Mark Anders, took the most awards of any festival in the state. Tourism and our partners also won an award for the Blueberry Drop.

Tourism staff has continued our planning activities with new events in 2022.

Jan. 25 was National Plan Your Vacation Day. We are developing messaging for the day to encourage prospective visitors to consider Topsail Island/Pender County.

We are formulating the first steps of our budget. We are involving all three of the tourism staff in this process. Stephanie and Tammy met with IT to review our IT budget. We discussed improving the sound and video for conferencing in the tourism conference room. We do not believe we will ever return to full, in-person meetings due to savings on travel by participants.

The New York Travel and Adventure Show, that we are scheduled to attend with Visit NC, has been postponed until late March.

Calendars for all of Pender, Coastal Pender, and a Birding calendar featuring photos from the 2021 Nature Photo Contest are now available.

Tourism is collaborating on a program with Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Committee and the Greater Topsail Area Chamber for a meeting on Feb. 3 to discuss ways to keep our beaches and waterways pristine. Glass and trash on the beach are a hazard. We have invited Heidi Walters to join us as a speaker.

Tammy is the county coordinator for the Governor's Volunteer Service Award. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 31. She has posted updated information to accept nominations. The nominations have been submitted to the state before the deadline.

We have met with the Wilmington Sharks. Pender County Night with the Wilmington Sharks is Sunday, June 5. It is a late afternoon game. We will have free tickets to give away. This is open to the county residents, employees, and our little league teams. This is the third year we have partnered with Parks and Recreation to host the event.

We assisted in the town hall meeting, Coffee with the Congressman. The event had a nice turnout. Several of our TDA board members attended.

Tammy joined the executive committee of the Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail. The board met and opted to have a Zoom meeting for the board of directors quarterly meeting on Feb. 4. The directors meeting runs from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tammy was also invited to a Zoom meeting with the new Executive Director of the FMST, Brent Laurenz. It was an opportunity to meet the new director and to give him the opportunity to meet board members in a one-on-one conversation.

Tourism scheduled a training session with Kimberly Leonard regarding Munis and budget. The entire staff is participating in the budget process this year. From SWOT to gathering estimated costs, the entire staff is all in!

Stephanie Key represented tourism at the monthly meeting with Surf City Parks, Rec, Tourism, and Town Manager.

Tammy attended the Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Committee meeting via Zoom. The meeting was a hybrid. Among the discussion was an update on legislation, grant opportunities, and another comment period on the Rufa Red Knot.

Tammy participated in an exploratory meeting with the app company that may streamline emergency services communications to the public via smartphone.

Communications

Tammy spent three days in Radiation Emergency Preparation classes, culminating in a large tabletop and educational exercise with the EOC.

We have updated the website and social media with vaccination information.

We monitored the winter storms, posted weather information and closings, and published information regarding power outages from Duke Energy.

We have responded to media inquiries.

We have provided press releases to the media regarding free smoke detectors, as well as provided media releases for various departments..





Pender County Government Update

Department

REGISTER OF DEEDS

REGISTER OF DEEDS 01/01/2022 TO 01/31/2022	
Maps Recorded	28
Marriage License Issued	17
Passport Applications	74
Passport Photos	86
Notary Oaths Issued	29
Deeds of Trust Recorded	345
Deeds Recorded	327
Vital Certificates Issued (Birth/Death/Marriage)	332
Miscellaneous Documents Recorded	567
Total Fees Collected	\$209,491.15



Pender County Government Update

Department

PENDER FIRE AND EMS

PENDER EMS AND FIRE 2021

Location	EMS Call Type Summary					
	Weekly	YTD			Weekly	YTD
Burgaw	38	145	Cancelled		31	117
Sloop Point	31	115	Refusals		48	212
Hampstead	26	120	Stand By's		3	15
Scotts Hill	1	9	Transported		99	457
Surf City	19	86	Treated and Released		12	57
Currie	0	3			193	858
Topsail Beach	7	41				
Union	16	92				
Rocky Point	27	129				
Maple Hill	3	12				
Atkinson	25	106				
East Side	0	0				
	193	858				
Locations	Fire Call Type Summary					
	Weekly	YTD			Weekly	YTD
Burgaw	6	22	FIRE		0	11
Sloop Point	18	68	Motor Vehicle Crash		8	24
Hampstead	8	32	Search and Rescue		0	1
Scott Hill	3	20	Service Calls		10	33
Hwy 421 South	7	24	EMS First Response		26	138
Long Creek	11	33	Cancelled		14	38
Topsail--OR	0	0	Ocean Rescue		0	0
Maple Hill	4	16			58	245
Penderlea	0	20				
Island Creek	1	10				
	58	245				



Pender County Government Update

Department

PARKS & RECREATION

Registration is open for Cupid's Drive-In Bingo on February 12th. We will have locations in Burgaw at Pender Memorial Park and in Hampstead at Hampstead Kiwanis Park. Prizes include Restaurant gift cards, Steaks, Chocolates and more! Pre-registration is highly encouraged. You can register online at <https://penderpr.recdesk.com/Community/Program>. For more information contact us at 910-259-1330 or parksandrec@pendercountync.gov

- The 2022 Winter cornhole league at Penderlea wraps up next week with the championship.
- Grounds maintenance has completed several ramp and deck improvement projects over the past few weeks at Penderlea Community Park. Photos are attached.
- Planning is underway for Spring and Summer programs and special events. More information will be released in the coming weeks.
- Staff continues to work with staff from McGill on the 2022 Parks and Recreation Master Plan update. In the next few weeks the final plan will be going to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Planning Board and Board of County Commissioners for adoption.
- Holly Shelter Shooting Range January 2022 Numbers:
 - Adult 601
 - Youth 65









Drive-in Cupid's



\$5 per person for 10 games of bingo. The Bingo caller will be transmitted through your vehicle's FM radio.

Saturday, February 12th

Pender Memorial Park at 1:00pm
Hampstead Kiwanis Park at 3:30pm



Prizes Include:

Restaurant Gift Cards,
Steaks, Chocolates,
and more!

Register at:

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

OR scan the QR code.





Pender County Government Update

Department

LIBRARY

Local Historian to speak about the Black Missionary Movement in the Middle Cape Fear Region

On Feb. 18 at 5:00 p.m. at the Main Library in Burgaw, Pender County Library will host a local history program about the legacy of Rev. Richard Keaton and the Black Missionary Movement in the Middle Cape Fear Region. This program, entitled *Unsung Heroes* and presented by local historian Earnestine Keaton, will be offered both in-person at the Main Library in Burgaw and online via Zoom. During this hour-long program, Ms. Keaton will explore the economic and cultural development of several rural majority Black faith-based communities in Columbus and Pender counties in Southeastern NC.

Ms. Keaton began to research her family history in 1998. In doing so, she discovered the rich and interesting history of the Cape Fear Region. Her primary focus is the cultural traditions and economic development of the communities that grew out the area's plantations, particularly the Lloyd Plantation.

Register online at bit.ly/pclunsungheroes, or go to the library's website, penderpubliclibrary.org, and follow the links under "Events." You can also call the library and staff will take your registration by phone. The event will be hosted both in person at the Main Library in Burgaw as well as on Zoom. Registration is required to attend both in person and online; seating is limited for the in-person attendance. If attending online there is no need to have a Zoom account; just click the link provided in the confirmation email and follow the prompts to download Zoom. The talk can be viewed on smartphone, tablet, or computer.

For more information or assistance, call Pender County Library at 910-259-1234 during regular business hours.



Pender County Government Update

Department

HEALTH - GENERAL

- February is Heart Health month. We are promoting blood pressure checks for anyone interested this month.
- February 4th is Wear Red Day for Heart Health awareness.
- Provided blood pressure checks and N95 masks to participants at Pender Adult Services
- Partnering with Mount Calvary to provide free mammogram screens on February 26th at Mount Calvary.
- Held a COVID vaccination clinic at Union Chapel and distributed N95s to participants.
- Completed interviews for Animal Shelter position and Dental Assistant.
- Continue to recruit for public health nurses, with five vacant positions at present.
- Continue to recruit for Environmental Health Specialist.
- Working on benchmarks for 2022 Re-Accreditation.
- Participated in NCACC conference calls about the Opioid Settlement.
- COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are available Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:00 pm, in Burgaw and Hampstead.
- COVID-19 testing continues at the health department Monday-Saturday. Testing requests have decreased.
- Continue to work with the schools to identify COVID cases and exposures.
- Contact tracing continues.
- Mobile dental unit is at South Topsail Elementary and will be moving to North Topsail on February 11th.



Pender County Government Update

Department

FACILITIES AND FLEET

- New safe doors have been installed at the Courthouse with finishing touches of painting, etc. being performed.
- Meetings continue with Moseley architects related to the new Law Enforcement Center design, footprint, etc.
- Fencing has been put into place along the road frontage of Miller's Pond and we are now in the process of procurement for the automated gate.
- The deck was replaced at the Penderlea auditorium by various Facilities & Fleet personnel.
- The Kiwanis Park (Darden) score box was painted.
- We continue the process for a new Parks & Grounds Superintendent.



Pender County Government Update

Department

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management County Update – January 2022

EM Responses 1

Fire Investigations 13

Weather Related 3

Fire Technical Review for New Development: 5

Plan Review & New Construction Inspections: 5

Required & Requested Fire Inspections: 5

Other Inspections:

Other Items

- Amy Burton started as the Deputy Fire Marshal on Jan. 10
- Staff working to update EnerGov to work better for all
- Staff attend the Jan. TRC Meeting
- Pender County EM hosted the monthly Hampstead HAMS meeting at the EOC on Saturday Jan 8
- “Sound the Alarm” Smoke Detector event planning has been going on for Saturday Feb. 5
- Staff working with the Facilities Dept., CMO & Schools on generator plan
- EOC Visual Audio construction project on track to start mid-March
- Staff attend classes at the Pender County Fire School hosted at CFCC
- Multiple Code Red message sent for PCU events

- Cape Fear Emergency Planning Committee Conference coming of Feb. 15
- Winter event Jan 16-17, 2022
- EOC activated for 31 hours on Jan 21-22, 2022.
- Staff attending training with the Wilmington Bomb Squad
- Working with Burgaw Fire Department to update Fire Response district maps



Pender County Government Update

Department

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Bi-Weekly Programming Update – February 4, 2022

NC Cooperative Extension Agents work with Pender County residents and farmers, helping them find research-based solutions to problems. We work on many topics and in multiple arenas, with help from Cooperative Extension Agents across North Carolina and NCSU & NC A&T specialists.

* * *

4-H Youth Development – Traci Spencer / Amy Jones

- Engaging in 4-H club activities and preparing for the Southeast District 4-H Chicken Project
- Pelham Plantation 4-H Horse Club - held a barrel racing clinic where several 4-H members participated in mock barrel races and exercises that help to strengthen their barrel racing skills.
- Freedom Growers 4-H Club elected officers and discussed community service opportunities and fund raising. Project record book folders were distributed to those interested in participating.
- Freedom Growers 4-H Club Moore's Creek Battlefield to participate in planting 3,000 pine seedlings throughout the park. I also distributed and collect Chicken Project forms from all of those interested, looks like we'll over 20 kids will be participating in this from our county. Working to create at least two more 4-H clubs in the near future.
- Anyone interested in volunteer leadership for 4-H please contact Traci Spencer. 910-259-1235.
- Attended Empowering Youth and Families Program Training

* * *

Consumer Horticulture & Local Foods – Tiffanee Boone

- Conducted Muscadine grape pruning workshop and hands-on demonstration
- Planning for spring Extension Master Gardener plant sale fund raising event
- EMG Volunteer training, normally held Jan-Mar, was postponed due to covid
- EMG Speaker Bureau events planned for the Hampstead and Burgaw libraries are now virtual due to covid.

* * *

Environment & Natural Resources – Amy Mead, Area Natural Resources Agent

Conducted programs for Pender, New Hanover and Brunswick County residents on:

- Selecting native tree species suited for the region for windstorm resistance and planting and maintaining trees
- Received ISA Certified Arborist certification
- Planning Backyard Sustainability Class Series to begin in March 2022

* * *

Expanded Foods and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) – Cindy Rivenbark

- Completed new employee and curriculum training for EFNEP / NCCP
- Contacting Pender County Schools, making plans to start after school nutrition education programming

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Agriculture / Commercial Horticulture

- Pender/Onslow winter agronomy meeting for area farmers. Feb 1, 2022, 6 PM. Onslow County Extension Center, 4024 Richlands Hwy, Jacksonville, NC. Contact Melissa Huffman (910) 455-5873 to register.
- Collected soil samples for on-farm soil nutrient management research.
- On-site strawberry and blueberry farm visits
- Agritourism Emergency Planning Training
- Working on logistics and developing plans for eight week 4-H Dairy Project (starting August 2022)

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Administration / NCSU Human Resources

- Attended Southeast District County Extension Director training: new NCSU HR policies, program activity and civil rights reporting requirement changes, NCSU faculty / staff changes
- NCSU - Completed PCI Credit Card and Data Security Training
- Completed year end program reports and worked on FY 22-23 budget request
- Reviewed applications and selected candidates for Admin Secretary position. Interviews Feb 4, 2022
- Reatha Hoffman – Administrative Assistant – officially retired Jan 31, 2022 after 30 years of service to NC Cooperative Extension and the citizens of Pender County. Congratulations Reatha.