

Winter/Spring 2022

# Lumbee

Today



**Tribal Council  
Votes to Create  
Ag Department**

**John Lowery Sworn in as New  
Leader of the Lumbee Tribe of N.C.**

**Housing Asset Amended  
to Support Elders**

**Lumbee Spring Powwow Returns**

# Message from the Chairman



With any organization that touches people, the discussion around how to effectively communicate to your audience is ongoing. During my campaign, I heard from many Lumbee citizens who ask that we begin publishing a newsletter they could receive in their mail boxes or pick up a copy at the local convenience store or at their church. Well, I heard you and it made sense to me to create a newsletter that can help us better communicate to you, the Lumbee People.

We are constantly touching the lives of so many each day and this issue of “Lumbee Today” gives a recap of numerous events that have taken place within the first few months of my administration. It is our goal to produce this newsletter on a quarterly basis and reach

as many people as we can. Once you have read this newsletter, pass it along to a family member, friend, or co-worker who can read about the good things happening with your tribal government.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Lowery'.

John L. Lowery  
Chairman  
Lumbee Tribe of N.C.

Chairman Lowery Joins Staff Members and Community Members in a Talking Circle in February. CORE is in partnership with the Lumbee Tribe to offer support for staff following COVID-19. The Talking Circle is to help staff deal with COVID-19 and reflect on how it impacted families.



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During the Tribal inauguration on January 6, 2022, Chairman John Lowery pledged to enact change throughout the Lumbee Tribe to better serve and provide services to tribal members. He seeks to aid the Lumbee Tribe in a way that is strategic, beneficial, and remains so 20, 50, 100 years from now. Chairman Lowery wants to build on what the elders have built and in doing so, he will "effectively communicate with the Council while we engage in the

dialogue necessary to debate the future of our Tribe." Chairman Lowery's speech focused on improving communication with the Tribe and its members as well as improving the accessibility of services and programs to the members while also increasing enrollment. Other changes he addressed included:

- ❖ Equip the Supreme Court and the Tribal Council with staff and advisory committees to assist them.

- ❖ Update software and means throughout different departments, such as Enrollment, Veteran's Services, Elders etc.
- ❖ Be more assertive and aggressive when seeking full federal recognition.
- ❖ Appoint a central staff member to service out-of-territory Lumbee Members when possible.
- ❖ Create and release a Lumbee Tribe newsletter to tribal members.

## Chairman Lowery and New Council Members Sworn-in



# Recognition of 64th Anniversary of the Battle of Hayes



*The Battle of Hayes Pond | January 18, 1958*



In January, we recognized the 64th anniversary of the Battle of Hayes Pond. We hope the story of our ancestors' bravery on that day will be shared far and wide. We also posted a Curriculum sheet for educators and parents to share with students about the Hayes Pond Battle.

Hundreds of Lumbee Tribal Members showed up that night on January 18, 1958 to stand their ground against the KKK at Hayes Pond.

There is additional information on the 'History and Culture' page on the Lumbee Tribe website about the battle. Please check out the 'Routing the KKK' flyer dedicated to the Battle of Hayes Pond that include details as well as

photos from the 58th anniversary at Hayes Pond.

To keep their story and the importance of that day alive, we also hope that parents will tell this story and encourage their children and grandchildren to ask their elders or even community members about what they remember about that day or that time in history and write those stories down to remember.

We know that January 18, 1958 shaped the future for our tribal members and for our county as it stopped a source of hatred and racism from gathering and stirring discord on our lands. We hope you will watch the stories and personal accounts of that day from Verdia

Locklear, Jim Jones and Jack Lowery. Thank you to the Nancy Strickland Fields and the staff of the Museum of the Southeast American Indian for documenting and sharing these important stories.

Links for the videos are available on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/6NZWSaGNYGA>



Chairman Lowery with the Battle of Hayes Pond Memorial at the Lumbee Tribe Housing Complex

# The Water Returns Lumbee Tribe Celebrates with Water Ceremony



**The community was overjoyed to see the water return to the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center Lake in February**

With much to celebrate with the return of the water to the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center Lake, we honored this blessing with a “Water Ceremony” in March. Visitors joined us from across the state for this special time. The ceremony was a celebration of the return of the water to the Lake following major damage by Hurricanes’ Matthew and Florence.

It was also a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our ancestors who helped secure and build the Recreation Center, as it was originally called, for our people. Thank you to Mr.

Anthony Locklear for taking the time to share the story of the hard work by his grandfather Lester Bullard, who was the first Recreation Center President following its opening in 1966.

We also honored Mr. Buddy Dial by naming the Cultural Center dam in his honor as the Buddy Dial Dam in recognition of his decades of service and dedication. Thank you to our Lumbee Elders' Sacred Fire Members for performing the Water Ceremony. Thank you to everyone from Lumbee River Outfitters, but especially

the young people who took to the water in their kayaks and canoes during the ceremony.

**Lester Bullard, in the hat on the left, was the first Recreation Center President. He worked with local men who poured concrete at the Cultural Center Lake Dam.**





## Lumbee Tribal Administration Outreach

In February, Lumbee Tribal Chairman **John Lowery presented Miss Indian North Carolina Kaitlyn Deal with a beaded Eagle Feather** as she prepared to give up her title. Deal was crowned Miss Indian North Carolina in February 2020. Chairman Lowery told Deal the eagle represents strength, power, wisdom and something that soars high in the sky, which is what she is doing right now. He also told Deal he was proud of her and also encouraged her to always remember her people and continue to give back whenever possible.

In February, Interim Tribal Administrator **Tammy Maynor** joined representatives of the Haliwa-Saponi and Waccamaw-Siouan tribes as part of East Carolina University's kickoff celebration for the National Endowment for the Arts program, Big Read-Greenville.

The six-week shared reading experience, which focused on Joy Harjo's best-selling poetry collection "An American Sunrise," is designed to spark conversation and establish connections within the community. Tammy Maynor, administrator for the Lumbee Tribe, told participants that inviting tribal leaders spoke volumes about the university's desire to be inclusive. "To invite us to be here today, to remember that the American Indian is strong and much alive in North Carolina, we really do appreciate that," she said. "This is meaningful consultation."



In March, Lumbee Tribal **Chairman John Lowery joined in the Read Across America** as he read to 2nd and 5th graders at two schools in the Public Schools of Robeson County. Chairman Lowery read two Dr. Seuss books to students at Magnolia and Prospect Schools. He encouraged the students to read, while also sharing his love of reading. Chairman Lowery is a former school teacher from the Public Schools of Robeson County. The event correlates with Dr. Seuss's Birthday.

The National Education Association (NEA) launched Read Across America in 1998. Guided by a committee of educators, NEA's Read Across America is the nation's largest celebration of reading. This year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources that are about and for everyone. Chairman Lowery read 2 Dr. Seuss books to the students, but encourages the students to read different kinds of books because reading is fun.

# Building A Dream

Telisha Hunt and her husband, Jeffrey, join other Lumbee families who will reap the benefits of owning their own home through the Lumbee Tribe Homeownership Program this year. The Deep Branch Resident and her husband are excited to move into their new home.

For more information on Homeownership or Downpayment Assistance, call Kathy Locklear at 910.522.5479



# In a Historic Moment the Lumbee Tribal Council Votes to Create a Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources



Eddie Moore and Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery

Thank you to all of the Lumbee Farmers, agri-related business owners and everyone who worked with the Advisory Committee. Seated - Lumbee Tribal Council Speaker Ricky Burnett, Tribal Councilwoman and Chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources committee for the Tribal Council Wendy Moore and Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery.

In May, the Lumbee Tribal Council voted to approve the creation of a Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources within the Lumbee Tribal Government. This new department will assist Lumbee producers in food certifications, access of markets, and knowledge of opportunities available through state and federal agencies. Lumbee Tribal Chairman John L. Lowery said it is a historic moment for Lumbee farmers. "As this government moves forward, this new department will have the opportunity to strategically work to assist those who ensure we have food on our table and also work to protect the natural resources of our tribal lands," said Lowery.

Programs regarding farming, ranching, natural resources, conservation, food safety, food security, and food sovereignty will

fall under the umbrella of the new department. Tribal Councilwoman Wendy Moore said farmers are the life blood of Lumbee communities. Moore is the Chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources committee for the Tribal Council. "I am proud to be part of this moment as the Tribe takes a step forward in our agriculture and natural resource work. As indigenous People, we were placed here to be good stewards of Mother Earth, so this is a step in the right direction," said Moore.

During his campaign, Chairman Lowery said he would appoint a temporary Advisory Committee to look at the Agriculture sector and how the Lumbee Tribe could assist farmers and ranchers. Eddie Moore, from the Prospect Community, agreed to chair the temporary committee. Mr. Moore pulled

together a coalition of farmers representing diverse areas of agriculture production, which ranged from cattle to row crops, aquaculture to regular produce as well as organic farming. The farmers discussed the strengths and challenges that Lumbee farmers face. One of the recommendations from this Advisory Committee was the creation of a Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The mission statement of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources is "to steward Lumbee lands and waters by honoring our ancestors and their traditions, strengthening our existing farm community by advocating for Lumbee agricultural opportunities and promoting tribal food sovereignty."



## Lumbee Powwow Welcomes Thousands from Around the Nation

J.D. Moore and Whitney Recountre II co-emceed the Lumbee Powwow in May. Rencountre II is Hunkpati Dakota from the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. He is the Associate Director of the Indian University of North America. He is also creator of the popular social media platform **Social Distance Powwow**, which has 300,000 members in over 100 countries around the world.

J.D. Moore is a member of the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe. Moore is employed by Duke Energy as the manager of Nuclear Site Services at the Shearon Harris Nuclear Station. He has been an avid follower and instructor of his Native American heritage from an early age as a young men's fancy dancer, singer with various Native American drums. Moore is the Waccamaw Siouan representative for the Governors American Indian Cultural Committee for NC.



J.D. Moore , Lumbee Tribal Chairman  
John Lowery and Whitney Recountre II



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# Lumbee Tribe of N.C. Dance of the Spring Moon Powwow

**A** Powwow is a time of celebration and sharing. Jackie Woodson joined the thousands of people from around the nation at the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina's "Dance of the Spring Moon" Powwow in May. Woodson is Taino from the island of Cuba, but grew up in the Woodland tradition in Virginia. She now lives in Melbourne, Florida and was visiting friends in N.C. who attended the event. It was her

first time back to the Lumbee Community in more than 25 years. "It's just hard to explain and express how my heart felt when I went into that circle with my friends, my family and the new family members that I made," said

**Jackie Woodson Visits With Friends at Lumbee Powwow**

Woodson. "Everyone welcomed me like you

belong here and they opened their arms to me

and the circle, it healed me. I will never forget the Lumbee people."

The Lumbee Powwow had something for everyone. In addition to the Powwow dancing, there was dance contest for men and women and a drum contest as well as cultural demonstrations throughout the weekend. There was also a Church Service on Sunday Morning for everyone visiting. Everyone also raved about the food as always.

Thank you to everyone who made the Lumbee Spring Powwow possible. Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, staff and to you!



**Children Dance in the School Days Program**

# Remembering Our Murdered and Missing Indigenous Family



**T**hursday, May 5th, was a very emotional day for those families that have had a loved one become one of the thousands of missing and/or murdered victims. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) March & Ceremony brought awareness to this important issue, but also honored the memory of the victims for their families and friends. Many see this event as a way to connect and keep their family members' and friends', name alive and not forget

what has happened, but also as a way to band together to stop it from repeating.

**A**lexis Raeana Jones and Charly Lowry performed their hit song "Keep my Memory" and other songs as they remember those who are missing or murdered and spotlight this important issue. Speakers spotlighted the importance of awareness, while reinforcing the fact that this is impacting all of



Indian Country. The event was sponsored by the Lumbee Tribe of N.C. and Native Visions Magazine.

As always, the Lumbee Stickball Social was a highly competitive event at the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center. Attendees were able to learn about stickball, in terms of its origins, history, and how to play. It was one of the many exciting events that kicked off "Dance of the Spring Moon" Powwow weekend



## StickBall Returns

# Lumbee Tribe Ribbon Cutting Opens Warriors' Way Veterans Village in Raynham



**(5) Five Veterans Received Keys to their Homes During the Warriors' Way Ceremony**



**Guest Speaker Larry Townsend Delivers the Memorial Day Message**



**North Carolina Lt. Governor Mark Robinson thanked Veterans for their service**

On May 26th, the Lumbee Tribe of N.C. officially opened the Warriors' Way Veterans Village. The event was extra special for 5 veterans who received keys to a home in the community. The village is located in the Raynham Community. This neighborhood will house (10) ten veterans. North Carolina Lt. Governor Mark Robinson spoke of the importance of honoring our veterans and their role in our freedom.

After the ribbon-cutting, Lumbee Tribal Chairman joined the housing team to distribute five keys to the first Veterans to live in the community. It was so special as each of the five walked up to receive the key to their homes. The Five Veterans to receive the first homes at Warriors' Way are:

- Leary Oxendine
- Cary Hunt
- Bridget McNutt
- James Pierce
- Preston Sencenbaugh

The ceremony featured a Flag Ceremony as well as a Memorial Day Service as part of this special occasion. Lumbee Tribal Member Veteran Larry Townsend was the Guest Speaker to deliver the Memorial Day Message during the Ceremony. The event began with an inspiring parachute drop-in by an all-Veteran Parachute team.

For Veterans interested in more information about the Lumbee Tribe HUD VASH Program, they may call Carla Clark 910.705.1862 or Janice Locklear 910.522.2208 at the Lumbee Tribe of N.C.



**Veteran Bridget McNutt with her daughter in front of her home**

# Lumbee Tribe host Workshop for Windows and Doors Installation Training



The Lumbee Tribe of N.C. strives to provide the best service to our members. To stay on the cutting edge of construction, we hosted a Windows and Doors Installation Training for our contractors.

The hands-on installation training by Service Representatives from Atrium Windows gave our teams insight into not only best practices for window and door

installation, but how to guard against leaks and other issues by wrapping the window with the necessary weathering materials to avoid breakdown or exposure to the elements.

Thank you to Mr. Junior Henderson and Mr. Terry Locklear for their demonstration on door installation basics. We would also like to thank

Pembroke Hardware and Atrium Windows for sponsoring this event, which supports our mission of providing great service and a quality product to our Lumbee Members.



## Lumbee Tribe Energy Department receives more than 6,000 applications



We applaud the Lumbee Tribe Energy Department for their hard work processing the more than 6,000 applications they received from October to February for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) or the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). It took more than a month to process the applications.

The Energy Department is now accepting applications for the Low Income Household Cooling Assistance Program (LIHCAP), which will provide cooling assistance to low-income households throughout the tribal territory. The program ends July 8th. Email completed applications to [energy@lumbeetribe.com](mailto:energy@lumbeetribe.com) or deliver to the Lumbee Tribal Office at 6984 NC 711 West, Pembroke, NC.

# Aiding Lumbee Seniors

## Chairman John Lowery Amends Asset Requirement



Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery has amended the Lumbee Tribal Housing Policy. Effective February 2, 2022, there is no longer an asset limitation for Tribal members applying for the Home Rehabilitation Program.

HUD income limitations will still apply, but the value of Tribal Members assets will no longer be considered when determining eligibility for the Home Rehabilitation Program.

Tribal members who have questions about their eligibility should contact the Lumbee Tribal Housing Department at (910) 522.5161 or [ndial@lumbee Tribe.com](mailto:ndial@lumbee Tribe.com)

## Lumbee Tribal Chairman Fosters Government to Government Relations

This Spring, Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery has met with state and tribal leaders from around the region including leaders from the Catawba Nation, Waccamaw Siouan Tribes and North Carolina House Speaker Tim Moore. In February, Chairman Lowery spent time with Catawba's Assistant Chief Jason Harris and Waccamaw Siouan Tribal Council Chairperson Pamela Young -Jacobs. Our tribal friendships with both of these neighboring tribes go back generations. These visits continues to forge the alliances, which strengthen our Nation to Nation relationships. In April, North Carolina House Speaker Tim Moore visited with Chairman Lowery and toured the Lumbee Tribe Housing Complex.



**Chairman Lowery and Asst. Chief Jason Harris**



**Chairman Lowery and Council Chairperson Pamela Young-Jacobs**



**Chairman Lowery and House Speaker Tim Moore**

# A Leader in Design Lumbee Graphic Designer Puts His Mark on Animation



Eric Hunt continues to make his mark on the world through animation. People from across the globe often see Hunt's designs, but what most people don't know is that this Lumbee Designer was a co-creator for the designs for Harry Potter, Hog Warts Castle and the Transformers.

Hunt is from the Fairmont community, where he spent many early mornings in the field helping his family cropping and planting tobacco. He said that although he did not realize it then, but he now knows that those early mornings in the field with his grandpa truly impacted his life.

Hunt graduated from South Robeson High in 1984. He began as a traditional artist

providing LRDA with art throughout his high school career. He went to college at an Art Institute in Florida. Upon graduation, he returned home and became a map illustrator for Robeson County, but also worked for Pepsi. Hunt then ventured to Los Angeles to work in the film and entertainment industry. He eventually returned home to do freelance work.

Hunt eventually decided to follow his dreams, which lead him back to Florida. He designed hotels and resorts for several years before joining Universal, where he worked for 17 years. Hunt was the Senior Director of Creative Design at Universal. While there, he received several patents for his designs on theme parks, rides,

and attractions. Hunt left Universal after the pandemic. He recently finished a consulting project for Netflix. Eric Hunt is an enrolled Member of the Lumbee Tribe.



Hunt's Painting at New Point Baptist Church in Robeson County



Hunt with Bumble Bee



# Chairman's Monthly Report

Dear Lumbee People,

One of the joys of being Chairman of our Tribe is the ability to work with such talented employees. With over 160 employees working for the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, we are reaching our citizens through Housing services, Energy services, Elders services, Youth services, Veteran services, etc., while also collaborating with many partners on a weekly basis. One of our core partners, Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE), has been with us through two hurricanes and the pandemic. With CORE's help, we were able to provide thousands of COVID tests and vaccinations to our tribal citizens. The work CORE has done is invaluable and I hope we will be able to continue our work together on future events as we hopefully move past the COVID pandemic.

We recently met with the CREATE Economic Development Center, which is part of the UNC- Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School. CREATE's Anchor Institutions Creating Economic Resiliency (AICER) is a project between CREATE and UNC-Pembroke. The Lumbee Tribe will work with the AICER project and UNC-Pembroke to support small business owners in our tribal communities. The Lumbee Tribe looks forward to working with the CREATE team and UNC-Chapel Hill.

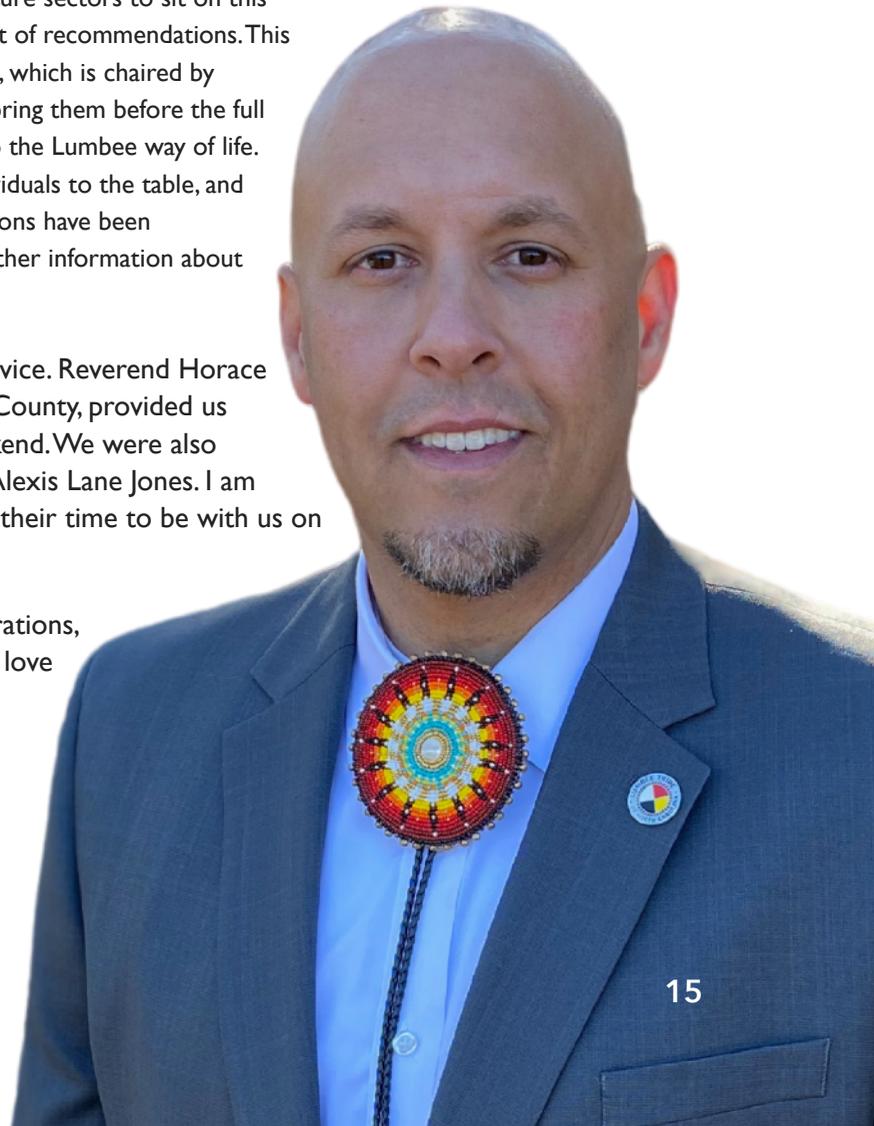
During my swearing in ceremony, I discussed the need to create different advisory groups that would work in a temporary capacity to provide recommendations to my administration and the Tribal Council. The first committee created was the Agriculture Advisory Committee. I asked Mr. Eddie Moore, from the Prospect Community, to Chair this committee. Under Mr. Moore's guidance, he selected numerous tribal members across the different agriculture sectors to sit on this committee. The group met three times and provided me with a list of recommendations. This month, I will send this list to the Council's Agriculture Committee, which is chaired by Wendy Moore, to discuss these recommendations and hopefully bring them before the full Council for their consideration. Agriculture is a key component to the Lumbee way of life. I am thankful to Eddie Moore for taking on this task, bringing individuals to the table, and making the necessary recommendations. Once the recommendations have been considered and if passed by the Tribal Council, we will provide further information about the next steps.

We welcomed in the Easter Holiday with a Good Friday service. Reverend Horace Oxendine, Pastor at Gray Pond Baptist Church in Scotland County, provided us with words of encouragement as we began the Easter Weekend. We were also blessed with a beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace by Ms. Alexis Lane Jones. I am thankful to Pastor Oxendine and Ms. Jones for volunteering their time to be with us on Good Friday.

With the year off to a great start with many fruitful collaborations, the days ahead shine with promise for the Lumbee People. I love you all and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the Lumbee Nation.



John Lowery  
Lumbee Tribal Chairman



## The Lumbee Tribe Outreach Team is on the Road to Bring Services to You

The Lumbee Outreach Team began traveling to Lumbee Tribal Communities in February.

They offer services Tuesday through Thursday on a rotation schedule. They help our Tribal Members fill out applications as well as answering questions about tribal services and programs. For the schedule, visit the Lumbee Tribe Social Media pages and Lumbee News on the Tribal website at [www.lumbee Tribe.com](http://www.lumbee Tribe.com)



# LUMBEE TRIBE OF N.C. TRIBAL SERVICES



**Department of Energy and Water Services** (910) 522.2206



**Home Ownership Program** (910) 522.5479



**Housing Department** (910) 522.5161



**MAT Services - Substance Abuse Drugs Recovery** (910) 522.5055



**Project 3C** (910) 522.2221



**Project Indigechoice** (910) 522.2215



**Rehabilitation Program** (910) 522.2213



**Rental Program** (910) 522.2208



**Mortgage/Rental Pandemic Relief Program (RPRP)** (910) 775.2543



**Tribal Enrollment** (910) 522.5474



**Veteran Services** (910) 522.2208



**Vocational Rehabilitation** (910) 521.4220



**Youth Services | Boys & Girls Club** (910) 775.9071

**Lumbee Tribe of N.C. | [www.lumbee Tribe.com/services](http://www.lumbee Tribe.com/services)**

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