



Cumberland County Connection

“Connecting Employees With Events Happening Around The County”

Cliff Notes

A Message From The County Manager



County Manager
Cliff Strassenburg



Laura Johnson

The faces may be new, but the mission is unchanged. Cumberland County continues to make serving its 300,000 plus citizens its number one priority.

That's been an easy task because, in my book, our employees are ranked #1. Please join me in welcoming our newest team players. They're already fitting right in.

New Faces In Familiar Places

Every once in a while the face of Cumberland County Government changes. Many times it happens after a major election. But, it also happens when there is a shift in a number of employees in key positions.

Recently, the latter has been the case as the county has said “goodbye” to a handful of employees, due to retirement or relocation, and “hello” to their successors.

In my office, Margaret Davis, who had been my administrative assistant for more than 27 years, retired May 1st. Her dedication and experience are just some of the things that will be greatly missed. It is my privilege to introduce to you her replacement, Cindy DiMartino. Cindy is a native of New York with experience in Office Management. She has already hit the ground running by quickly learning how to prepare agenda packets and how to handle the influx of calls coming into the County Manager's Office.



Cindy DiMartino

Chip Modlin, the long-time Director of Social Services, officially retired last Summer, but stayed on a contractual basis through the end of the year until his replacement, William “Bill” Scarlett, was found. We liked Bill so much, we built a new building just for him to begin work. No, seriously... Coincidentally, Bill's arrival was simultaneous with the opening of the new DSS location on Ramsey Street.



William “Bill” Scarlett



Bradley Williams

Also, we are delighted to introduce Bradley Williams, the new Deputy DSS Director, from Tennessee.

The end of the year also brought a change in leadership in two other departments...the Health Department and Emergency Management Office. Dr. Jesse Williams, the county's long-time Public Health Director, has retired. The new



Janet Lindbloom

Health Director is Janet Lindbloom, who came from Cape Fear Valley Health System.

Cheryl Grabowski, the county's former Emergency Management Director, has relocated to her homestate of Florida where she is guaranteed to receive a lot of hurricane action. Surviving Hurricanes Bertha, Bonnie and Floyd, Harold Beverage, the former Deputy Director,



William “Billy” Elmore and Harold Beverage

has now taken the top spot. William “Billy” Elmore, from the City of Fayetteville's Fire Marshal's Office, has become the new Deputy Director.

And finally, the County Attorney's Office loss is Pulaski County Arkansas' gain. The recently married Karen Musgrave - McDonald has taken a job in the county attorney's office there. She's been replaced by Laura Johnson. Having practiced law in New York, Laura most recently worked for the Cumberland County Legal Aid Office.



Stacy Lowes Martin

Congratulations, Stacy!!!

Stacy Lowes Martin, of the Cumberland County Mental Health Department, was recently recognized at a Department Head meeting for an idea she submitted to the County Employee Suggestion Program.

Stacy is the first County employee to earn recognition for a suggestion that yielded a tangible cost savings for the County. Her winning suggestion was to cut costs in newspaper advertising of job openings by using line ads instead of block ads.

She was rewarded with a Certificate of Recognition and a letter of appreciation along with a check for 10% of the total savings.

Elated to learn the good news, Stacey had this to say, “I hope it will encourage and inspire other County employees to submit their cost-saving and morale-boosting ideas, too.”

Stacey works in the Mental Health Center's Administration Office.

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Deadline for next issue is July 30, 2000

County Government Week Busy But Rewarding

* National County Government Week was a blast in Cumberland County. From the **Honor Our Own Day** kick-off to the **Wear Your Pride County-wide** grand finale, participation from employees was high and morale, in some cases, was even higher.

Honor Our Own Day was held in the Commissioners' Chambers with more than 55 employees receiving 20 and 25 year service pins. It was followed by a reception hosted by the Commissioners' Office. In addition, several departments honored employees who had at least 5 years of service with their own office ceremonies.

Departments in the Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center participated in **Tour Tuesday**. Students from Douglas Byrd High School were greeted by Commissioner Talmage Baggett and toured not only the Commissioners' Chambers, but the district and superior courtrooms, Tax Administration and the Sheriff's Office.

Cumberland County on Display at Cross Creek Mall on Wednesday was also a big hit. A record number of 15 departments set up display booths to pass out information and meet citizens to discuss the ser-

vices provided by their office.

There were only four takers for **Take the County Into the Community Day** on Thursday. The Sheriff's Office (Sgt. Dawn Hamerla), Community Development (Bobby Thomas), Emergency Management (Harold Beverage) and Soil and Water Conservation (Kay Bullard) went out into the community to make special presentations regarding their respective departments. It turned out to be time well spent for representatives who spent an hour in a classroom at Southview High and Spring Lake Middle, as well as Algier B. Wilkins Elementary and E.E. Miller Elementary.

Friday was a lot of fun. **Wear Your Pride County-wide Day** drew participation from a number of employees. Community Development even ordered special county shirts to make sure its staff was in full compliance in time for the grand finale.

In addition, the Social Services Department held a special open house for staff, clients and their families. Hundreds of people flooded the new location on Ramsey Street to check out the facility and be a part of the festivities.

Three departments were rewarded at a recent department head meeting for displaying the most county spirit during the week-long observance. Community Development won a sub party courtesy of Jersey Mike's on Boone Trail. The Sheriff's Office won a pizza party courtesy of Domino's Pizza on Grove Street. And Soil and Water Conservation won a pizza party courtesy of Primo Pizza at Cross Creek Mall.

In addition, Community Development was selected in a raffle to receive a half day off for one of its employees. The department raffled the prize off among its staff members.

A special highlight of the week was the launching of the county's new and improved web site (www.co.cumberland.nc.us). So far, the response has been favorable from employees as well as citizens who consider the site to be very user-friendly. Agendas and Minutes from Commissioners' meetings are accessible as well as job announcements, employment applications and even this very news letter.

Needless to say, National County Government Week was a major success. We're already looking forward to next year.

* County Government Week 2000



Commissioner Talmage Baggett and Vice-Chairman Lee Warner congratulate Ruby Willis of Social Services for 30 years of service during "Honor Our Own Day."

* Douglas Byrd High School Students Learn About Cumberland County Government on "Tour Tuesday"



Tax Administrator Garrett Alexander explains the process of collecting taxes.



Students view the Peace Officers' Memorial in front of Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center.



The Social Services Department helps wrap-up the week's festivities with an Open House to show off its new building to staff, clients and their families. Lots of food, folks and fun for all.



A lesson in County Government 101 from Commissioner Talmage Baggett.



* Cumberland County On Display At Cross Creek Mall



Personnel Office



Solid Waste Management



Commissioners/Manager's Offices

* Showing Their Pride County-Wide



Finance Office



Tax Administration



Parks & Recreation



Work Force Development

* Take The County Into The Community Day



Sgt. Dawn Hamerla, Crime Prevention Officer in the Sheriff's Department, takes time at Southview H.S. to answer many questions on crime and safety.



Kay Bullard of Soil and Water Conservation, gives Algier B. Wilkins Elementary students a chance to feel the texture of soil samples.



Community Development



Register of Deeds Office

County Departments On The Move

NEWS BRIEFS

The Fire Marshal's Office recently received over 150 stuffed animals donated by the Wal-Mart Super Store located on Skibo Road. The animals vary in size and character. They will be used in fire prevention programs for kids and used to aid investigators with youngsters involved in setting fires. In addition, they will be given to kids who are victims of home fires.



Stuffed toys donated by Wal-Mart.

The Cumberland County Mental Health Center has received a grant for \$192,805.00, from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse Services Division. This grant was awarded through a highly competitive process, which examined both past performance and the strength and quality of plans for expansion of substance abuse services. The funds will be used to expand the MAJORS Program Substance Abuse/Juvenile Justice Initiative.

Cooperative Extension's Baby Think it Over Program has reached over 300 teens during the last three months, providing them with the experience of being a teen parent with the use of infant simulators. An evaluation will be completed in June to determine how the teen pregnancy prevention program has reached youth in Cumberland County.

April 20th was a pesticide drop off day for homeowners and agricultural producers. The event was co-sponsored by Cooperative Extension, Solid Waste Management and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. It was an opportunity for citizens to dispose their unwanted pesticides in a proper manner free of charge. Special recognition should go to solid waste enforcement and NCDA for providing the assistance for carrying out this project. Over 4,500 pounds of pesticides were brought in for proper disposal.

For the second consecutive year Cumberland County's WorkFirst Program has been recognized by the Governor's WorkFirst Business Council. The local program was the recipient of awards for innovations and accomplishments that enable program participants to move from welfare to work.

Big Enterprises of Fayetteville was honored as Business of the Year for its support and utilization of newly developed retention services which help to remove barriers that might prevent recently hired WorkFirst recipients from staying on the job.

The Outstanding County Collaboration Award was given to a number of local area government entities and organizations for the team work and community efforts which have contributed to the success of the Cumberland County WorkFirst Program.

The team players include the Fayetteville Area System of Transit and the Town of Spring Lake for the new bus routes that now provide public transportation between Fayetteville and Spring Lake; the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce for its efforts in promoting WorkFirst to area employers as an important resource pool for new employees; and FTCC for its educational services that includes a Human Resource Development Lab, which is based in the Department of Social Services and staffed by community college instructors.

Three Cumberland County Public Library & Information (CCPL&I) Librarians recently presented to audiences of over 500 at the Bi-Annual Conference of the Public Library Association held in Charlotte, NC March 29 - April 1, 2000.

Jane Castro and Nora Armstrong presented the program *The Long Hot Summer: Creating and Sustaining an Adult Summer Reading Program*, which highlighted resources and activities used by the CCPL&I.

Wanda Hunter spoke on the topic, *Not just for Highbrows: Organizing a Library Sponsored Book Discussion Program for Special Populations*. This presentation focused on organizing and facilitating book discussion programs, selecting appropriate literature and creating activities to enliven the discussion for readers with special needs. Several other CCPL&I staff members attended the conference. The information gathered will be utilized to strengthen and build upon the current services provided by the library.

In January 2000, Nicole Dickens and Shirley Battle of the Cumberland County Day Reporting Center had the opportunity to attend Survival Skills for Women (SSW) training in Raleigh, NC. This is a national program that strives for self sufficiency in women.

The curriculum is divided into ten workshops ranging from assertiveness to coping with crisis. These workshops teach those involved how to take charge of their surroundings, health, emotional well-being, employment matters and family relationships. Group participation, role playing and homework play a large part in the success of the program. Research shows this program is very successful and it is used all over the United States by many organizations. Successful completion is followed by a graduation ceremony and a certificate.

While at the training, Nicole and Shirley learned first hand all about survival skills. They were stranded in a hotel with no transportation and little food for several days during the big snow! Fortunately, they survived and even completed the training certification.

Retirees

William K. Brigman retired from the Sheriff's Office on April 1, 2000 after 13 years of service.

James A. Britt retired from the Mental Health Center on April 1, 2000 after 14 years of service.

Jeffrey A. Cumbia retired from the Sheriff's Office on April 1, 2000 after 15 years of service.

Jeanne Harris retired from the Department of Social Services on May 1, 2000 after 24 years of service.

Arthur David Henderson retired from the Sheriff's Office on April 1, 2000 after 19 years of service.

Gerald L. Smith retired from the Sheriff's Office on May 1, 2000 after 22 years of service.

Victoria E. Smith retired from the Cumberland County Public Library and Information Center on January 1, 2000 after 32 years of service.

Cathy Starr retired from the Sheriff's Office on February 1, 2000 after 5 years of service.

Margaret S. Davis retired from the Administration Department on May 1, 2000 after 27 years of service.



Peggy J. McLean retired from the Cumberland County Register of Deeds Office on April 1, 2000 after 41 years of service.

Thank You

(A Letter from a Citizen)

Dear Mr. Thasher;

Thanks to you and Penelope Hamblin, the Bookmobile is now coming to my house!!! Thank you so much!!! I wrote you on February 21st to request help in getting to the library. Prior to that, I talked with Mrs. Hamblin at the North Regional Library for the same help. I was so overjoyed, astounded and amazed when Sue Dittmar called me to say that the Bookmobile would be coming to see me. I am so grateful to you, Mrs. Hamblin, for listening to me, caring about my problem and contacting the Bookmobile. I want to thank Ms. Dittmar and Ms. Beaudry for coming, following up and being of such fantastic service. You are all extraordinary.

The Bookmobile is a wonderful service. I just love it. I was most surprised to find the latest of fiction, non-fiction, videos and so much more. I was impressed with the breadth and scope of the knowledge that Ms. Dittmar and Ms. Beaudry have about all the books.

Most of all, I appreciated their caring and consideration for my disabilities in helping me. I am very grateful to Ms. Beaudry for carrying my more than armful of books into my house!!!

I am so happy and so glad that you have this service for people like me who can not get to the library. I feel like I am a part of things, can read things that I would not have had access to, and am so enriched by this service. I also love it that I can e-mail my book list to Ms. Beaudry. I love your web site and am enjoying browsing. You really have something very, very, very special. No wonder you won the national award!!! Congratulations. These staff members should also get awards.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!!

Sincerely,
Cindy Rogers

Thank You

(A Letter from a Citizen)

I recently visited the (Register of) Deeds Office in mid-February. I am writing to commend you and your staff for their excellent, efficient and quick service. I was visiting Fayetteville on a short research trip and arrived earlier than I had planned. On a hunch, I decided to visit the courthouse to get information on researching deeds.

I arrived on Friday, a little less than two hours before closing. Several of the staff in the deed vault offered their assistance and explained the process for requesting deeds. In less than an hour, I had copies of more than 20 deeds.

The efficiency and courtesy of the staff impressed me. They were top-notch professionals. I couldn't single out one staff member because they all provided excellent service.

Furthermore, I was impressed with the process. I have visited many deed offices, but have yet to come across one with services that compare to yours. The process was simple and the deed index entries easy to find. The quick-copy turn-around service was an added benefit. The digitized process was evidently a time saver and it certainly enabled me to complete a lot of research in a short time. Your office is a fine example of how technology improves service.

Hollis L. Gentry
NAHB National Housing Library

KUDO'S KORNER

Master Gardener Volunteer **Jim Kritz** was recently honored by the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Office for reaching 1000 volunteer hours and 2000 cumulative hours. In all, Master Gardener Volunteers contributed \$63, 805 to the local extension office through 3668.5 hours of volunteer time, out of pocket expenses, mileage, donations, grants and funds raised.

Tammy Myatt, a breastfeeding education program assistant in the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Office, was honored with two awards at the recently Expanded Food and Nutrition Annual State Meeting. Tammy was named Outstanding Program Assistant for special programs and also won an Outstanding Service Award.

In the Electrical Mechanical Department, **Johnny Chance** and **Jim Napier** recently received their state license in HVAC (Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning). **Jackie Melvin** and **Lee Phillips** have been certified in Backflow Prevention. And **Damon Richardson** and **Flint Hamilton** have obtained their Unlimited Electrical License.

The Cumberland County Public Library and Information Center (CCPL&IC) recently recognized four volunteers for their exceptional services. **Pam Boose** was awarded for 825 hours of volunteer services; **Christopher Banks** for 186 hours of service; **Doris Jackson** for assistance with the organization of the discard book room; and **Linda Jackson** for maintaining the condition of the discard book room and also ensuring that all materials are in order for the library's two annual discard book sales.



Pam Boose (left) Christopher Banks (center) and Nora Jones (right), librarian at volunteer appreciation ceremony.

Gloria McFadden, Information and Referral Librarian at the Cumberland County Public Library and Information Center, was recently recognized as a North Carolina Alliance of Information and Referral Services (NC AIRS) Member of the Year. McFadden was one of two recipients of the annual award at the NC AIRS conference in Charlotte, NC March 29 - 31, 2000.

What's

HAPPENING?

- Blood drive at the Cumberland County Coliseum Complex July 22nd from 10 AM - 4 PM. 609-6300.

- The Cumberland County Fair August 22 - 27th. Employee Appreciation Day, Saturday, August 26th. Free employee admission with valid i.d., (business card will suffice). Half-price tickets for family members. 438-4140.

- The American Heart Association's Heart Walk Saturday, August 26th. Registration at 7:30 AM. Walk at 8:30. Contact Elaine Bowser, 678-7757.

PROMOTIONS

February 15, 2000 through April 30, 2000

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>
ANIMAL CONTROL			
Lloyd Dixon	Animal Control Officer	Animal Control Investigator	03/27/00
Kim McDonough	Shelter Attendant	Animal Control Officer	03/27/00
BOARD OF ELECTIONS:			
Amy Canady	Elections Svc. Assistant	Computer Support Technician II	02/28/00
CIVIC CENTER:			
Jessie Britt	Maintenance Worker I	Maintenance Technician II	03/13/00
Jason Clough	Maintenance Worker I	Maintenance Technician II	03/27/00
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:			
Harold Beverage	Deputy Dir. of Emergency Mngt.	Emergency Management Director	03/06/00
FINANCE:			
Debbie Miller	Office Assistant IV	Finance Assistant II	02/28/00
HEALTH:			
Cindy Hofchkiss	Processing Assistant III	Medical Records Assistant IV	03/27/00
Mara Odera	Nutritionist I	Nutritionist II	02/28/00
INSPECTIONS:			
William Peabody	Zoning Officer I	Chief Zoning Officer	02/28/00
Angela Perrier	Processing Assistant III	Zoning Officer I	03/27/00
LEGAL:			
Douglas Candlers	Staff Attorney II	Staff Attorney III	03/14/00
LIBRARY:			
Natalae Anderson	Library Technician (PT)	Library Technician (FT)	04/09/00
Jeffrey Benenhaley	Custodian Janitor I	Library Technician	03/26/00
Adalade Burton	Library Technician	Circulation Manager	04/09/00
Jane Casto	Librarian III	Librarian IV	03/12/00
Nancy Rowan	Library Page	Library Technician	02/14/00
Tracy Trott	Computer Lab Technician	Computer Lab Associate	03/26/00
Leanne White	Library Technician	Library Associate I	03/12/00
PLANNING:			
Lloyd Bigler	Sign Installer	Sign Supervisor	03/27/00
RECREATION:			
William Brown	Asst. Recreation Center Director	Recreation Center Director	03/13/00
Elizabeth Minton	Office Support III	Office Support IV	03/27/00
REGISTER OF DEEDS:			
Andrea Brewington	Deputy Register of Deeds I	Deputy Register of Deeds III	04/10/00
Sheila Dail	Deputy Register of Deeds II	Deputy Register of Deeds III	03/13/00
Brenda Fisher	Deputy Register of Deeds III	Asst. Register of Deeds	04/10/00
Pamela Gore	Asst. Register of Deeds	Sr. Asst. Register of Deeds	03/13/00
Tricia House	Deputy Register of Deeds I	Deputy Register of Deeds II	04/10/00
Michelle Mackey	Deputy Register of Deeds III	Asst. Register of Deeds	03/13/00
SHERIFF'S OFFICE:			
Fred Adams	Deputy I	Deputy II	02/27/00
Larry Epler	Deputy I	Sergeant	02/27/00
Paul Hinson	Deputy III	Sergeant Specialist	03/13/00
Leon Johnson	Jailer I	Deputy I	03/13/00
John Leggette	Deputy III	Sergeant	04/09/00
David McNeely	Sergeant	Sergeant Specialist	02/27/00
David Parker	Lieutenant	Captain	03/13/00
Melissa Powers	Deputy I	Deputy II	03/27/00
David Pullian	Deputy I	Deputy II	03/13/00
Terri Putman	Sergeant	Lieutenant	04/09/00
John Smith	Sergeant Specialist	Lieutenant Specialist	03/13/00
Paul Spiegler	Deputy II	Deputy III	04/09/00
SOCIAL SERVICES:			
Judith Adkins	IM Case Worker I	IM Case Worker II	04/10/00
Barbara Daniels	IM Case Worker III	IM Supervisor I	03/27/00
Patty Wright	IM Case Worker II	IM Case Worker III	04/10/00
SOLID WASTE:			
Frank Fogg	Equipment Operator I	Equipment Operator II	02/28/00
Richard Middleton	Solid Waste Inspector I	Equipment Operator I	04/24/00
TAX ADMINISTRATION:			
Monica Gross	Office Support V	Tax Assistant III	04/24/00

Health Department Walks For Babies

The Health Department had a passionate, dedicated team of fundraisers as well as generous employees that contributed \$3200.00 to the March of Dimes this year.

Team leaders for the year 2000 at CCHD were: BJ Barnwell - Healthy Families; Leslie Dumas - Health Education; Felicia Harris - Environmental Health; Suzette Hardee - Nursing; Amelia Joas - TANF Program; Felicia Jones - Nursing; Dorinda Marks - WIC; Amy Marohl - Health Education; Angela Perrier - Environmental Health; Shirley Watson - Healthy Families; and Carolyn Woodyard - WIC.

Team leaders at CCHD received donations, but raised the majority of their contribution by fundraising efforts which included: a breakfast sale, Blue Jeans

For Babies (specific donation which allowed employees to wear jeans on Fridays throughout Walk America season), an Easter Beanie Baby Sale and a raffle.

The March of Dimes has helped saved millions of babies through donations, which have led to the Polio Vaccination, Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU), and surfactant therapy. The March of Dimes works to achieve its goals through programs of research, medical services, public and professional education, and public affairs. The March of Dimes also supports local programs aimed at reducing infant mortality by providing grants.

The Walk America campaign is the March of Dimes biggest fundraiser.