



The Cumberland County Connection

Connecting Cumberland County Employees With Events Happening Around The County

MANAGER MARTIN'S MESSAGE

by James E. Martin



County Manager James E. Martin

It is a pleasure to say "Hello" to many of you for the first time as the new Cumberland County Manager. Having served as Deputy County Manager for just over five years, I've gotten familiar with many of you, and for those I haven't, I look forward to doing so.

As you may know by now, there have been quite a few changes since I took over as Manager on October 1st. As of October 17th, Juanita Pilgrim, formerly an Assistant County

Manager, has become the new Deputy County Manager with a concentration in the Human Services area and Amy H. Cannon, formerly the Finance Director, joins the management team as a new Assistant County Manager. Cliff Spiller's title of Assistant County Manager expands to include General and Support Services (view the Organizational Chart on the County's web site at www.co.cumberland.nc.us).



County Manager James E. Martin (middle left) is joined by members of his new management team: Assistant County Manager Amy H. Cannon (left), Deputy County Manager Juanita Pilgrim (middle right) and Assistant County Manager Cliff Spiller (far right).

I am confident that I have assembled an excellent management team. Together we will work hard to continue to improve this county.

While there's still the same determination, there will be new ideas, new energy and new direction. Having served in Manager positions in Robeson and Hoke Counties, I am accustomed to knowing and doing what it takes to provide good solid leadership that generates positive results...all in the best interest of the county's taxpayers and you, the county's dedicated employees.

I encourage you to continue providing quality services to our clients. The kind of quality that makes Cumberland County stand out among the best in the state. We are all public servants and we do more than merely show up for work each day. We must go above and beyond the call of duty and work to "Exceed Our Customers Expectations."

I am very proud of all of our employees and the work you do. And I look forward to working with you.

Visit the County's Web Site

www.co.cumberland.nc.us

FAREWELL STRASSENBURG

by Tonya Harris-Council

On October 1, 2000, after 27 years of service to Cumberland County Government, Clifford G. Strassenburg slipped away into retirement. Having served as the County Manager for the last 17 years and the Planning Director for 10 years prior to that, there's no doubt, Strassenburg has left his mark on this county.

Under his leadership, the county has grown to a population of close to 300,000 residents and the number of County Government employees has increased to approximately 2,500.

More importantly the county's ability to provide efficient and effective services to an increasing population has improved.

Strassenburg, known to many as just "Cliff," started out with hair a lot longer, fuller and a lot less gray. His step had slightly a bit more pep to it. He was young, energetic and full of hope for this county.

He turned that hope into action. The kind of action that catapulted the county into the slot of the 4th largest metropolitan area in the state.

He has left the county a man who is not only a lot wiser, but much more seasoned and just as honorable as he was the day he started. However, most of all, he leaves this county a much better place to live for all its citizens.



At a special retirement reception, Strassenburg receives farewell handshake from Ed Melvin, who at the time was Chairman of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners.



New County Manager James E. Martin hands Strassenburg one of many retirement gifts he is to receive from employees and friends.



A smiling Strassenburg with wife Wanda just before they begin packing up his office.



Strassenburg and wife Wanda are flanked by well-wishers who traveled from near and far to say goodbye.

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HEART WALK 2000

by Tonya Harris-Council

The Cumberland County Heart Walk Campaign was a major success for the third straight year. Employees, family members and friends helped the county exceed its goal of \$20,000 by raising close to \$27,000. Plus, there were over 622 walkers representing the county. Cumberland County was the top fundraiser in the overall local campaign for the 2nd year in a row. That's compared to PWC employees who raised \$15,000; Cape Fear Valley Health System - \$10,000; Ft. Bragg - \$10,000; Wal-Mart - \$8,000; and Kelly Springfield - \$4,800. Plus, 9 employees joined the 500 Club by raising at least \$500. That's 9 out of a total of 35 community-wide.



Myra Brooks of the Attorney's Office recruits a friend to help her joyfully make it to the finish line.

The top employee fundraiser for the campaign was Karen Rowland of Inspections, who raised over \$1,200. The Department of Social Services and Mental Health Center, two of the county's largest departments, led the way in money raised among departments. DSS raised the most with more than \$5,300, while Mental Health came in second with more than \$4,700.

A special "Thank You" to our many T-shirt sponsors. M J Soffe Sporting Goods donated over 590 T-shirts for the walk. Windows of Opportunity deducted \$400 from the cost of screen printing for the shirts. Bass Air Conditioning, McCune Technology and Shuller, Ferris and Lindstrom & Associates Architects were \$500 sponsors. Commissioner Lee Warren donated \$125. Commissioner Billy King, Auctioneer H. B. Smith and the Cumberland County Partnership for Children were \$100 sponsors.

The Heart Walk campaign was capped off by a lively post-walk reception during which all recruitment leaders and team captains received a floral arrangement, courtesy of Bordeaux Florist and many many door prizes were given away.

LEWIS CHAPEL S.T.A.R.S. GIVE FROM THE HEART

by Karen Moore

The 2000 Heart Walk marks the second year Lewis Chapel Middle School has joined Cumberland County employees in raising funds on behalf of the American Heart Association. "Although many people say that teenagers don't care," says Team Captain Virginia Hill, "most of (these students) know someone who has been affected by heart disease and they are really very caring. So, whatever they have that they could give, they were willing to give of themselves." Hill is also an 8th grade teacher at the school.

Approximately 30, walkers representing the school trudged the 4-mile course including students, teachers, parents, children and the school's brand new principal.

On the morning of the walk, Principal John Smith, Jr. rallied the group for a spirit-filled exercise in togetherness. The walkers shouted chants while carrying a banner that described the students as S.T.A.R.S, which stands for *Striving To Achieve Real Success*. The banner also proclaimed the motto: *Failure Is Not an Option*.

Back at the school, hearts decorated the corridors as evidence of the more than 900 students who raised money for the Heart Walk.

"Homeroom teachers did an excellent job in assisting in the fundraising," according to Hill. "The winners for the homeroom competition for the largest amount of money raised include the following teachers: Leslie Brickhouse - 6th grade; Kathy Hardy - 7th grade; and Y. McMillian - 8th grade.

This year, Lewis Chapel students, teachers, parents and friends raised more than \$1,200. Congratulations to this school of S.T.A.R.S.

Lewis Chapel is a cultural and performing arts school located on Skibo Road.



Lewis Chapel Middle School Students accompanied by teachers, parents, friends and their principal, John Smith, Jr. (far right).

CUMBERLAND COUNTY EMPLOYEES RAISE \$64,000 FOR UNITED WAY

by Tonya Harris-Council

The Cumberland County Employee United Way Campaign raised more than \$64,000 for local charities. Campaign Coordinator James Lawson says even though the campaign fell slightly below its goal of \$66,000, employees still have a lot to be proud of.

Many departments went well above the call of duty to meet their goals and to promote team spirit. A highlight of the campaign by far was the 50/50 raffle during which \$1,746 for the grand prize was collected. A lucky Sheriff's Office Dispatcher, Wanda Smith, won half the pot, a whopping \$873, while the other half was donated to the United Way. In addition, lots of other employees received gifts donated as part of the raffle.

This was the first year the 50/50 raffle was used as an incentive, but with its popularity, there's not doubt that it won't be the last year.



United Way Coordinator James Lawson of the Personnel Office is amused by the elated reaction of Wanda Smith of the Sheriff's Office when she's handed the grand prize of 50/50 raffle - \$873 cash.

THEY WASHED, THEY COOKED AND THEN THEY SHOPPED!

by Stephanie Hardy

December 9th was the lucky date for 70 children selected by the Community Police (CP) Officers of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office to shop at the Wal-Mart on Ramsey Street. Excited children set out with shopping carts manned by approximately 25 deputies and civilian employees at 9 a.m. in search of clothing and toys. Each child was given approximately \$200 to spend in the store. Two fundraisers – a



The Customer Service and Operations Division of the Tax Administration's Office donated \$140.00 this year to "Shop with the Sheriff." Deputy Phil Izell accepts the donation from Tina Belanger, Operations manager along with the rest of the staff.

car wash and spaghetti lunch – were conducted by the CP Unit in November to help raise money for the event.

7 year-old Crystal West of Grays Creek carefully selected her items as she shopped in the store with her mother, Catherine. Crystal was interviewed and selected to participate in the program by CP officer Robert Dicke. She patiently tried on a new coat and some shoes, picked out some pajamas and a Britney Spears al-

bum. The last words heard from Crystal, though, were when she picked out a pretty purple bike and said "You're sure I can get this one?" Her eyes lit up as one of the Wal-Mart associates wheeled the bike over to her. She only let go of the bike twice after that – once at the register and then again when it was put in her back seat.

Sheriff Earl R. "Moose" Butler stated that this program was "worth every smile on everyone's face" and how much the Sheriff's Office appreciated the support of the community, including the Knights of Pythians, Wal-Mart and BB & T.

The program has been in existence since 1995 and has provided over 300 children in Cumberland County with toys and necessities.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING...

Storm Water Services Partners with Beaver Management Assistance Program

by Leslee N. Black

In North Carolina, beavers have caused millions of dollars in damages to roads, agriculture and timberlands, drainage systems, landscape plantings and other property each year. There were reports from private landholders in several southeastern NC counties in 1991 and 1992, stating beaver damage losses exceeding \$1 million each year.

The North Carolina legislature created the Beaver Damage Control Advisory Board to develop, implement and oversee a program to control beaver damage on public and private lands. The program is run by the USDA's Wildlife Services in over 40 NC counties.

Storm Water Services has recently partnered with the local NC Cooperative Extension Office to provide beaver management services to control flooding and erosion in Fayetteville and Cumberland County. This service, which was previously performed on a "cost share" basis, is now provided at no charge to property owners who pay an annual storm water fee.

RETIREES

William F. Brown retired from the Social Services' Department on May 1, 2000 after 6 years of service.

Barbara A. Cashwell retired from the Public Library on May 1, 2000 after 23 years of service.

Jose L. Davis retired from the Social Services' Department on May 1, 2000 after 7 years of service.

Gloria D. Frederick retired from the Sheriff's Office on August 1, 2000 after 20 years of service.

Betty L. Hall retired from the Social Services' Department on August 1, 2000 after 25 years of service.

Estella E. Jeffries retired from the Social Services' Department on October 1, 2000 after 11 years of service.

Joyce B. Johnson retired from the Health Department on July 1, 2000 after 16 years of service.

Wilson L. King retired from the Sheriff's Office on August 1, 2000 after 18 years of service.

Betty J. Kramer retired from the Veteran's Services Office on August 1, 2000 after 27 years of service.

Robert N. Lyons retired from the Parks and Recreation Department on July 1, 2000 after 7 years of service.

Doreathea McEachin retired from the Social Services' Department on August 1, 2000 after 22 years of service.

Christine Gail Myers retired from the Finance Department on April 1, 2000 after 23 years of service.

Carrie V. Sparks retired from the Social Services' Department on July 1, 2000 after 30 years of service.

Clifford G. Strassenburg retired from the County Manager's Office on October 1, 2000 after 27 years of service.

Barbara W. Vecchione retired from the Social Services' Department on May 1, 2000 after 5 years of service.

Patricia A. Wade retired from the Tax Administration Office on July 1, 2000 after 10 years of service.

David L. Watzek retired from the Sheriff's Office on July 1, 2000 after 6 years of service.

Dr. Jesse F. Williams retired from the Health Department on June 1, 2000 after 24 years of service.

Peggy J. Worrell retired from the Social Services' Department on July 1, 2000 after 16 years of service.



Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District Chairman, Wingate Collier, presents 'Search for Soil' booklets to Jami Inman, Cumberland County Schools Science Curriculum Specialist. Class sets of the booklets were placed in 83 elementary and middle school media centers in September.

The "Search for Soil" booklets provide an excellent resource for teaching soil characteristics to 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade students.

KUDO'S KORNER

Deputy County Manager Juanita Pilgrim has been appointed by the State Legislature to serve on the Finance Sub-committee of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services.

Eugene Hines, Deputy Director of the Health Department, has been appointed to serve as chairperson of the North Carolina Council on Sickle Cell Syndrome. Hines was appointed to the post by former Governor James B. Hunt.

Deputy Inspections Director Deborah Simpson has been appointed to the N.C. Code Officials Qualification Board. The board provides for the education, training and certification of building code enforcement officials.

William White of the Solid Waste Department has recently passed the Certified Equipment Manager (CEM) exam. For his efforts, Williams was recognized at the 13th Annual Equipment Management Council's Technologies Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio as one of the outstanding equipment managers in the industry.

Horticulture Agent Nancy Anderson was recognized with the South Central District Agriculture Agent Association Achievement Award for promotion of the Cumberland County Master Gardener Volunteer program. Anderson also recently became a Certified Plant Professional.

THANKS TO YOU

The 8th Annual Christmas Opportunity Food Drive
Collects More Than 2,000 Pounds of Goods
for the Salvation Army

Board of Commissioners' Chairman Lee Warren, who started the project in 1993, assists as usual in the delivery of the food and non-perishable items collected from various county buildings.



Joe Simmons of Building and Grounds (shown on left) helps Commissioner Lee Warren (shown on right) roll some of the goods out of the delivery truck.



Standing in front of the 2,000 pounds of goods county employees donated to the Salvation Army are (from l-r) Chairman of the Commissioners - Lee Warren; Building and Grounds Crew - T. D. McDonald, Legrand Hucks, David Hassell and Joe Simmons; and Lt. Ethan Frizzell of the Salvation Army.

MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Tom Miriello, Area Director for the Cumberland County Mental Health Center, was presented the Year 2000 Lifetime Achievement Award by the NC Foundation for Alcohol and Drug Abuse. The award is given to leaders in the field of Substance Abuse who have demonstrated leadership, commitment, dedication and excellence in the advancement of services for addicted persons in North Carolina.

"Tom Miriello's accomplishments are well known throughout our field in North Carolina," according to Sharon Yates, North Carolina Foundation Board President. She adds, "He has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and advocacy abilities in the addictions arena. He has earned the reputation of always going out of his way to work for better substance abuse services in this state. He has the respect and admiration of his peers and is truly deserving of this award."

Mr. Miriello's distinguished career in the substance abuse field has spanned more than 30 years.

LIBRARY WINS SEVERAL AWARDS AT STATE MEETING

by Amanda Crabtree

Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center (CCPL&IC) won four awards at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Public Library Director's Association (NCPLDA).

At an awards banquet held on December 7th in Durham, North Carolina, Kim Martin Shaffer was one of two recipients of the Trustee of the Year Award. Mrs. Schaffer was nominated for the award in recognition of her leadership and courage in defending the ideals of a public library and intellectual freedom in service to her community.

CCPL&IC's Sister Library Project was recognized as the Outstanding Children's Program. This project began in June 1999 when CCPL&IC was selected as a Sister Library by the Sister Libraries: A White House Millennium Council Project. This project is sponsored by the US National Commission on Library and Information Science and Sister Cities International. CCPL&IC was paired with Biblioteque Pour Tous, in St. Avold, France, which is Fayetteville, North Carolina's Sister City, and has hosted numerous children's programs and activities promoting the partnership.

The Outstanding Adult Program Award was given for a cultural awareness program hosted by the library entitled "Asian Cultures Alive and Well in Cumberland County." During this program, county residents from India, Japan, and the Philippines wore traditional attire, described their countries, and led the audience in folk songs, dance, and crafts. Through this program and several other related programs, the library helps to raise cultural awareness throughout Cumberland County.

CCPL&IC Director Jerry Thrasher was also presented with the Intellectual Freedom Award in recognition of exemplary contributions for the cause of intellectual freedom in Cumberland County and North Carolina.

Attention County Employees:

Got Any Creative Ideas For Helping The County Save Money & Resources?



**Don't Sit on Them.
Send Them In!**

Great Awards Await You.
Tangible Savings Result in Cash Awards
(10% of the Projected Savings)

While Intangible Savings
Could Result in Paid Time Off

*What Are You Waiting On?
A Form Is Attached!*