CUMBERLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

CONNECTION

VOLUME IV, ISSUE V SEPTEMBER 2007

CROWN CENTER LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

After several months of research and design, the Crown Center launched a new interactive website, www.AtTheCrown.com today.

"We believe this new website's easy navigation will serve our customers and the overall design better reflects who we are as an organization," said CEO Rick Reno.

The most noticeable difference from the previous website is the addition of an interactive calendar of events. The monthly calendar lists, in an easy-to-read format, all of the Crown Center's upcoming events. The calendar function also includes a search feature that allows for visitors to quickly find specific events.

Each facility in the multi-venue complex has its own page. In the coming months, those pages will be filled with historical data related to the anniversary season of the complex, including the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Crown Arena and Crown Theatre, the 20th anniversary of the Crown Exposition Center and the 10th anniversary of the Crown Coliseum.

The new address, www.AtTheCrown.com, was selected to reinforce the Center's new branding campaign. "People already refer to us simply as 'The Crown,' and we decided to embrace that," Reno said. The website was designed by Brain Box Development.

COUNTY EMPLOYEES SHOW THEIR GENEROSITY FOR THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

The American Heart Association's local director, Jim Long, is flanked here by the top two raffle ticket sellers in the recent fundraiser. Tammy Gillis, Internal Auditor, and Andrea Brewington of the Register of Deeds office, sold more than 400 tickets cumulatively. They each won a paid day off for their efforts. The county employees contributed more than $5,000 to the American Heart Association through the raffle fundraiser.

Winners of the raffle were: $500, Kathy Pittman; $400, Herbert Whitted; $300, Tom Sanders; $200, John E. Davis; and $100, Christa Ayala. Congratulations to the raffle winners and many thanks to those who supported the American Heart Association.

American Heart Association®
Learn and Live.

COUNTY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By the time you read this, Labor Day will be behind us and we'll be ready for the challenges that autumn always brings our way. It's a time when we are vulnerable still to hurricanes, so I encourage each of you to do what you can to prepare for that eventuality. We've been fortunate for the past couple of years, but this year's season may be different. Make your plans on how to stay safe when a storm strikes, and be sure to make note of the Inclement Weather Line number (910-678-7701). That's where to call to see how a storm is affecting the work schedules of county employees. If you have a cell phone, store the number now so it will be accessible if needed.

I want to thank the county employees who volunteered during the recent NCACC conference hosted here in Cumberland County. You all did us proud. I've had many comments on what warm hospitality our volunteers extended to our visitors. Thank you for representing the County so well.

The United Way campaign in our community kicked off on August 28, and the county will once again make a committed effort to support that organization that does so much in our community. When, in the coming weeks, you are asked to make a contribution to the United Way, please be as generous as you can. Whether by payroll deduction or a one-time gift, your financial support will be very much appreciated.

Enjoy the coming cooler weather, and have a wonderful Fall, 2007!

WELCOME TO CUMBERLAND COUNTY!

The County welcomes Harvey Wright Raynor III as the Deputy County Attorney.

A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and the NC Central University School of Law, Raynor was the senior partner of the Raynor Law Firm in Belhaven, North Carolina before joining the Cumberland County legal team. He is also a past president of the NC County Attorney's Association.

Mr. Raynor is a native of New Jersey, and the proud grandfather of a boy, Nathan, and a girl, Misa Elizabeth, who live in Wilmington. So if you encounter the gentleman pictured here in the halls of the Courthouse, you can welcome him to the Cumberland County fold. And if you encounter him on September 14, you can also wish him a happy birthday!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Some Cumberland County employees volunteered for tasks well beyond their normal duties when the County hosted the NCACC Conference here in August. These particular four ladies took a break from greeting visitors to pose briefly for the camera. Left to right are Donna McFayden, Planning & Inspections; Kelly Autry, Budget Analyst; Mary Smith, Finance; and Angie Cunningham, Printing and Graphics Supervisor. The extra warm smiles, hard work and sincere hospitality extended by our volunteers were noticed by our visitors and mentioned admiringly to members of our management team and to commissioners. Thanks to all who helped – you did a great job!

Cumberland County Cooperative Extension 2008 Master Gardener Volunteer Training

Do you love gardening? Or do you know anyone that enjoys gardening?

Plans are set for the 2008 Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Class to be held Tuesday mornings beginning on January 15, 2008 and completing on Tuesday, May 13, 2008. The class will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m. For additional information contact Shauna Haslem, Consumer Horticulture Extension Agent at 910-321-6870.

Cumberland County 4-H Youth Development Endowment Established

The Cumberland County 4-H Youth Development Endowment was established during the formal signing ceremony on April 28, 2007 in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Endowment will serve present and future Cumberland County 4-H members by assisting in the generating of funds to:

- Create educational programs that promote family involvement
- Provide leadership opportunities across the state for our youth
- Assist youth in acquiring skills that will benefit them in their personal and professional lives

The 4-H Endowment funds are permanent funds which are made possible through individual donations, corporate donations, business donations, and fund-raising events.

Donations to the Cumberland County 4-H Youth Development may also be made through the 2007 State Employees Combined Campaign. The donation code for the Cumberland County 4-H Youth Development Program is 2116.

Pick up Some Groceries, Help An Injured Animal

Cumberland County Animal Control has arranged for their Injured Animal Fund to benefit from the use of MVP cards by employees and other citizens who sign up for the option.

Employees may know about the Injured Animal Fund that the Animal Control Department uses to assist injured animals found on highways, etc. Animal Control Director Sue Nicholson wants to advise that Food Lion will donate to the Injured Animal Fund from purchases made with a customer patron card ("MVP" card) at those stores. The County Attorney's Office requires that we add this note: THIS IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT OF ANY STORE but simply a notice of one way to benefit the Injured Animal Fund.

By going to the following site you may register your MVP card to help the animals coming into the shelter. https://www.foodlion.com/InTheCommunity/ShopandShare/secure/registerMVPcards.asp. You can also register at any Food Lion Store.

SISTA CELEBRATION

On Wednesday, September 26 from 5-7 pm a SISTA (Sisters Informing Sisters about topics on AIDS) graduation and health fair will be held at Campbell Terrace Resource Center. The community is invited to attend to learn of the various resources available to them throughout the county. The celebration is for women who participated in the SISTA Project launched in May of this year. The intervention has been endorsed by the Center's for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a science-based effective intervention designed to reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS. This peer-led intervention convenes groups of women in five weekly two-hour sessions, emphasizing pride in one's race and pride in being a woman through discussions, poetry readings and homework. The homework assignments are designed to involve their partner in discussions regarding HIV and STD Prevention.

SISTA participants will receive their graduation certificate as a part of the project's conclusion. The graduation is a means of providing closure and the opportunity for women to address the skills tested and new one(s) learned about safer sex and reducing the risk for any STD especially HIV. Women now account for more than 50% of HIV Infections especially African American and Latino Women. HIV testing is available at Cumberland County Department of Public Health through the Communicable Disease Program. The contact number is 910 433-3981.

Anyone interested in attending the celebration and signing up for a SISTA Project should contact Phyllis McLymore, SISTA Facilitator at 910-433-3894.

GET TO KNOW HEALTH CHECK

HISTORY

In 1965 the Medicaid Program was created by Congress. Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic Treatment (EPSDT) was established in 1967 by President Johnson – DHEW. This was a recommendation to address healthcare of children in low income families. The cause for the recommendation by President Johnson was due to the lack of men not being able to enter into the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War because of the lack of childhood immunizations. The North Carolina Medicaid Program began at the Department of Social Services in 1970. Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic Treatment's (EPSDT) name was changed to Healthy Children and Teens Program in 1987.

WHY ARE HEALTH CHECK AND EPSDT IMPORTANT?

The Health Check Program is a preventive health care program for Medicaid-eligible children ages birth through 20. A Health Check examination is the only well child preventive health visit reimbursed by Medicaid. The Health Check Program's goal is to provide children with the opportunity to maximize their health and development. Health Check covers complete medical and dental care and provides vision and hearing screenings as well as referrals for treatment. The program also identifies treatments that are medically necessary to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical mental illness or a condition that is identified through a screening examination.

Compared to insured children, uninsured children are:

- 25% more likely to miss school
- 8X less likely to have a regular source of care
- 4X more likely to delay or avoid care when needed
- 5X more likely to seek care from an emergency room
- 7X more likely not to have prescription filled

North Carolina has two health insurance programs for children:

- North Carolina Health Check (Medicaid for children)
- North Carolina Health Choice (Blue Cross Blue Shield)

Both are similar in what they offer.

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY HEALTH CHECK PROGRAM HAS A NEW HOME AND NEW FACES AT

Carolina Collaborative Community Care
225 Green Street Suite 1006 • Fayetteville, NC 28301
Cumberland County Health Check Coordinators:
(910) 485-1250 – Office • (910) 485-7238 – FAX
www.carolinaccc.com
Amber Kennedy akennedy@carolinaccc.com or ext 259
Erica Milligan emilligan@carolinaccc.com or ext 258
James Tillman atillman@carolinaccc.com or ext 228

Cumberland County Takes A New Approach To Dining Out With The Winner's Circle

By Veronica K. Murphy
Health Promotion Coordinator
Cumberland County Department of Public Health

The Winner's Circle program is a statewide effort between NC Prevention Partners, the NC Division of Public Health, and community based teams. This program promotes foods such as fruits, vegetables, grains, and calcium and it limits fat, sodium, and sugar. The Winner's Circle Healthy Dining program uses a consistent set of science-based criteria represented by one consistent logo, a purple star with a gold fork, to help consumers identify healthy options when they dine away from home. McDonalds (statewide), the Cumberland County Department of Public Health, Roly Poly Sandwiches and Miami Subs and Grill of McPherson Church Road are the local restaurants and facilities that are participating. These restaurants have submitted their menus to Stephanie Gayles, Registered Dietitian, and Veronica Murphy, Health Promotion Coordinator for a free menu analysis and have now identified their qualified menu items with the Winner's Circle logo. With the support of these local restaurants and the Winner's Circle program, Cumberland County diners now have the capability to make healthier menu choices when they dine away from home.

Increasingly, Americans are dining away from home where they have little access to nutrition information or guidance towards healthy menu options. This has caused a dramatic increase in the prevalence of overweight and obese citizens and the number of Americans who do not meet the USDA's Dietary Guidelines. Poor nutrition, obesity, and overweight are major contributors to many preventable causes of death and disability; such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and stroke. Over the past 15 years, Cumberland County's death rates for these chronic diseases has exceeded NC's death rate. Chronic diseases are associated with a high fat diet, low fat fiber diet and physical inactivity. According to the 2005 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 80.9% of 453 County adult respondents consumed less than 5 servings of fruit/vegetables per day. The cost of poor nutrition, overweight, and obesity in the U.S. is astronomical. In North Carolina alone, costs exceed $4.9 billion per year! With theses trends in mind, several local restaurants have taken the lead in helping their customers make smart menu choices.

In order to promote the Winner's Circle program in Cumberland County, I would like to extend an invitation to interested restaurants to join the program. If any county employees have a favorite restaurant that they would like to see participate in the winner circle then please notify me as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY KUDOS

Great Employees Doing Great Things!

BARRETT ELECTED SECOND V.P.

FAYETTEVILLE - Grainger R. Barrett, Cumberland County Attorney, has been elected Second Vice President of the North Carolina County Attorneys Association, an affiliate organization of the NC Association of County Commissioners. His election took place at the Association's meeting in Buncombe County on July 21.

Mr. Barrett has also been elected to the Council of the North Carolina Bar Association's Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Law Section. His three-year term expires June 30, 2010.

Mr. Barrett joined the Cumberland County legal staff in 1998. He became County Attorney in July, 1999.

FIT FOR SUMMER!

This summer, approximately forty employees of the Cumberland County Department of Public Health participated in the Summer Fit Challenge, a program aimed at making physical activity a daily habit. Studies have shown that an active lifestyle can help to prevent or improve many health problems such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer. A health needs assessment administered to Cumberland County employees at the bi-annual Employee Wellness Fair, indicated that approximately 78% of the participating employees showed a need for improved fitness levels.

The challenge provided an exciting opportunity for employees to improve their fitness levels by striving to be physically active for an average of 150 minutes per week, or 30 minutes per day. To kickoff the program, all participants received a free pedometer and walking log. Throughout the 8 week period participants recorded the number of minutes they were physically active and turned in an activity log weekly. At the end of the challenge, all participants who successfully completed the program were given a duffel bag filled with information on exercise and proper nutrition and healthy snacks.

Cumberland County Department of Public Health would like to applaud all of their employees that successfully completed the Summer Fit Challenge: Pat Baros, Barbara Carraway, Denise Feliciano-Ortiz, Melessia Hawkins, Lee Hendrix, Doris Lane, Ora Lawrence, Theresa Lofton, Phyllis McLymore, Chelsea Rich, Elizabeth Simmons, and Brian Wall. If you are interested in participating in future fitness challenges, please contact Chelsea Rich, Wellness Coordinator, at 910-433-3896.

AN EXCELLENCE AWARD

At the August 6 meeting of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, a special recognition of the Cumberland County Day Reporting Center's Criminal Justice Partnership 2007 Program of Excellence Award preceded the commissioners' agenda. Seen here receiving the award being presented by Commissioner John Henley, left, are Judge Beth Keever, center, and Callie Gardner, the Cumberland County Day Reporting Center Director.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Jerry Thrasher, director of the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center, will retire in January after 28 years at the helm of the library system. Thrasher, 64, became the library director in January 1980. The system, which includes the Headquarters Library and six branches, has a budget of more than $8 million.

Under his leadership, the system has experienced tremendous growth. In June 1986, the 80,000-square-foot Headquarters Library opened. It was constructed with a combination of county, state, federal, foundation and private funds totaling $4.5 million. This initiative followed a failed bond referendum in November 1981.

Between 1986 and 1999, six branches were constructed -- Bordeaux, Cliffdale, Hope Mills, North Regional, East Regional and Spring Lake – replacing smaller facilities.

Thrasher has been recognized through the years for his defense of intellectual freedom. When confronted with a censorship campaign by an organized community group seeking to remove two books from the library system's shelves in 1992, he stood firm and library trustees voted to keep the books – Daddy's Roommate and Heather Has Two Mommies -- on the shelves in the juvenile nonfiction section. As a result of his stance, the American Library Association named Thrasher to the Freedom to Read Foundation Roll of Honor in 1993.

Another censorship campaign followed in 1999 involving books the group felt were not appropriate, as well as concerns about computer access and other issues. Thrasher again stood for intellectual freedom and was named the Librarian of the Year for 1999 by the Library Journal, which also acknowledged the library system's growth and development. He received the Intellectual Freedom Award from the North Carolina Library Association that same year.

Other honors include the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2000 and the Library Director of the Year award from the North Carolina Public Library Directors' Association in 1989.

In 2006, he was instrumental in the formation of the Literacy Connection, a council of community representatives committed to improving literacy in Cumberland County for children, teens and adults. He is the group's first chairman.

Thrasher, who has more than 30 years in the North Carolina retirement system, told library staff that he is looking forward to retirement.

"It has been a wonderful career working with so many dedicated and hard working staff, trustees and friends of the library," he said. "I am looking forward to having more time to work on personal projects, travel, read and especially spend more time with my five grandchildren."

The library system employs 215 people.

"The success of the library will continue in the years to come because we have a well trained and dedicated staff who strive to make sure the needs of our customers and community are met," Thrasher said.

Thrasher earned his bachelor's degree in international studies from the University of Alabama and his master's degree in library science from Florida State University. He served as the associate director of the Forsyth County Public Library in Winston-Salem from 1977 to 1979 and as the director of the Haywood County Public Library in Waynesville from 1975 to 1977.

Thrasher represents all public libraries on the board of NC LIVE, which offers the citizens of North Carolina online access to electronic resources. He also served for nine years on the North Carolina State Library Commission. He is active in numerous community groups, including the Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville, the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, the Cultural Arts Network, and the Linear Park Foundation.

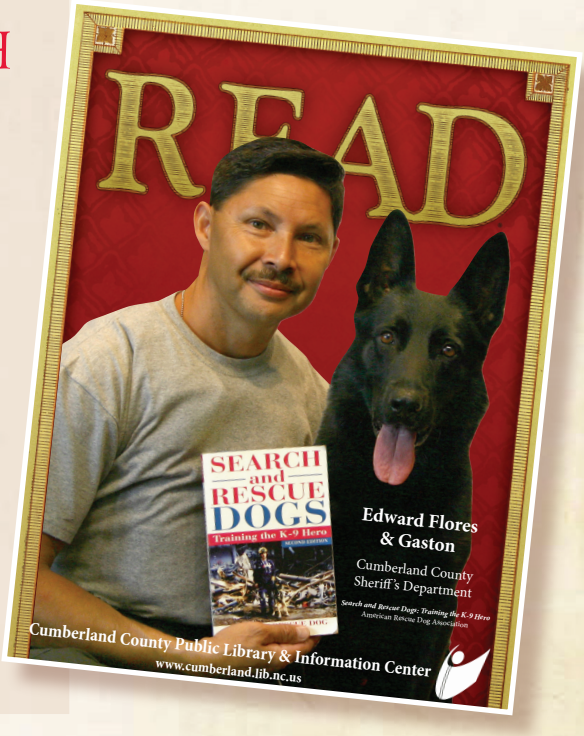
LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, and the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center wants to make sure that your child is among the two-thirds of Americans who carry the smartest card of all – a library card.

Studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning. A recent study by the American Library Association also showed that families use libraries to spend time together. Forty-four percent of survey respondents report taking their children to the library for this reason.

"A library card has always been the most important school supply of all," says Library Director Jerry Thrasher. "Kids can come to the library to get homework help and check out books, but they can also check out free music, DVDs and use the Internet to make after-school life a little more fun. There's a lot happening at the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center."

Visit www.cumberland.lib.nc.us or call 483-7727 ext. 210 for information on how you can get a library card.



COMING UP @ THE CROWN CENTER

CROWN CENTER

SEPTEMBER

Date	Event	Venue	Time
6	Whatever She Wants	Crown Theatre	8:00 PM
10	Broadway's Best 2007-2008 Season Tickets on sale		
13-23	Cumberland County Fair	Crown Center	
visit website at www.cumberlandcountyfair.org			
20	Emerson Drive and Jason Michael Carroll	Crown Arena	7:30 PM
28	Air Supply with Gary Wright, John Ford Coley and Joe Puerta from Ambrosia	Crown Arena	7:30 PM
28	Army Soldier Show	Crown Theatre	7:00 PM
29	Army Soldier Show	Crown Theatre	4:00 PM

OCTOBER

Date	Event	Venue	Time
4	Showbiz	Crown Expo	9:00 AM
4	Kenneth Copeland	Crown Theatre	7:00 PM
5	Broadway's Best 2007-2008 Individual tickets on sale		
5	Kenneth Copeland	Crown Theatre	9AM, 10:30AM, 1:30PM, 7PM
6	Kenneth Copeland	Crown Theatre	9AM, 10:30AM
6	Gun and Knife Show	Crown Expo	9AM-5PM
7	Gun and Knife Show	Crown Expo	10AM-5PM
13	The Original Idols	Crown Theatre	7:00PM
16	Last Comic Standing Live	Crown Theatre	7:30 PM
19	Solid Gold Soul	Crown Theatre	8:00 PM
20	Rockin' Wheels	Crown Expo	11:00 AM
23	Oyster Roast	Crown Expo	5:30 PM
26	Jungle Jack Hanna	Crown Theatre	7:00 PM
26	Acento Latino Bilingual Festival	Crown Expo	6:00 PM

Visit www.AtTheCrown.com for more information!

CUMBERLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT... WORKING FOR YOU!

JAMES MARTIN, COUNTY MANAGER
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE
117 Dick Street
Courthouse, Suite 512
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Phone: 910-678-7723
Fax: 910-678-7717
Email: jmartin@co.cumberland.nc.us

MISSION STATEMENT

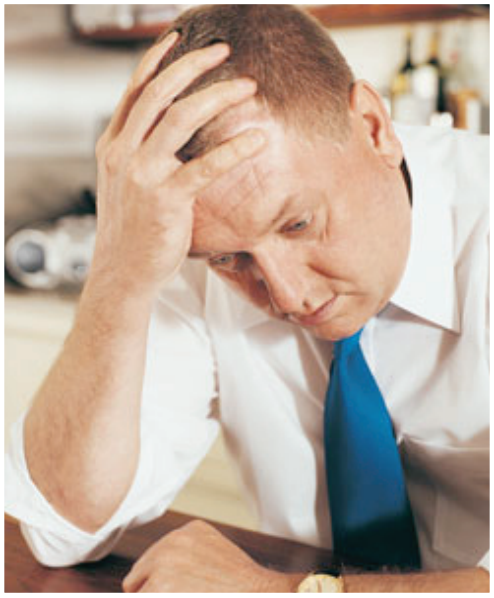
It is the mission of the Cumberland County Government to assure all our citizens a better quality of life by providing for the public safety, public health, quality education, clean environment and economic development while being fiscally responsible.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision for Cumberland County is that it be characterized by progressive leadership that provides for a prosperous, affordable, safe, and culturally inviting community.

VISIT US ON THE WEB: HTTP:/ WWW.CO.CUMBERLAND.NC.US/

THERE WHEN YOU NEED A FRIEND



Everyone needs a real friend now and then. The kind of friend that can be trusted to keep a confidence, the kind of friend that truly wants you to be untroubled and unperturbed.

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can be a friend to you and your family members. Whether you are being overwhelmed with a personal or a work-related concern, let your EAP professional work with you to solve your issues. Your supervisor does not have to be made aware you are using the program, unless you choose to share that information.

To initiate the assistance of the Employee Assistance Program, please call 222-6157. If you call, you'll find a friend who wants to help.

Just a Reminder:

The policy is still in effect that permits employees to take up to one-half hour three times a week at lunch time if they will use it to exercise.