



CONNECTION

VOLUME IV, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2007

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO FOUR COMMISSIONERS

At the December 4, 2006 meeting of the Cumberland County Commissioners, four commissioners were administered the oath of office, taking up continued or renewed service on the board. The oath of office was administered by Associate Justice of the NC Supreme Court, Patricia Timmons-Goodson, of Fayetteville.



Taking the oath of office were Commissioners J. Breeden Blackwell; Billy R. King; Jeannette Council; and Ed Melvin, who was re-elected to the board after a two-year absence.

Commissioner Kenneth S. Edge was unanimously elected Chairman of the Cumberland County Commission at the Dec. 4 meeting; Commissioner J. Breeden Blackwell will serve as vice-chairman.



*Above: Commissioner Billy King takes his oath.
Left: Judge Timmons Goodson addresses the group.*

GOOD NEWS

COUNTY EMPLOYEES DEMONSTRATE GENEROSITY AGAIN!

Cumberland County employees have risen to the challenge of the United Way of Cumberland County fundraising campaign this year – in fact, the county's aggregate contribution of \$48,547.31 is about ten percent higher than last year's. A superb team of department representatives took on the task of dispersing and collecting the payroll deduction forms, as well as the cash and checks that are used by some employees when donating to the United Way. The agencies supported by the United Way are the very agencies who work with Cumberland County government in building a better community; they are the partners of government in making this community a better place to live and work healthily and productively. The United Way is very grateful for the generosity of county employees. Thank you so very much if you were among those who gave.

More evidence of the generosity of Cumberland County employees can be measured in the tremendous amount of food collected in the annual Christmas Food Drive. Mr. Hucks and his staff delivered more than a ton of foodstuff (2,420 lbs. to be precise!) to the shared warehouse of the Salvation Army and Fayetteville Urban Ministry on December 7. All the canned foods will be dispersed by those two agencies to families in need of that assistance before Christmas. Thanks to those of you who remembered to bring in food for the collection boxes.

L. to R.: Joe Simmons, T.D. McDaniel, Jamiab Wrenn, and Legrand Hucks prepare to deliver the food donations.



COUNTY MANAGER'S MESSAGE



Now that the year 2006 has receded into history, we find ourselves poised on the brink of a new year ushering in change for all of Cumberland County. The combined effect of Army reorganization and the consequences of the Base Realignment and Closure process will bring new people, new jobs, and new opportunities to Cumberland County. I hope that you are all enthusiastic and proud, as I am, to be working on behalf of a great county at this exciting juncture.

We can't know specifically at this early stage what the new year will bring. The commissioners are holding a planning meeting early this month to define the priorities for county government. Their decisions will set the stage for the work in which we will all be immersed. The big picture is, of course, that we all work to make Cumberland County a great place to live, to work, to rear a family, and to enjoy recreational and leisure opportunities. It's in your respective departments, of course, where that mission is really addressed.

I wish each of you a very happy 2007 and look forward to what it will bring to Cumberland County.



COUNTY KUDOS GREAT PEOPLE DOING GREAT THINGS!

ANIMAL CONTROL

MELISSA HOOK is a new Animal Control Officer - she was promoted from Shelter Attendant to Officer - welcome and we are proud to have you on our team.



Hook

CHRISTIAN RIVAROLA - New Animal Control Officer, prior army - welcome and we are proud to have you on our team.

VETERANS SERVICES

GEORGIA GREENE of the Veterans Service Office was officially accredited by the Veteran's Administration as a Veterans Service Officer in November. This is the culmination of a year long training program and multiple tests by state and federal agencies. Now, all four of the Veteran Service Officers for the county are fully accredited.



Rivarola

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Lee Warren, Cumberland County's Register of Deeds, sounded like a proud papa when he called to share some happy news about his department.

He was proud of three of his employees who have recently taken the Register of Deeds course and the subsequent examination at the Institute of Government. All three passed the exam, which requires achieving a score of higher than 70. But wait, there's more!



Renee Aguilar, Krissy Johnson, Deane Fox

"I've never heard of anyone achieving anything like this," said Warren. "But one of those people achieved a perfect 100 score! The highest I'd ever heard of before this was maybe a 92. But **KRISSY JOHNSON** got a perfect 100!"

Krissy was joined in her success with colleagues **DEANE FOX**, who came to the Registry of Deeds from BB&T and **RENEE AGUILAR**, who joined the department from Centura Bank. All three successful test-takers are rightly proud of their accomplishment - as is their proud boss, Lee Warren.



STAY SAFE DURING SEVERE WINTER WEATHER

The winters in North Carolina are relatively mild, but this does not mean you shouldn't take safety precautions. The National Weather Service strongly advises everyone to keep alert for the latest forecast because winter weather can hit suddenly and hard. Often, morning temperatures are enjoyable, and they later plummet to freezing by mid-day.

Severe winter weather includes freezing rain, sleet, heavy snowfall, and extremely cold temperatures. It can cause long lasting power outages, dangerous driving conditions, and if you are not prepared...a miserable time waiting out the storm. There are many ways you can be pro-active and ensure that you and your family remain safe.

Before severe weather hits stock a 3-5 day supply of the following

- o Foods that do not need refrigerating or cooking such as canned meats, peanut butter, bread, canned fruit, etc.
- o At least 1/2 gallon of water per person per day (prior to the storm you can fill a collapsible water jug, coolers, or even your clean bathtub).
- o Buy an adequate supply of necessary medicines and baby supplies.
- o Have enough heating fuel (firewood, kerosene, etc) at your home.
- o Flashlights, a portable radio, plenty of batteries, games, and a first aid kit.

Ensure your home is weather proofed by wrapping exposed pipes with insulation or newspaper covered with plastic. In extremely cold weather, let your faucets drip slightly to help avoid freezing. Know where your water shut off valve is in case a pipe bursts.

Never cook in or heat your home using a charcoal or gas grill, or a camping stove. They create deadly carbon monoxide fumes that will build up. Always use grills outside. Also, when burning candles ensure they are out of reach of children, combustible materials, and clumsy pets.

Nearly 66% of home heating fires in the U.S. are caused by heaters (electric and kerosene heaters, fireplaces, wood stoves, and gas heaters). The common causes of fires are a lack of regular chimney cleaning, placing space heaters too close to combustibles, and fueling errors. Always refuel a portable space heater outside.

During severe weather, try to stay safe indoors. If you must venture out, the following tips could make for a safer journey.

- o Ensure your car is in good running condition. Check your battery, antifreeze, windshield wipers, tires, and have a full gas tank. If you are unsure your car is safe, a local garage can help you to determine your car's reliability.
- o Keep a supply of basic items in your car. Have an ice scraper, jumper cables, tow rope, a blanket, flashlight, first aid kit, map, snack foods, and even a bag of salt or sand.
- o Always let a friend or family member know your destination and route you plan to take. If you do not arrive and cannot be contacted, they will be able to contact the proper emergency department.
- o If you must drive during severe winter weather, drive cautiously! Stay alert and drive at speeds proper for the road conditions.

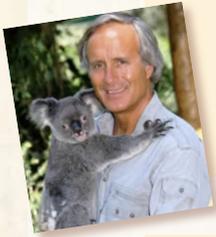
Terms to Know

- o Winter Storm Watch – Be alert, a storm is likely
- o Winter Storm Warning – Take action, the storm is in or entering the area
- o Winter Weather Advisory – Weather is expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, especially to drivers
- o Frost/Freeze Warning – Below freezing temperatures are expected and may cause damage to plants, crops, or fruit trees.

If you have any questions, contact the Cumberland County Emergency Management office at 910-678-7688.



COMING UP @ THE CROWN CENTER



JANUARY

5	Bigfoot Nation Monster Trucks	Crown Coliseum	8 PM
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7	FireAntz vs. Knoxville	Crown Coliseum	7:35 PM
9-10	Tyler Perry's Whats Done in the Dark	Crown Theatre	7:30 PM
12	Man of La Mancha	Crown Theatre	7:30 PM
13	Three Dog Night	Crown Theatre	8 PM
13	FireAntz vs. Columbus	Crown Coliseum	7:35 PM
19	FireAntz vs. Knoxville	Crown Coliseum	7:35 PM
21	FireAntz vs. Pee Dee	Crown Coliseum	7:35 PM
26	Jungle Jack Hanna	Crown Arena	9:30 AM, 1:30 PM
26	FireAntz vs. Huntsville	Crown Coliseum	7:35 PM
27	FireAntz vs. Jacksonville	Crown Coliseum	7:35 PM

FEBRUARY

1	FireAntz vs Richmond	Crown Coliseum	7:35 PM
3	FireAntz vs Pee Dee	Crown Coliseum	7:35 PM
10	Rich Little: One's A Crowd	Crown Theatre	8:00 PM
16	Ted Lange: Behind the Mask	Crown Theatre	8:00 PM
17	FireAntz vs Pee Dee	Crown Coliseum	7:35 PM
23	Professional Bull Riding	Crown Arena	8:00 PM
23	FireAntz vs Florida	Crown Coliseum	7:35 PM
24	Professional Bull Riding	Crown Arena	8:00 PM
24	FireAntz vs Knoxville	Crown Coliseum	7:35 PM



CUMBERLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT... WORKING FOR YOU!

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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/](http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/)

GETTING THE GOOD WORD OUT TO EMPLOYEES - LEGALLY!

From time to time, as a county employee, you may have received an email notification, courtesy of the county's IS department, of a commercial freebie or discount offer. Whether it was discount tickets to Carowinds, or a coupon to Macy's, please be aware that those offers won't be coming to you in the same way in the future.

The internal channels that have brought you that info in the past won't be used, for legal reason, in the future. The County Attorney's office advises that, as a general rule, if any commercial offers are made available for any one business, they must be made available to all commercial entities seeking access; it could also become burdensome, if more and more businesses become aware of the option and sought access, to communicate often with our more than 2,000 employees.

Whether it is coupons or discount ticket specials, efforts will be made to convey the availability of beneficial offers to county employees in a different manner in the future.

Happy New Year!

