



CONNECTION

VOLUME IV, ISSUE VI

NOVEMBER 2007

As A County Employee, Be Familiar With The Facts

By Grainger Barrett, County Attorney

One of our most important privileges, and responsibilities, as citizens is the opportunity to participate in our democratic form of government through the ballot. You can be heard and have an influence when you vote.

This year, the single county-wide issue on the ballot is the additional ¼-cent sales tax referendum on the ballot. This issue will be very important to all of us as county employees.

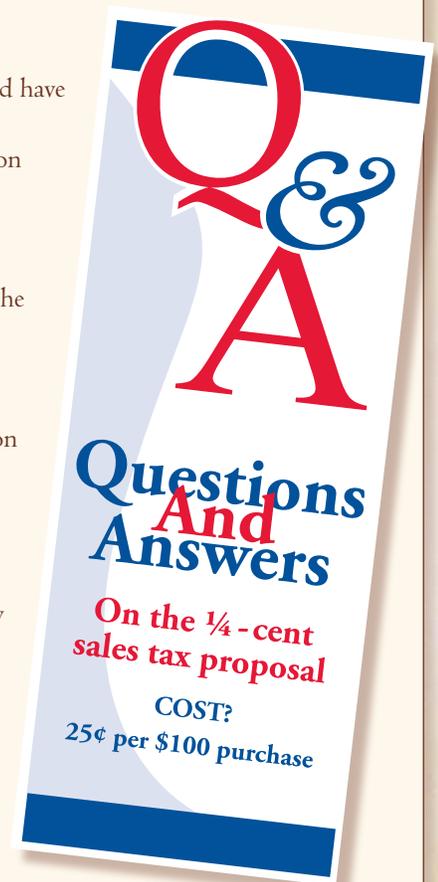
Revenues from the additional ¼-cent sales tax will partially replace a ½-cent local option sales tax that the State will take from the county as part of the swap relieving counties of Medicaid funds responsibilities. The ¼-cent tax will add an additional \$.25 to the total of every \$100 you spend. The tax will not be imposed on food, or prepared meals.

If the referendum is approved, the Board of Commissioners has earmarked those revenues to fund new schools, a new library branch, and a new public health building. In coming years, the Board of Commissioners will also have to consider other needs for additional schools, more libraries, expansion of the jail, public safety communications towers, and renovation of the Crown Theater and Crown Arena, among other projects.

If the referendum does not pass, the pressing need for most of these capital projects will not go away. These costs would have to be funded through some presently undetermined combination of additional revenue, property tax increase, and/or service reductions. It's highly unlikely that property tax rates could be cut, and the case may be made that they would have to increase. Delaying capital projects would result in higher construction costs. Funding for outside agencies that assist with charitable and civic projects in the community would be reduced or cut entirely. There would be many challenges to deal with, and it can't be predicted now how they might be met at a future time.

I encourage all eligible county employees to educate themselves about the facts on this issue and to exercise your right to vote.

For information on the sales tax issue, contact the county's Public Information Director, Sara VanderClute, at 437-1921.



Early Voting Is A Convenient Option

Although it's really too late to be voting early, Early Voting does continue at the Board of Elections office through Nov. 3 at 1 p.m. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2007. Though this is an election of municipal officials, there is a county-wide item on the ballot. That's the proposed ¼-cent sales tax, and the issue is an important one to Cumberland County.

If you aren't familiar with the ¼-cent sales tax issue, learn the facts about the issue. You can do this by inquiring at the Public Information Director's office, or ask your department head for info, and don't neglect your important right to vote!

COUNTY MANAGER'S MESSAGE



As this issue of The Connection is published, we are just days away from Election Day 2007. Early voting has been available since October 18, and I hope that eligible county employees have exercised, or will exercise, the right to vote. These are municipal official elections, but an important issue to everyone in the county is also on the ballot. The ¼-cent sales tax proposed by our commissioners is important to Cumberland County's fiscal future. As a county employee, I can't urge you to vote one way or another – but I do urge you to find out the facts about the issue so that you can make a reasonable and informed decision.

The 2007 United Way campaign is underway among county employees. Last year, the generosity of employees resulted in more than \$49,000 in United Way contributions. This year, our goal is to top \$50,000. Please consider giving your contribution through payroll deduction, which eliminates the need for large amounts of cash to be handled by many people. The United Way funds agencies that are also working for the betterment of Cumberland County, just as all county employees do. Be as generous as you can be, the money you give stays in Cumberland County and truly does help many people.



Protect Yourself From The Misery of The Flu

Thanks to the cooperative efforts of Risk Management and our own Health Department, county employees will have a number of choices in how to get their annual flu shot. The inoculation is highly effective in preventing the flu, and the attendant misery it can cause.



Blue Cross/Blue Shield is staging a series of clinics at county facilities. If you are covered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield, all you need to do is show your insurance card for you and your covered family members to get a free flu shot. However, no children under the age of 9 may receive the flu shot at the clinics.

Here's the schedule:

Nov. 6	Courthouse	9 – 4
Nov. 9	DSS	9 – 4
Nov. 13	Mental Health	9 – 3
Nov. 14	DSS	9 – 4

The Cumberland County Health Department is also making flu shots available for \$30, payable with cash or check. Blue Cross/Blue Shield will cover flu shots that are given to an insured county employee by a private medical provider.

THE NEXT GREAT IDEA

The North Carolina Association of County Commissions has opened up the entry process for the 17th Annual Outstanding County Program Awards competition. This forum provides an opportunity for counties to share their innovative programs with others who may want to emulate success.



Entries will be accepted in three categories: General Government, Human Services and Public Education/Participation. Programs entered must have been implemented between Jan. 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007. Applications must be postmarked by Friday, Feb. 1, 2008.

If your department has initiated a program in the time frame mentioned above, and believe that you could be a contender for the Outstanding County Program Award, call Sara VanderClute, Public Information Director, to set up a time to discuss the program and craft a winning entry! She can be reached at 437-1921.

The United Way 2007 Campaign Is Well Underway!

Cumberland County kicked off the 2007 United Way campaign among employees on October 19. The various department representatives came together to hear a presentation from Nicole Neumann of the local United Way office and to gather up the material needed to mount a successful campaign in their respective departments.

Last year, county employees contributed more than \$49,000 to United Way. The goal this year is a modest increase to contribute \$50,000. The United Way funds various local agencies, all of whom are working to make a better Cumberland County. That's what we all do, too! So please be as generous as you can when filling out the payroll deduction form that your department rep will have for you. Payroll will take your total annual contribution out in 12 equal contributions, on the first payday of every month. You won't even miss it.

The campaign wraps up Nov. 16, giving the Payroll department plenty of time to enter the payroll deductions which they will begin collecting the first payday in January 2008. If you have questions that your department can't answer, call the county's United Way Coordinator for the campaign, Public Information Director, Sara VanderClute at 437-1921.



The Tax Administration office kicked off their department United Way campaign by greeting employees with coffee, cake and other goodies and dispersing the contribution forms at the same time on Wednesday, October 24. Janice Nettles is the department's United Way representative, with assistance from her colleague, Cassandra Tyndall.

COMMISSIONER
JOHN HENLEY is a generous and committed contributor to the United Way, having been a member



of their Marquis Society since 2004. To be inducted into the Marquis Society, a minimum contribution of \$1,000

is required. (Spouses can combine their gifts to attain the minimum contribution.) The United Way benefits from, and is grateful for, the more than 180 individuals who make up the local Marquis Society.

Help For Those Who Need It This Winter

THE LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, administered by DSS, provides eligible families a one-time cash payment to help pay heating bills. Applications will be taken between November 6 and 17, and payments will be made early in February. Call 677-2357 or 677-2441 for more information.

A program for more urgent energy assistance needs is the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP). The Salvation Army takes CIP applications at 226 South Cool Spring Street, and you can learn more about this program by calling 307-0359.



CUMBERLAND COUNTY KUDOS

Great Employees Doing Great Things!

COUNTY ATTORNEY GRAINGER BARRETT has been asked again to be a member of the faculty for the UNC School of Law Festival of Legal Learning which will be held February 1-2, 2008.

This is one of the Law School's major annual outreach functions. It offers programming for nearly 500 attendees. The program features 8 concurrent sessions during 12 hour-long segments, and running from Friday morning through mid-day Saturday.

Barrett's hour-long topic will be recent legislative invocations under Federal Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals precedents, with a particular look at the current case between Forsyth County and the ACLU.

SHARON SANDERS and **JOANIE RODRIGUEZ** of the Veterans Services Office recently received accreditation from the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers. They are also both accredited with the NC Division of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion. Accreditation enables both Sharon and Joanie to better serve the veterans that they assist. It isn't easily achieved, and congratulations to both Joanie and Sharon on their accomplishment.

MIKE OSBOURN, of the Cumberland County Planning Department, was invited to speak at the recent International City/County Management Association conference in Pittsburgh, Pa. Mike is the E911 Planning Coordinator and his remarks were on the value of an interactive website to citizens.



JANICE NETTLES, right, pins a pink ribbon on her colleague, **KATHY PITTMAN**, in observation of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. Many Tax Administration employees, as well as those from other departments, were sporting the pink ribbons. Janice Nettles launched the effort, and made many of the pink ribbons herself. Breast cancer awareness is one of the initiatives of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization, dedicated to curing breast cancer.

A VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY SURPRISE!



THELMA MATTHEWS in Finance recently celebrated a significant birthday. Her colleagues in the Finance Department couldn't let the occasion pass unnoticed, so they conspired to give her a good old Mickey Mouse Club celebration. M, I, C – see you real soon! K, E, Y, – Why? Because we like you! M, O, U, S, E! Happy birthday, Thelma, and many, many more!

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



Patrick S. Hurley, Director of the Cumberland County Workforce Development Center, will retire on January 1, 2008 after 31 years and 11 months with the Workforce Development Center. Hurley, 54 became the Workforce Development Director in October 2001. Under his leadership, the Workforce Development system in Cumberland County has experienced tremendous growth. In March of 2004, his department received a \$6 million dollar direct grant from the U. S. Department of Labor to assist military spouses locating to Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base.

Hurley has told staff that he is looking forward to retirement. "It has been a wonderful career working with dedicated staff, board members and fellow workforce system partners statewide," he said. "I am looking forward to having more time to work on my personal projects such as landscaping, traveling with my wife Kitty, and visiting with my son, Michael, who serves with the U.S. Navy in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

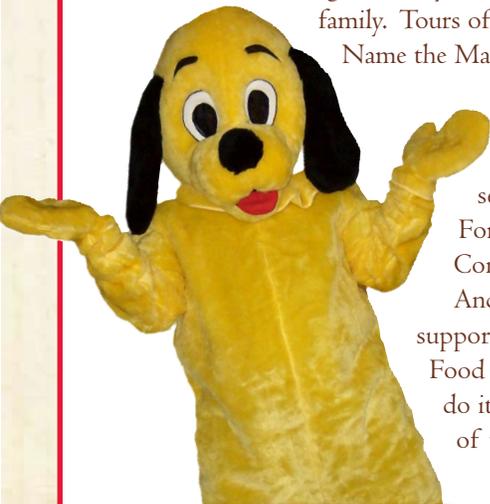
The success of the Workforce Development Center will continue in the years to come because we have a well trained and dedicated staff to best meet the needs of our customers seeking employment and training services in today's global economy."

Hurley earned his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina in Charlotte in 1975. He worked his way "through the ranks" with the Workforce Development Center beginning as an Intake / Eligibility Specialist in February 1977. Over the years he served on the State's Workforce Development Training Institute and as Secretary of the North Carolina Workforce Development Board Directors' Council from 2002 to 2007. He also served on the Transportation Advisory Board and the Cumberland County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council from 2003 to 2007 serving as Vice-Chairman from 2005 to 2007. He is currently serving on the Cumberland County Coordinating Council on Older Adults as the Vice-Chairman and is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville.



Animal Control Plans A Really "Grand" Opening!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2007 will be a big day for all the folks at Animal Control. By that date, they will have had more than a month in their brand-new facility in the Cumberland Industrial Park. So, they're going to have a festive ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. on the 17th, followed by a variety of activities that promise to be fun for the whole family. Tours of the facility will be offered, popcorn and snowcones will be available, and the winner of the Name the Mascot contest will be announced. The festivities will continue til 4 p.m.



**HELP!
I need a
name!**

About that Name the Mascot contest – the contest is open to all county employees, and the winner is going to win \$100, which has been donated to Animal Control. So take a good look at the mascot pictured here, and come up with a great name that will capture the special service that Animal Control provides to the residents of Cumberland County.

Forward your entry to the Name the Mascot contest directly to Sue Nicholson, Director, Animal Control at snicholson@co.cumberland.nc.us.

And while we're on the subject of Animal Control, they've come up with a really great way to support the Injured Animal Fund. If you are a Food Lion customer, a portion of what you spend at Food Lion can be designated to go to Cumberland County's Injured Animal Fund. To learn how to do it, visit Food Lion's site at www.foodlion.com, go to the Community block on the left hand side of the page, and read how to contribute to CCAC Injured Animal Fund. Injured animals would certainly be grateful for your help, and so too will the folks at Animal Control, who have one tough job to do every single day.

Plan to attend the Grand Opening if your family is considering acquiring a pet – animal adoptions are one of the happier aspects of Animal Control's responsibilities. You might just find a new best friend!

COMING UP @ THE CROWN CENTER



NOVEMBER

Date	Event	Venue	Time
1	Holly Day Fair	Crown Expo	9am-6pm
2	FireAntz vs. Columbus	Crown Coliseum	7:35 pm
2	Holly Day Fair	Crown Expo	10am-9pm
3	Holly Day Fair	Crown Expo	10am-7pm
3	FireAntz vs. Richmond	Crown Coliseum	7:35 pm
4	Blue Man Group	Crown Coliseum	7:30pm
4	Doodlebops	Crown Theatre	1:00 pm, 4:00pm
4	Holly Day Fair	Crown Expo	12 noon-5pm
7	Hinder with Papa Roach And 12 Stones	Crown Coliseum	7:30 pm
8	Taste of Home Cooking Show	Crown Arena	4:30 pm-11 pm
9	Gypsy	Crown Theatre	8:00 pm
16	David Phelps	Crown Arena	7:00 pm
16	FireAntz vs. Twin City	Crown Coliseum	7:35 pm
17	National Tractor Pull And Motorcross	Crown Coliseum	7:30 pm
22	FireAntz vs. Richmond	Crown Coliseum	7:35 pm
23	Craftsmen's Festival	Crown Expo	10am-6pm
24	Craftsmen's Festival	Crown Expo	10am-6pm
24	Heart of Christmas	Crown Theatre	7:00 pm



DECEMBER

Date	Event	Venue	Time
1	Gun and Knife Show	Crown Expo	9am-5pm
1	FireAntz vs. Huntsville	Crown Coliseum	7:35 pm
2	Gun and Knife Show	Crown Expo	10am-5pm
2	Nutcracker	Crown Theatre	3:00 pm
3	Third Day with Jars of Clay Christmas Offerings Tour	Crown Coliseum	7:00 pm
3	Nutcracker	Crown Theatre	9:30 am
6	Kenny Rogers	Crown Theatre	8:00 pm
7	Nutcracker	Crown Theatre	10:00 am
8	Nutcracker	Crown Theatre	3:00 pm
9	Nutcracker	Crown Theatre	3:00 pm
13	CMT Tour	Crown Arena	7:30 pm
14	FireAntz vs. Knoxville	Crown Coliseum	7:35 pm
21	FireAntz vs. Columbus	Crown Coliseum	7:35 pm
25	FireAntz vs. Richmond	Crown Coliseum	7:35 pm
29	FireAntz vs. Twin City	Crown Coliseum	7:35 pm

Visit www.AtTheCrown.com for more information!



CUMBERLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT... WORKING FOR YOU!

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COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE
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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/](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.

County Holidays

VETERANS DAY

Monday, November 12

THANKSGIVING

Thursday & Friday, November 22 & 23

CHRISTMAS

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, December 24, 25, & 26