CUMBERLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

CONNECTION

VOLUME V, ISSUE VII JANUARY 2009

Assistant County Manager Cliff Spiller To Retire

At the end of January 2009, **CUMBERLAND COUNTY ASSISTANT MANAGER CLIFF SPILLER** will retire from public service. His career with the County spans three decades, from an early position as an accountant in 1978, becoming Assistant County Manager for Central Services in 1984 and rising to his current position in 1990.

In recent years, Cliff's responsibilities have included the challenging task of managing the maintenance of facilities, grounds, vehicles and other equipment as well as the Animal Control and Solid Waste departments. He has dealt effectively with the public, the commissioners, as well as other managers and the county workforce in fulfilling his responsibilities. Due to the nature of his job, he is often called on nights, weekends, and holidays to deal with matters important to Cumberland County.

Those who have worked with Cliff Spiller for some time know that he is a proud father and grandfather; a fan of everything to do with Charleston, S.C.; a knowledgeable connoisseur of good food and wine; and a loyal colleague, who despite his sometimes gruff exterior, can also be a kind friend.

Cliff Spiller with Ass't County Manager Amy Cannon comparing notes at a Commissioners' meeting

Cliff's post-retirement plans include some "honey-do's" around his and Patsy's home, as well as traveling to Charleston for rest and relaxation as often as possible.

An event honoring Cliff is being planned for later in January, so that colleagues can come by and personally shake his hand and wish him well as he embarks on retirement. The date, time and location of that event will be announced later this month.

County Employees Come Through Again

Once again, **CUMBERLAND COUNTY EMPLOYEES** have demonstrated their generosity through the 2008 FOOD DRIVE that was conducted between Thanksgiving and mid-December. The amount of canned and boxed foods collected totaled almost a full ton. All the contributed foods were delivered on December 12 to the warehouse shared by the Salvation Army and the Fayetteville Urban Ministry for distribution to families in need. All of the foods were expected to be distributed before Christmas.

On behalf of the Fayetteville Urban Ministry and the Salvation Army, a big "thank you!" to all the employees who brought in food to share this recent holiday season. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated!

COUNTY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

We are now launched on a brand new calendar year, and halfway through the fiscal year of 2008-09. As you are all aware, the national economy has taken a downturn since the current budget was adopted and that has had an effect on our sales tax revenue. We are all conscious of being as careful with county resources as possible, and I thank you for doing all that you can to minimize expenses as you go about your work.

You will have read of Assistant County Manager Cliff Spiller's retirement elsewhere in this newsletter. Cliff has been a great help to me in the management of several county departments and I, like many others, will miss him after January 30. Public service of more than 30 years is a remarkable accomplishment, and I know we all wish him well in a long and happy retirement.

Let's all do what we can to make 2009 a great year for Cumberland County. I wish you and your family a very happy New Year!

Feed Fayetteville 2008 "People Helping People"

THE FAYETTEVILLE-CUMBERLAND HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION thanks all the many people who participated in the 7th Annual "FEED Fayetteville" project sponsored by the Commission's Faith Dialogue Team.

The success of the October 28, 2008 event could not have been achieved without the outpouring of time, monetary donations, food, clothing, and toiletry items. More than 1500 pounds of donated clothing and non-perishable food items were collected and distributed and more than 900 meals were served.

Over 300 volunteers, including Army and Air Force personnel as well as religious and community organizations, helped to make this event a great success. Also, 13 vendors were on site to share and discuss information on social programs that provide aid and support to citizens in circumstances of hardship in our community.

The Human Relations Commission facilitates and advocates programs, projects and actions to ensure a better quality of life and the human and civil rights of all citizens without regard to race, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, familial status or disability.

Bob Goodrich, who stresses that he is only one of the many tax employees involved in this kind and generous initiative, is seen here with some of the toys the tax employees have collected.

"The Tax Man" Has A Heart

Some think that "The Tax Man" is a heartless entity, concerned only with maximizing the collection of taxes. Well, **CUMBERLAND COUNTY'S TAX DEPARTMENT** demonstrates quite the opposite. In addition to participating in all the other fundraising initiatives of the County, as well as the food drive and the quarterly blood drives, some tax department employees have been quietly doing more.

Knowing that there are children from economically depressed areas of the county who might not have much under the tree at Christmas, some of the tax employees have gathered together bicycles, games, dolls and other things that children dream of having at Christmastime. This year, the goods are going to a local school whose personnel have determined who should be the recipients of the gifts.

County employees Rock! And this is just one example of how they do it.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY KUDOS

Great Employees Doing Great Things!

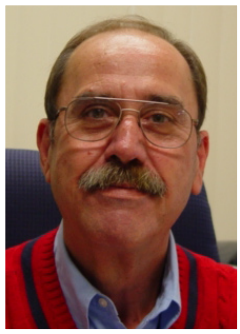
Outstanding Employee

(As Well As Outstanding Army Wife and Mother, Too!)

RENEE AGUILAR, of the Register of Deeds office, was honored at the December 1, 2008 meeting of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners as an Outstanding Employee. Captured in this snapshot shortly before the meeting began are (left to right) Sergeant First Class Aguilar, Renee's husband; Liz Varnedoe, a member of the Civic Center Commission; Renee in the pink shirt; Lisa Scales, Assistant Register; Register of Deeds Lee Warren; Senior Assistant Register, Pam Gore; and Deputy Cindy Sanders. Not clearly visible in the picture, hidden in the second row behind Warren and Gore, are Jackie Thomas and Diana Fisher. The group was the cheering section for Mrs. Aguilar, and they all came to the meeting fresh from having been sworn in as Register of Deeds officials.

EMPLOYEE RECEIVES LONGEVITY AWARD:

TED MCCORMICK, Manager of the Real Estate Division of the Tax Administration Department, was recently awarded a longevity award from the International Association of Assessing Officers. Ted has sustained his membership of the professional organization for fifteen years. He received a handsome certificate attesting to his valuable membership, and you might just see it hanging on his office wall!



COUNTY EMPLOYEE'S MEMOIR PUBLISHED

"Dreaming of Degirmendere," a memoir written by Public Information Director SARA VANDERCLUTE, was published last month in Todays Zaman, an English-language Turkish newspaper. It's a reminiscence of a year she lived in Degirmendere, a small Turkish village on the Sea of Marmara.

"Planning Pacers" Get Moving for the Heart Walk

On June 9, 2008, Cumberland County Departments kicked off the annual fundraiser for the American Heart Association. Each department was asked to participate in the sales of raffle tickets. County employees continued to raise funds through October 11th with the conclusion of the Heart Walk at Festival Park.

With the leadership of Team Captain, Rita Perry, the **PLANNING & INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT** team, "Planning Pacers", were ranked number one in all of the County teams. Along with ticket sales and donations, members of the team held a fundraiser by selling Avon and Home Interior candles bringing their total contributions to the Heart Association to $1,344.00. They also made their own team shirts and visors to wear during the Heart Walk that took place on Saturday, October 11.

Tom Lloyd, Planning & Inspections Director, was very proud of all who participated. This is an example of what can be accomplished when we pull together to support those in need.

New 'Babies' for Cooperative Extension

The Baby Think It Over® nursery at the COOPERATIVE EXTENSION office has expanded!

Thanks in part to a $1500 grant funded by the Junior League of Fayetteville, Candy Underwood, Family and Consumer Extension Agent and Baby Think It Over program director, has purchased 45 new RealCare Baby II infant simulators. Additional funds for the purchase of the dolls were raised by selling the obsolete dolls that were previously used for the program.

The new dolls are the most advanced simulators to date and are completely wireless. The sponsoring teacher can program the doll from a desktop and interact with the baby using specially designed bottles and diapers. The dolls can be programmed with up to 15 different schedules that imitate the schedules of real infants. The dolls must be fed, rocked, burped, and changed around the clock to meet the demands of the simulator. The baby will cry when care is needed and until the care has been provided. The new doll also has realistic feeding, breathing, coughing, and burping sounds. The baby coos to give positive reinforcement when cared for correctly. The head, neck, and position sensors detect mishandling and abuse as well as specific measurement for Shaken Baby Syndrome.

Training is conducted during regular class. The training teaches the student how to care for the infant and assigns tasks for completion. The following Friday the students take the baby home for a weekend visit. On Monday using a laptop computer, the teacher will be able to access how the student performed. The computer will show the exact date and time of any mishandling and missed care events.

Since introducing Baby Think It Over in 1998, over 3,300 youth have participated in the program. Providing this program has made a significant impact on the teen pregnancy rate in Cumberland County.

Good News For Mental Health!

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER recently swept the Programs of Excellence Awards winning three of the seven categories: Community Collaboration To Benefit Non-Target Population Consumers for Their Teens Making A Change program; Public Awareness and Advocacy for the Access to Information program; and Partnership to Improve Services for their Mental Health Collaborative efforts.

The awards were presented by the North Carolina Council of Community Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Programs on December 11, 2008 at their annual Conference & Exhibition in Pinehurst, NC.

Each year the North Carolina Council of Community Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse (MH/DD/SA) Programs seeks to identify innovative and effective community programs that have been instrumental in serving persons with disabilities in North Carolina. Winners are selected by a committee which includes directors and board members of area authorities for MH/DD/SA services.

Roxie Avenue Center Awarded CARF Accreditation

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) announced that CUMBERLAND COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH'S ROXIE CENTER has been awarded a three-year term of accreditation. An organization receiving a three-year term of accreditation has voluntarily put itself through a rigorous peer review process and demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site survey that it is committed to conforming to CARF's accreditation conditions and standards. Furthermore, an organization that earns CARF accreditation is commended on its quest for quality programs and services.

The Roxie Center was accredited in the area of "Detoxification: Alcohol and other Drugs/Addictions (Adults)". The Roxie Center is a 24-hour facility that provides Crisis Stabilization Services, Non-Hospital Medical Detoxification, and Child Respite Services. It is located at 1724 Roxie Avenue in Fayetteville, and has been providing services in Cumberland County since 1992.

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) is a nonprofit accreditor founded in 1966 that touches close to 6 million individuals served in a wide range of human service organizations.

After Fire, Library Closes Headquarters Location, Extends Hours at Branches

HEADQUARTERS LIBRARY remains closed for an indeterminate length of time after an electrical fire in the basement on Oct. 25. Staff who work in the public areas were deployed to the system's six other locations. In response to the loss of library service, the system extended hours at four of the branches. The public can now visit East Regional and Hope Mills Branch Libraries on Sunday afternoons. The temporary extended hours will be discontinued once Headquarters Library reopens as a full-service library.

The Local & State History room moved to a temporary location in the Quiet Room at North Regional Branch Library. The public now has access to a small collection of print sources (for Cumberland, Bladen, Sampson, Moore, Robeson, and Harnett counties) and public records on microfilm (wills, estate records, marriage, birth, and death registers, etc.) for Cumberland County. The Fayetteville Observer on microfilm from 1816-1987 is also available.

The library's administrative staff and other departments that were located in the Headquarters Library basement have moved into temporary offices on the third floor of Festival Park Plaza at 225 Ray Ave., just across the street from the library.

Book Donations Requested

Book donations are once again being accepted by the Friends of the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center. The group is trying to rebuild its inventory after the fire put an immediate halt to the Friends' quarterly book sales.

The public is encouraged to drop off donations at any of the six library branches or to call 483-7727 ext. 114 to schedule a time to drop off a large donation.

Before the fire, the Friends book sale room, located on the basement level of the library, was fully stocked with donated books and other materials in anticipation of a November sale. After the fire, the materials were covered in a thick layer of black soot and declared a loss by the library's insurance company.

The Friends and the library stopped taking book donations after the fire because there was no place to store the items. Storage area on the first floor of Festival Park Plaza has been leased and will be used to store book donations and other library materials.

Library Receives Awards, Former Director Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

Former Library Director Jerry Thrasher, who retired in December 2007, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association on Dec. 4. Thrasher served as library director for 28 years.

The library system was also honored with two awards in the large library category, Best Children's Program for its Caldecott Kids programs for school-age children and Best Promotional Project for publicity materials created for Older Americans Month in May.

Former Library Director Receives Lifetime Achievement Award, Library Picks Up Two Honors

FORMER CUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTER DIRECTOR JERRY THRASHER, who retired in December 2007, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association on Dec. 4 in Greensboro.

Thrasher was recognized for his service to Cumberland County, as well as his contributions to the state and national public library communities. Thrasher served as library director for 28 years. Under his leadership, the Cumberland County library system experienced tremendous growth with the construction of the Headquarters Library and six branch libraries that replaced smaller facilities.

Thrasher was recognized through the years for his defense of intellectual freedom and was named Librarian of the Year for 1999 by Library Journal.

During its annual awards banquet, the NCPLDA also presented two awards in the large library category to the Cumberland County Public Library system. The system picked up the Best Children's Program Award for its Caldecott Kids outreach program developed by Meg Smith, the youth services manager at Headquarters Library.

The library also received the award for Best Promotional Project for publicity materials created by the system's Community Relations Department for Older Americans Month in May.

Spirit Team Delivered The True Spirit of Christmas

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH Spirit Team sponsored the 2008 King and Queen Pageant on December 12, 2008 at their Annual Holiday Luncheon. The purpose of the pageant was to raise funds on behalf of a special family from each of the Child Service Coordination Program, the Maternal Care Coordination Program, and the Women's, Infants, and Children's Program (WIC). Of course, the King and Queen would have bragging rights for a full year and would represent the Health Department at all inter-agency functions such as Public Health Month Activities and Health Fairs within the agency.

From left to right, Dorothy McNeil, Spirit Team Facilitator; Yvette Maudlin, 2008 Queen; Ronda Banks, Social Worker for Child Service Coordination Program; Dina Summerlin, WIC Program Supervisor; Taurus Tyson, Social Worker for Maternity Care Coordination Program; and Adrian Hill, 2008 King.

The Pageant emcee announced the results:
1st Runner Up for the 2008 King: Mr. Ron Hill
Amount Raised - $50.00
1st Runner Up for the 2008 Queen: Ms. Dot McNeil
Amount Raised - $751.10
2008 King : Mr. Adrian Jones
Amount Raised - $93.28
2008 Queen: Ms. Yvette Maudlin
Amount Raised - $1428.30

The crowd exploded with applause. Yvette had beat Dot almost 2 to 1! Dot was crushed on the outside. But on the inside, she knew that the families would be the true beneficiaries of the "Battle Royale." Among the six contestants, a total of $2322.68 was raised for our special families. This was beyond our wildest dreams. Our special families would have a merry Christmas after all! Each family was presented a Visa gift card in the amount of $710.00 on behalf of the employees of the Cumberland County Department of Public Health.

Planning and Inspections To Offer Online Permit Inspection Searches

The Cumberland County Planning and Inspections Department will soon be offering a helpful new service to citizens. Later this month, Cumberland County residents can track the status of permit inspections online.

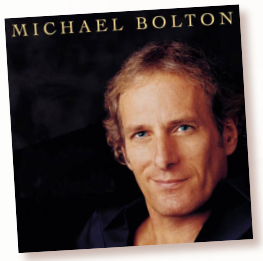
By going to the County government website, (www.co.cumberland.nc.us) and clicking on Permit Inspections Search under the heading Planning Information, a builder or homeowner can learn when the most recent inspection was completed and if any violations are noted by the inspector.

This is expected to be a welcome enhancement to the county's website and online capabilities for builders and property owners alike. The enhancement is the result of close cooperation between Planning & Inspections and the Information Services Departments.

To view the most recently entered inspection result, the permit holder may enter the permit number directly into the block provided, or select the permit type, the year the permit was issued, and then select the permit number from the drop-down box.

More than 6,600 permits were issued by the County in 2008 and more than 17,000 inspections were performed.

Coming Up @ the



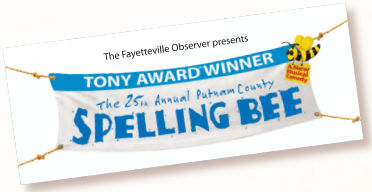
JANUARY

2	**FireAntz** vs Richmond	Crown Theatre	7:30 p.m.
6	Fayetteville Observer Presents **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** *A Broadway Production*	Crown Theatre	7:30 p.m.
10	**WinterJam 2009**	Crown Coliseum	6:00 p.m.
27	**Michael Bolton** *Presented by Community Concerts*	Crown Theatre	8:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY

5	**Rodney Carrington** King of the Mountain Tour	Crown Arena	7:00 p.m.
6	*The Fayetteville Observer* Presents **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** *A Broadway Production*	Crown Theatre	7:30 p.m.
12-15	**Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's Boom a Ring**	Crown Coliseum	Check website
21	**Natalie Cole** *Presented by Community Concerts*	Crown Theatre	8:00 p.m.

Visit www.AtTheCrown.com for more information



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/

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 Holiday

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY

Monday
January 19, 2009

Display Your Patriotic Pride

THE FAYETTEVILLE AREA VISITORS AND CONVENTION BUREAU wants you to know about the shopping opportunities available on their website, **www.visitfayettevillenc.com.** The patriotic aspects of Fayetteville can be proudly displayed with high-quality apparel ranging from sweatshirts to caps to wristbands and there's also an array of gift items that would delight any patriot. Check it out!