CUMBERLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

CONNECTION

VOLUME VI, ISSUE II MARCH 2009

Two (Relatively) New Faces on the Board of Commissioners

Keefe

Faircloth

The elections last November resulted in some changes on the Board of Commissioners. Dr. John Henley did not seek re-election, so there was expected to be at least one new face on the Board. As it turns out, there are two – but neither of them really are new to local politics.

COMMISSIONER JIMMY KEEFE is the son of the late John Keefe, who served as a county commissioner in the early 90s. Jimmy is also a former Fayetteville City Councilman, a local business owner and family man.

COMMISSIONER MARSHALL FAIRCLOTH once served on the Cumberland County Board of Education as well as having served previously as a county commissioner. He is a Certified Public Accountant. The father of grown sons, he is married to the former Carol Traynham.

Take a look at their pictures, you never know when you might find yourself in the elevator with one or both of them!

Courthouse Project Wins Award

THE FAYETTEVILLE-CUMBERLAND COUNTY JOINT APPEARANCE COMMISSION has selected the courthouse renovation project to receive one of five of the 2008 Marquis de Lafayette awards for beautifying the community. The award will be presented to Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Chairman Dr. Jeannette Council on the evening of March 5 at 6 p.m. at the Belmont House on Hay Street.

The renovation project has indeed improved the aesthetics of the courthouse appearance; however, the renovation was undertaken to improve safety and security of the building. The recent car crash at the front of the courthouse plaza demonstrates how valuable the security measures are – before renovations, the out of control car might well have driven all the way into the lobby area.

COUNTY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

As we approach budget season, I want to take a moment to thank each of you who are contributing to our efforts to minimize costs and maximize every dollar that taxpayers provide us to work with. Our traditionally conservative approach to budgeting, and the stability of our economy, has spared us some of the difficult decisions being made by surrounding counties. We are fortunate, but that doesn't mean we can let up on our efforts to be frugal with taxpayer money.

Along those lines, I hope you'll read the article in this newsletter on how to maximize the utility of our phone system. It is not only a courtesy to your colleagues, but also helpful to any taxpayer who might be calling if your phone message is accurate and up to date. We have that capacity with our system, and once you learn how to do it, it's easy to update your answering message.

Recently, I ran across a quote from Lou Holtz, the former NCAA and NFL head football coach. I agree completely with his philosophy and soon I will have these words visibly placed in my office, so that everyone can know how I feel about the importance of attitude.

"Ability is what you're capable of doing.

Motivation determines what you do.

But attitude determines how well you do it"

Spring is just around the corner, with pleasant weather and beautiful blooms everywhere. I wish each of you a happy springtime.

County Government Week is Almost Here

COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK is May 3-9 this year and the theme is "Greening Our Future." Now is the time for county departments to be thinking about how to showcase your department using that environmental theme in May. Traditionally, displays in the lower level of the Courthouse during County Governmet Week enable us to share our successes with the visiting public. Watch for more news on this in the coming weeks.

United Way Training For Employees

You are all aware that Cumberland County supports the local UNITED WAY through a fundraising campaign every year. Generous county employees contribute every year, helping the agencies who work toward a better Cumberland County. The United Way is grateful for that assistance, and offers another way in which county employees can become involved with the organization. You can serve as a review panelist volunteer and influence where the United Way puts its allocations among the many worthwhile agencies seeking financial support.

The training to be such a volunteer – and it does require a commitment of time – has already taken place. However, Crystal McNair, the Community Impact Manager at United Way of Cumberland County, will work with whomever may volunteer after reading this invitation in our newsletter. She can be reached at (910) 483-1179. Give her a call if you have as many as 8 hours to devote to the cause between now and May. It will be yet another way you can support the United Way of Cumberland County.

Property Values Revalued This Year

Certainly the employees in the **TAX ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE** know that this year is a revaluation year – they've been hard at work with the appraisal of property in Cumberland County, the creation of the revaluation notices to property owners, and other related tasks. Other employees may be less aware of this process, but here's what you will want to know if you are a property owner in Cumberland County.

- Market value is established when two people trade property for money, and an agreement on price is reached, with neither being under duress to buy or sell. Your property value is determined by the actual sales of comparable properties.

- The amount of property tax you pay is based upon the value of your property and the tax rate, as determined by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, and city or town councils.

- Property taxes are the primary source of revenue for local governments. They are used to fund schools and county agencies such as the Sheriff's Office, the Library system, the Public Health Department, the Department of Social Services and other county responsibilities.

Notices of new property values were sent out late last week to property owners, along with brochures advising them of the appeal process and the various kinds of property tax relief that may be available to them. If you've got questions about your revaluation, call the Revaluation Hotline at 321-6800. They will have the answers. But wait for a week or so – they will be experiencing a high volume of calls when those notices first hit mailboxes.

(More detailed information on this topic appeared in the Sunday, March 1 issue of The Fayetteville Observer, in the Opinion/Editorial section called Perspective.)

Wellness Fair Scheduled for April

The annual **COUNTY EMPLOYEE WELLNESS FAIR** is scheduled for April 7-9, 2009 at the Agri-Expo Center. A make-up date is set for May 7. Employees who participate in the wellness fair have an opportunity to save money on their health insurance premiums and learn about ways to improve their personal health. At the health fair employees will be weighed, their blood pressure, cholesterol and blood glucose will be measured and each employee will return a completed personal wellness profile. Department representatives will soon receive a schedule to sign-up employees in their department and personal wellness profiles at a later date. For additional information please contact Chasity Sessoms, Wellness Coordinator at 433-3896 or Barbara Carraway at 433-3893.

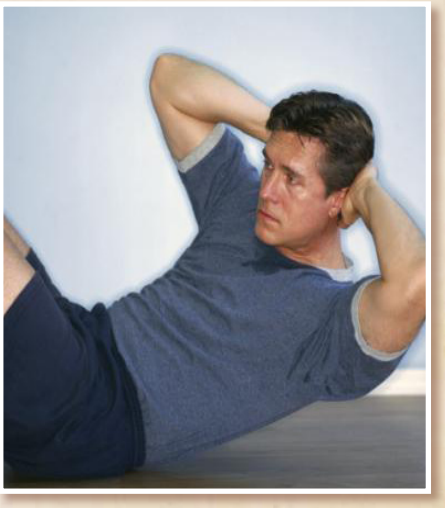
The health insurance costs for next year remain the same. The cost is based upon whether an individual participates in the wellness fair by completing a health risk assessment and having their biometrics taken. The costs are:

BASE RATES WITHOUT HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT/BIOMETRICS

	MONTHLY RATES	PER PAY PERIOD RATES
Employee Only	$ 51.00	$ 25.50
Employee + Child	$ 157.00	$ 78.50
Employee + Children	$ 254.00	$ 127.00
Employee + Spouse	$ 241.00	$ 120.50
Employee + Family	$ 326.00	$ 163.00

BASE RATES WITH HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT/BIOMETRICS

	MONTHLY RATES	PER PAY PERIOD RATES
Employee Only	$ 21.00	$ 10.50
Employee + Child	$ 127.00	$ 63.50
Employee + Children	$ 224.00	$ 112.00
Employee + Spouse	$ 211.00	$ 105.50
Employee + Family	$ 296.00	$ 148.00



It's Good Efficiency, and It's Good Etiquette

More than ten years ago, the County invested in a new phone system in order to conduct business internally and with the public in a more efficient and effective manner. The system has the capacity to offer a recorded message for callers and the capacity to keep that message accurate and up to the minute. The recorded message enables callers to leave their own message and have the expectation that their message will be received and acted upon.

Have you ever called one of your colleagues, heard the message about being away from the desk, and left a message, thinking you'd surely hear back by the end of the day? The person you called may have forgotten to update the phone message that she is away on a week's vacation or on sick leave, so you've wasted at least a day expecting an answer. And if it's annoying to you as a county employee, you can imagine what it does to a taxpayer who is calling.

It's easy to update your phone message, even from home or another location. Here's a tutorial that can help you. If you're going to be away from the office, record a temporary greeting:

1. While logged into our mailbox, press 82.
2. Press 1 for external greeting, 2 for internal greeting and 3 for temporary greeting.
3. Press 5 to record. Wait for the tone, then record your greeting.
4. Press # to end the recording.
5. To set the expiry time of your temporary greeting, press 9.
6. For the current month or day, press # only.
7. For a time setting of 9:00, press 900# (AM press 1; for PM press 2)

If you do not set an expiry date and time, your temporary greeting will remain in effect until you delete it.

Once you learn the procedure, it's easy to use and will keep your message accurate and up to date. Callers will appreciate the courtesy!

Unchain Your Dog

The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners adopted a new ordinance earlier this year that will take effect on August 1. The ordinance prohibits the tethering of dogs.

Tethering has been determined to be cruel to dogs, exposing them to inclement and severe weather, danger of choking or strangulation, and vulnerability to attacks from other animals or harassment from humans. Furthermore, there is evidence that tethering can fundamentally alter a dog's temperament, causing them to become aggressive and anti-social.

A public information campaign will educate the public about the definition of tethering, the ordinance prohibiting it, why it was adopted and when it is effective. In the meantime, you can read the entire ordinance at our website, www.co.cumberland.nc.us.

"March to Work" Job Fair

The 11th Annual **"MARCH TO WORK" JOB FAIR** is presented in partnership with Cumberland County Department of Social Services Work First Program, Fayetteville Technical Community College, City of Fayetteville Community Development Department, Beasley Broadcast Group, Inc., The Fayetteville Observer and the Fayetteville – Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce. The job fair is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2009 from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM on the first floor of the Department of Social Services building at 1225 Ramsey Street. Representatives from approximately 70 employers are expected to take part in this exciting event.

Business sponsors for the job fair are Domino's Pizza, Pizza Hut, Boddie-Noell Enterprises, inc and Hiring Now, the magazine.

The Job Fair is free and open to the general public. This will be a great opportunity for job seekers to talk with business representatives, complete job applications and learn more about what the local labor market has to offer. Businesses will include: manufacturing, professional, food service, medical service, health services, office administration, hospitality and much more. Bring a good ball point pen, plenty of resumes and dress professionally. As space at the job fair is very limited, so please do not bring children to this event. Good luck in your job seeking and we will see you there.

If further information is needed, you may call Work First Employment Coordinator Bill Kiser at 677-2177 or Robert Relyea at 677-2222.

Internet Enrollment

Cumberland County Government

2009 Cafeteria Benefits Enrollment

INTERNET ENROLLMENT DATES: April 6—May 1, 2009
Enroller Support Dates: April 20—April 24, 2009
EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE: JULY 1, 2009

Deadline Date To Enroll: May 1, 2009
No changes will be allowed after this date.

Remember, you MUST RE-ELECT your Gilsbar Health Care &/or Dependent Care Account. It will not automatically continue each year.

Products that can be enrolled on the Internet:

- Gilsbar Health Care Account
- Gilsbar Dependent Care Account
- Assurity Cancer
- Ameritas Dental
- Standard Life Short Term Disability
- UnumProvident UL (Must see a Mark III Rep)

Products that cannot be changed or enrolled on the Internet:

- CSO Cancer (Must see a Mark III Rep)
- Aetna Term Life (Must see a Mark III Rep)
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance (must see the BCBS representative for all changes)

How to Log on to the Internet to Enroll

- Go to: **www.co.cumberland.nc.us** and click "**Internet Enrollment**"
- You will see the Cumberland County Government Welcome Page
  - Logging on:
    - Enter Case ID number: 911
    - Enter the Online ID, which is your social security number.
    - Enter your password which is: enroll09

Contacts For Internet Enrollment:

- Susan Murphy (800)532-1044 ext. 232 / susan@markiiifinancial.com
- Cindy Horton (800)532-1044 ext. 210 / cindy@markiiifinancial.com
- Julie Crawford (910)223-3327 / jcrawford@co.cumberland.nc.us

Plan arranged and enrolled by:
Mark III Brokerage, Inc. (800) 532-1044

Sheriff's Office News

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE has developed a new Crime Alert program designed to notify the public of ongoing criminal activity in local neighborhoods. A Crime Alert will be issued as the need arises and will be distributed to all media outlets for immediate broadcast to the public.

We believe the concept of alerting the public to crime patterns or trends will allow law enforcement to solve crimes quickly and ensure a safer community. Sheriff Earl R. Butler says, "local citizens are the greatest crime fighting tool we have to date. Utilizing them in our day to day operation will help us generate leads and tips that will bring criminals to justice."

Beginning today, Monday, February 16, 2009 tips about any crime in Cumberland County can shared with law enforcement officers and you can remain anonymous. By dialing 484-TIPS or 484-8477, you can leave information via a tape recorded telephone call. If you would like a detective to contact you, leave a call back number and a time when you can be reached. If not, simply hang-up and your call remains anonymous.

The new 2009 motto for the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office is, "Help Us Help You." Let's work together to keep Cumberland County a safe place to live, work and play.

SNAP-ed Program

For a second consecutive year, CUMBERLAND COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION has offered the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Educational program (SNAP-ed) to third grader students at Pauline Jones Elementary School. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education is a set of learning experiences designated to facilitate the voluntary adoption of eating and other nutrition-related behaviors conducive to health and well being for those on a limited budget.

The SNAP-ed program uses science-based, behaviorally-focused interventions and can maximize its impact by concentrating on a small set of key outcomes. The key behavioral outcomes are:

- Eat fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and non-fat, or low-fat milk or milk products everyday.
- Be physically active every day as part of a healthy lifestyle.
- Balance calorie intake from food and beverages with calories expended.

During nine sessions, students will learn about the food pyramid, how to read food labels, healthy drink alternatives, the importance of eating fruits and vegetables as well as adding physical activity to their daily routine. Hands-on activities and tasting are part of the sessions.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY
4-H FOUNDATION

4TH ANNUAL FRIED CHICKEN OR PORK BBQ PLATE FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Lunch Only)

Dine In or Drive Thru or Delivery
(Delivery Available for 10 or More Plates!)

FRIED CHICKEN OR PORK BBQ PLATE
COST $6.00 PER PLATE

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Office
Charlie Rose Agri-Expo Center
301 East Mountain Dr, Fayetteville NC

Tickets are available from
Foundation Members,
4-H Members and/or the 4-H Office
If you have any questions, please call Donna at
910-321-6864.

Proceeds Benefit Cumberland County 4-H
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Roberts Retires from Library

A familiar face will be leaving the Hope Mills Branch Library at the end of February. **CATHERINE ROBERTS, LIBRARY ASSOCIATE II,** is retiring after 35 years in the Cumberland County library system. She has spent the last 25 years at the Hope Mills location.

"I will miss the staff. We have the best staff in the world," she said. "And, of course, I will miss the customers. It's been rewarding. I will never forget the people here. They have been very supportive of this library."

One of the biggest changes Roberts has witnessed over the years has been the growing population in the town.

"I've seen tremendous growth here in Hope Mills, and the community is still growing," she said.

During her more than three decades with the library, Roberts said she has most enjoyed helping library customers find just the right book and assisting them on the computer. Once she retires, she plans to tutor reading and travel with her husband, Larry, family and friends. There's also music in the future. Roberts and her family are planning to record a CD of gospel music.

Headquarters Library Will Reopen Soon

Those county employees who work in the Courthouse or other downtown locations have missed the **HEADQUARTERS LIBRARY** since a fire closed the building last year. But Library Director Jody Risacher offers up a hopeful forecast that the Library will reopen early in April.

The final touches on restoring the public areas of the Library and the collection include installing new carpet, testing the air quality which requires the HVAC system to be turned on, and moving back in the furniture, computers and, of course, the books.

By the time the next Connection is published, the Headquarters Library should once again be open to the public. And lunchtime browsers will once again be able to browse for a good read!

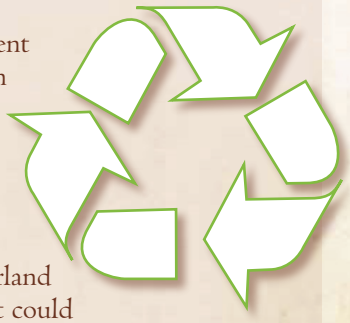
Crushing Rock, Keeping Down Costs

In Cumberland County, North Carolina, the **SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT** of county government is known to take an enterprising and entrepreneurial approach to business. The Director of the department, Bobby Howard, and his staff are always thinking of new ways to save money. Their department has contributed to county revenues over the years by selling mulch for boiler fuel to businesses in neighboring counties, methane gas generated by his landfill to a large agri-business in Cumberland County, and recyclables to the highest bidder.

Recently, the Solid Waste Department focused on a huge pile of brick, rock and concrete debris that had been stockpiled for some time on the landfill grounds. Accumulated from many demolitions, much of the material was too large to be useful. So Howard decided to spend a little money to generate and/or save a whole lot more.

He rented a commercial rock-crusher with several screens of different gauges, and began crushing the debris, estimated to be about 60,000 tons. He subsequently generated enough road material to maintain the roads on the landfill itself, and all of the county's 16 container sites. The rock and road material he has generated from his stockpile of brick and concrete is expected to save Cumberland County as much as $1M in the coming year, an amount they could expect to spend on road material purchased commercially at $18 to $22 a ton.

Howard says he appreciates the confidence the County management and commissioners have placed in him and the people with whom he works.

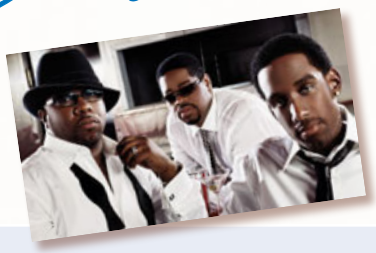


The investment of $64,000 to rent the rock crusher for a couple of months has proven to be a good investment for Cumberland County. If only the stock market could deliver such a good return on investment!

The Biggest Loser Competition

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM will be sponsoring its first "Biggest Loser" competition, starting April 1st – June 30th. The goal of the competition is to encourage employees who desire to lose weight to do so by increasing their physical activity and/or eating healthy. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner for employees who lose the most weight. Please contact Chasity Sessoms, Wellness Coordinator to register or for additional information at 433-3896.

Coming Up @ the



MARCH

1	**Carolina Home and Garden Show**	Crown Expo	12:00 p.m.
6	**FireAntz** vs. Knoxville	Crown Coliseum	7:30 p.m.
6-8	**Eastern North Carolina RV Sales Event**	Crown Expo	check website
10	**FireAntz** vs. Richmond	Crown Coliseum	7:30 p.m.
7	**Playhouse Disney**	Crown Theatre	1:30 p.m.
13	**Boys II Men** *presented by Community Concerts*	Crown Theatre	8:00 p.m.
14	**Monster Trucks Thunderslam Spectacular**	Crown Coliseum	7:30 p.m.
21	**East Coast Step Show**	Crown Coliseum	6:00 p.m.

APRIL

1	**Third Day Revelation Tour**	Crown Coliseum	7:00 p.m.
4	**Steve Harvey**	Crown Coliseum	8:00 p.m.
4	**Close Combat in the Cage Mixed Martial Arts**	Crown Arena	7:30 p.m.
21	*Fayetteville Observer* presents **Annie** *a Broadway production*	Crown Theatre	7:00 p.m.
23	**Bill Gaither & The Homecoming Friends " Lovin Life" Tour**	Crown Coliseum	7:00 p.m.
24	**Disturbed Music as a Weapon Tour** Featuring Killswitch Engage, Lacuna Coil and Chimaira	Crown Coliseum	7:00 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

GOOD FRIDAY
Friday
April 10, 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!