NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK

CUMBERLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

CONNECTION

VOLUME VI, ISSUE III MAY 2009

County Government Week

Goes Green!

May 4-8 is NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK and the theme this year is "Greening Our Future." Sustaining a healthy environment is an important aspect of creating a good quality of life in our county, and there are things we all can do to contribute to a cleaner atmosphere.

- Bring your recyclables to work with you, if you work in the Courthouse, on Wednesday mornings – Solid Waste has a container for you to drop off your plastics, magazines, newspapers, aluminum cans and more.
- Cumberland County sometimes develops air quality issues, especially in the warmer months. Fill your gas tank in the evening.
- Recycling is easy once you get in the habit. Recycling preserves the life of our landfill, which postpones the need to build a new one.

ANOTHER ASPECT OF NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK is the opportunity it provides to honor those county employees with long service to the county. On May 4, the following employees will be honored with a presentation in the Commissioners' chambers, followed by a reception in Room 119.

A list of those employees being honored is shown at right.

All county employees are contributing to an ever-better Cumberland County; thank you for your efforts and keep up the good work!

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Bobby Thomas	Community Development
Roger Howard	Landscaping
Terry Eads	Mental Health
Leanne Jackson	Mental Health
Donna McFayden	Planning
Wayne Eastman	Public Buildings
Peggy Price	Public Buildings
Kay Williams	Public Health
James Black	Sheriff
David Dowless	Sheriff
Bambi Rensch-Daniels	Sheriff
Regina Robertson-Hart	Sheriff
Darryl Scales	Sheriff
Paula Spann	Sheriff
Peggy Spencer	Sheriff
Bryan Urquhart	Sheriff
Harold White	Sheriff
Evelyn Whitfield	Sheriff
Nancy Fountaine	Social Services
Darlene Lawrence	Social Services
Mary McCoy	Social Services
Bobbie Redding	Social Services
Karen Richmond	Social Services
Calvin Shipman	Social Services
Randolph White	Social Services
Cynthia Wilson	Social Services
George Jones	Solid Waste
Donald Jones	Solid Waste
Debra Johnson	Solid Waste
Janice Albert	Solid Waste

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Callie Gardner	Day Reporting
Kenny Currie	Emergency Services
Sam Lucas	Engineering
Agnes McCrae	Mental Health
Hope Barnhart	Planning
Sharon Batten	Public Health
Brenda Brown	Public Health
Phyllis Carter	Sheriff
Duane Eaton	Sheriff
Phillip Izzell	Sheriff
Carol Clark	Social Services
Barbara Claytor	Social Services
Leon Freeman	Social Services
Robert Howard	Social Services
Betty Jackson	Social Services
Lyndelia Wynn	Social Services
Bob Goodrich	Tax Administration

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mary McArthur	Public Library
George Autry	NC Cooperative Extension
Willie Denning	Planning

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Bobby McCormick	Planning
Henry Malloy	Sheriff
Mary Lee Roberts	Social Services

COUNTY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Spring has sprung all around Cumberland County, offering up dogwood blossoms and azalea blooms everywhere. I hope each of you is enjoying the season, looking forward to the warmer weather that will soon be with us.

It's also now budget season for county government. The economic challenges for every level of government are daunting. Here in Cumberland County, we are instructed by the commissioners to develop a budget that is based on a revenue-neutral tax rate. That is no easy task, largely because we won't know what the property tax base is until well after the July 1 date by which the budget must be adopted. This challenge preoccupies management staff and as the month of May wears on, many meetings on the topic of the budget will be taking place. I am deeply grateful for the efforts all departments and employees who have curtailed spending and adjusted their needs for next fiscal year.

We will be observing NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT week this month, May 4-8. It's a time to honor the long service of career employees, and to take pride in all that county government does to make our community a good place to live, do business and bring up a family. I salute each county employee for your many contributions to this work – you are largely unsung heroes.

Honoring National County Government Week and Our Older Americans

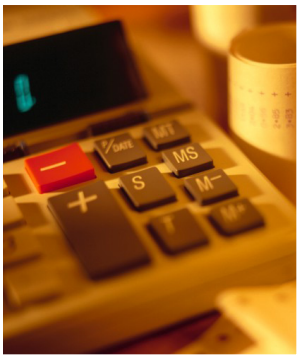
NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK is May 4-8, falling in the month that is dedicated to Older Americans.

DSS will honor both with a ceremony on Thursday, May 7 at the northeastern corner of the DSS building on Ramsey Street at 10 a.m.

In keeping with the theme for this year's County Government Week, "Greening Our Future," a tree will be dedicated in honor of the late E. Lee Hauser, the first Director of the Department of Social Services. The agency will also celebrate National Older Americans Month with a moment of silence, followed by the release of biodegradable balloons in honor of Cumberland County's older Americans.

The 82d Airborne Division's All-American Chorus will perform at the event.

Building the Budget



This the season, the perennial reoccurrence of the need to build the coming fiscal year's budget for the County. The schedule for the budget work sessions, and public hearings on the proposed FY 2009-10 budget is below:

June 1, 2009, 9 a.m. – Budget Presentation – Room 118
June 1, 2009, 5:30 p.m. – Budget Work Session – Room 564
June 2, 2009, 5:30 p.m. - Department Head Appeals – Room 564
June 4,2009, 5:30 p.m. - Budget Work Session – Room 564
June 8, 2009, 7:00 p.m. - Budget Public Hearing – Room 118
June 9, 2009, 5:30 p.m. – Budget Work Session – Room 564
June 10, 2009, 5:30 p.m. – Budget Work Session – Room 564
June 15, 2009, 5:00 p.m. – Budget Work Session – Room 564
June 15, 2009, 6:45 p.m. – Adopt Budget – Room 118

Is Your Department Recycling?
If not, start today! It is easy to do...
Contact Solid Waste at 321-6914 to get started.

31 2009 DAYS OF GLORY

One Day In May Isn't Enough

To Thank Soldiers, Vets & Their Families

31 DAYS OF GLORY marks month-long celebration of performances, ceremonies, exhibits and activities honoring those that serve and have served.

As the country's First Sanctuary Community For Soldiers, Fayetteville/Cumberland County is dedicating the entire month of May to honor soldiers, vets and their families who have put it all on the line to defend our country. With a new events series, named 31 Days of Glory, anyone can experience the area's military heritage and honor our brethren in the services – past and present.

Through the efforts of over 15 community organizations, activities are planned for every single day of the month. Venues around the county will host events, ranging from Chester Biggs discussing his years in China as a POW to family-friendly hands-on activities like creating Blue Star Banners for wartime military families to re-enactments of different time periods and demonstrations using Civil War ammunition. A number of concerts, author readings and art exhibits will also be staged throughout the area.

"While everyone else celebrates Memorial Day, we devote an entire month to thank the military, vets and their families," says Fayetteville Mayor Anthony Chavonne. "We invite the world to do what we do every day – show our enthusiastic appreciation, respect and support for those who have and are putting it all on the line for us."

Intended to be an annual event, 31 Days of Glory is the result of the collective vision of the Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, USO North Carolina, Fascinate-U Children's Museum, Museum of the Cape Fear, Fayetteville Downtown Alliance, Fayetteville Symphony, Cumberland County Public Library and Information Center, Fayetteville Museum of Art, Airborne & Special Operations Museum, Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division War Memorial, The Arts Council, Fort Bragg MWR, Fayetteville Area Transportation and Local History Museum, Cape Fear Botanical Gardens and J.E.B. Stuart Chapter 483.

For all events, dates and times visit 31daysofglory.com.

Air Quality Awareness

AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK 2009 runs from April 27-May 2. In conjunction with Air Quality Week the Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO), Sustainable Sandhills, and the NC Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Air Quality sponsored the sixth annual "Win With Air Quality" Poster Contest. Over 800 Cumberland County Elementary School students participated in this year's contest. The theme of this year's contest was "Alternative Transportation and Recycling". Below are the two first place posters.

1st Place David Li
K-2 Grade Category

1st Place Anuk Dayaprema
3-5 Grade Category

COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK is the first week in May, and this year FAMPO will contribute to an Air Quality and Sustainable Practices display in the Cumberland County Courthouse. The theme of this year's County Government Week is 'Greening our Futures". The top six posters from the contest along with "green" information will be featured at the display. This is the time of year when improving our air quality becomes one of the easiest ways to contribute to the overall health and well-being of our community and planet. Below are ten simple steps that people can take to improve air quality.

1) Chain trips together
2) Take mass transit, share a ride or car pool
3) Have fun! Ride your bike
4) Take things in stride. Walk
5) Care for your Car
6) Get fuel when it's cool
7) Don't top off the tank
8) Telecommute
9) Know the ozone forecast for the day
10) Spread the word about these steps

10 Simple Steps

Animal Services' Director Takes The Reins

DAVID "SCOTTIE" HARRIS was selected last month as the new Director of the Animal Services Department. It was Harris himself who suggested the name change for the department from Animal Control.

After a rigorous assessment process, Harris was clearly the right person to take up the challenging work of managing a department that deals with the public on such sensitive topics as animals, those that are beloved pets and those that are mistreated and neglected, as well as enforcement of statutes dealing with animals.

Harris is a native of Selma, North Carolina and was most recently the Deputy Director of the Emergency Services Department. He served two and a half years in Iraq as a civilian contractor, establishing fire departments where there were none.

Harris is enthusiastic about his new responsibilities.

"People come to think of their animals as part of the family," he says. "Just as we place importance on the welfare of human family members, so will we place importance on the four-legged members of our community."

Congrats Grads!

DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY HARVEY RAYNOR, left, and ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY PHYLLIS P. JONES graduated last month from the UNC-CH School of Government course on County Administration, a 10-week comprehensive course about how county governments function, from Animal Services to Zoning.

Working Mom

KELLIE BEAM OF THE TAX DEPARTMENT, seen here with her new daughter Abigail, has recently returned from her maternity leave. Kellie is just one of many county employees who balance their lives with work and family considerations.

Certification Earned

A big congratulations to ED BROOKS OF THE TAX DEPARTMENT. He was presented with the certificate that proclaims his status as a Certified Assistant Tax Collector during the recent spring conference of tax professionals. Congrats, Ed!

Kudos to FAMPO

In March, THE FAYETTEVILLE AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (FAMPO) was notified that the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration re-certified our local transportation planning process. This process includes evaluations and an on-site review that occurred in January. Good work, FAMPO!

Coming Up @ the

MAY

2	Guard vs. Erie River Rats	Crown Coliseum	7:30 pm
16	Skillet with Disciple and Decyfer Down	Crown Theatre	6:00 pm
16	St. Jude Tournament and Expo	Crown Expo	10:00 am
17	St. Jude Tournament and Expo	Crown Expo	9:00 am
17	TNA Wrestling Live	Crown Arena	4:00 pm
30	Guard vs. Reading Express	Crown Coliseum	7:30 pm

JUNE

6	Guard vs. Phantoms	Crown Coliseum	7:30 pm
27	Guard vs. Lions	Crown Coliseum	7:30 pm

Visit www.AtTheCrown.com for more information.

Mulch Available

If you are moved to do some gardening and outdoor sprucing up this spring, here's some good news. Our friends and colleagues at SOLID WASTE have made both roughcut and screened mulch available at the Wilkes Road Landfill. The cost is $10 for a pick-up truckload or a small trailer full; larger loads can be had for $5 a cubic yard.

Red hardwood mulch is available for $60 a pickup truck.

Interested? Call 486-0839 for more information.

Good Health Is Not Just For The Young

THE ADULT SERVICES DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES is sponsoring the 5th Senior Health Fair on Wednesday, May 20. The hours are from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. aqt the DSS Cumberland County Conference Rooms.

This celebration of good health is open to the public and is designed to honor senior citizens during May's "Older American Month." Free refreshments and door prizes will be presented during the event. More than 30 participating vendors will provide blood pressure checks, promotional materials and an abundance of health-related educational materials.

If you are one of those "older Americans," or if you know someone who is, share the news and plan to attend the Senior Health Fair!

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

MEMORIAL DAY
Monday
May 25, 2009

Going Green Around the County

County departments are taking advantage of the SUBSTAINABLE SANDHILLS GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM. The program is based on a set of flexible checklists with a mix of required and optional measures. The Library System has been certified for awhile and now several more departments have become certified. Those departments will be recognized at the May 4th Board of Commissioners meeting. It's not too late to join in. Contact Heidi Johnson at 484-9098 for more information and to schedule a visit.

CERTIFIED Sustainable Sandhills Green Business