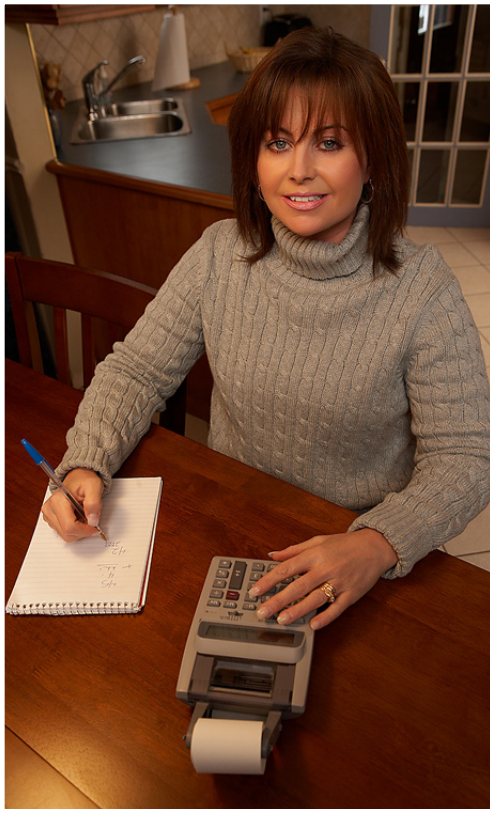
CUMBERLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

CONNECTION

VOLUME VII, ISSUE V SEPTEMBER 2009



New 457 Option Available for Employees

BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER, the N.C. Deferred Compensation Plan (also known as a 457 plan) will be available to employees of Cumberland County. Like the NC 401(k) Plan, the NC 457 Plan is sponsored by the State of North Carolina and provides many of the same important benefits. These include: automatic payroll deduction, asset consolidation, investing with GoalMaker (an asset allocation program) and the inclusion of 457 plan benefits on your annual retirement statement.

In addition, the NC 457 Plan has some unique benefits that may compliment your retirement strategy:

- Eligibility includes all full-time, part-time and temporary employees, elected and appointed officials and rehired retired employees.
- Withdrawals from the NC Deferred Compensation Plan are never subject to a 10 percent federal income tax penalty.
- Two "catch-up" opportunities to make up for lost time.
- No deferral coordination between the 401(k) and the 457 Plan (you can contribute the maximum to both plans).

Your Regional Retirement Education Manager, Clay Thompson, will be discussing the benefits of the NC Deferred Compensation Plan September 28 through October 2. Details regarding meeting times and locations will be communicated in the upcoming weeks.

JOB FAIR

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER and the Cumberland County Department of Social Services Work First Program, along with other community partners, are hosting the **"FALL INTO WORK" JOB FAIR** on Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Crown Expo Center.

In the past, the annual event has been held at the DSS building on Ramsey Street. The larger Crown Expo Center venue will allow more employers to participate. The last job fair attracted over 2,000 job seekers and more than 70 business vendors. This year organizers hope to expand to more than 100 vendors and more than 3,000 job seekers.

For more information, contact Robert Relyea, 910-677-2222, Robertrelyea@ccdssnc.com; or Bill Kiser, 910-677-2177, billkiser@ccdssnc.com.

COUNTY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

James Martin

Five weeks ago we were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of COUNTY ATTORNEY GRAINGER BARRETT. We've lost a brilliant legal professional, one well respected throughout the state; and we've lost a friend, whose welcoming smile and bellowing laugh are truly missed here on the fifth floor of the courthouse.

Grainger's list of professional achievements is long. After joining the county staff in 1998, he became the county attorney a year later. He was the newly installed president of the North Carolina Association of County Attorneys. During his 35-year legal career, Grainger had been the Person County Attorney, the Chapel Hill Town Attorney, an assistant professor at the Institute of Government at UNC-CH, as well as a corporate and private practice attorney.

On the personal side, his legacy will live on in his family, and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with them. Wife Sharon Barrett, another member of our Cumberland County Government family, is the human resources manager for the Health Department.

In addition to his family, Grainger leaves behind another living legacy as an organ donor. His gift saved several lives and granted vision to others.

So, in that spirit of generosity, you might consider how you can pay tribute to Grainger's memory. One opportunity will happen Sept. 17 when the Cape Fear Valley Blood Donor Center conducts a blood drive at the Headquarters Library and here at the courthouse.

Following Grainger's passing, the County Attorney's Office continued moving forward as he would have expected. The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners appointed Harvey "Butch" Raynor, the deputy county attorney, as the interim county attorney. The commissioners are currently conducting a search for a new county attorney and hope to have one in place by the end of November.

Blood Drive Sept. 17

COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC will have two opportunities to donate blood on Thursday, Sept. 17. The Cape Fear Valley Blood Donor Center will set up the Bloodmobile at the Headquarters Library that morning from 9:30 until 11:30. The vehicle will then move to the courthouse parking lot off Cool Spring Street from 1-4 p.m.

- All the blood donated to the Cape Fear Valley Blood Donor Center stays right here in our community.

Blood Donor Center

- Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.
- Donating is quick and easy and a great way to give back to your community while saving lives.
- Just one donation can help save the lives of three people.
- One out of 10 people entering a hospital need blood.

To sign up to donate, contact Susan Parrish at the library by calling 307-3400 ext. 119. At the courthouse, contact Sally Shutt at 437-1921 or at sshutt@co.cumberland.nc.us.

For more information on blood donation, call the Cape Fear Valley Blood Donor Center at 615-LIFE (5433).

united way of cumberland county

GET READY FOR THE UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Be on the lookout for information coming your way soon on the annual United Way campaign. James Lawson, Human Resources Manager, and Patania Eiland, Human Resources Analyst, are heading up Cumberland County's 2009 campaign.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY KUDOS

Great Employees Doing Great Things!

Myra Brooks

BROOKS EARNS BIGGEST LOSER TITLE

Congratulations to **MYRA BROOKS,** Cumberland County's Employee Biggest Loser Winner. Myra, a paralegal in the County Attorney's Office, received a gift card donated by Renaissance Day Spa. The biggest loser contest ran from April 1 to June 30. The goal of the competition was to increase physical activity.

BLAND RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

In August, **MONISHIA BLAND,** a Veterans Services Officer, became a fully accredited representative of the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs. The Veterans' Services office is now fully accredited, said Sharon Sanders, interim director.

EASTMAN HOOKS WINNING FISH

WAYNE EASTMAN won first place in Category One of the Oak Island Open Pier Tournament with a 1 lb., 14 oz., pompano. Eastman won $250 and was featured, along with the fish, in the June 25 issue of Fisherman's Post

Candice White

DSS PROFESSIONAL GROUP MAKES COMMUNITY DONATION

The **CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES** local chapter of the North Carolina Social Services Association (NCSSA) chooses an organization each year to receive a donation. This year the NCSSA members presented a $100 donation to the Care Clinic in downtown Fayetteville. The NCSSA members believe that every family and citizen deserves a helping hand and that we can make a difference in the community.

WHITE EARNS CLERK CERTIFICATION

Congratulations go out to **CANDICE WHITE,** former city clerk for the City of Fayetteville and now the deputy clerk to the Board of Commissioners, who earned the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, Inc.
IIMC grants the CMC designation only to those municipal clerks who complete demanding education requirements; and who have a record of significant contributions to their local government, their community and state.

Johnny Chance

CONGRATULATIONS JOHNNY CHANCE!

In July, **JOHNNY LEE CHANCE**, Public Buildings Equipment Maintenance HVAC Technician III, (Licensed), passed the North Carolina HVAC Level 2 License Examination. This test, which is extremely complicated and technical, involves the memorization of seven manuals and the completion of a five-hour examination. Chance's previous license limited him to replacing air conditioning units of 15 tons or less per physical address. This new H-2 license will permit him to replace units of unlimited tonnage per address. This will be a considerable savings for the county.

"John is constantly looking for newer and better technologies to save Cumberland County's tax dollars," said Al Brunson, Public Buildings Equipment Maintenance Manager. "He is always focused on making sure that each unit in the County is working at its optimum level, and when repairs or replacements are necessary, John will always try to find the most cost-effective solution for Cumberland County. He has taken the lead on many projects and been a valuable asset to the County while working with contractors, vendors, and peers."

Chance has been a dedicated, hardworking member of the Cumberland County family for some 16 years and has worked in the field of heating and air conditioning for more than 30 years. With his knowledge and experience, Chance has attained the position of Team Leader for the Cumberland County HVAC team and is the senior consultant on all HVAC matters.

We salute his hard work and dedication to Cumberland County, and we congratulate him for this most impressive achievement!

County Wins Finance Award

THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of the United States and Canada has recognized Cumberland County for excellence in financial reporting.

ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER AMY CANNON, the county's financial director, accepted the certificate of achievement for the county's comprehensive annual financial report for fiscal year 2008 at the Aug. 4 Board of Commissioners meeting.

The award commended the county for achieving the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.

Cannon accepted the honor on behalf of the county's Finance Department and administration. She thanked the various county departments for their contributions toward the award and the commissioners for their support.

Assistant County Manager Amy Cannon, right, was recognized by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Aug. 4. The county's financial director, Cannon accepted an award from the Government Finance Officers Association honoring the county for excellence in financial reporting. Also pictured - left to right, Chairman Jeannette Council, Commissioner Kenneth Edge and Commissioner Ed Melvin.

American Heart Association Raffle A Success

CUMBERLAND COUNTY EMPLOYEES raised $5,975 with their annual raffle for the American Heart Association. The association's Heart Walk will be Oct. 10 in Festival Park.

The Mental Health Center, which has 191 employees, placed first in raffle ticket sales with 284 sold. The Register of Deeds office, which has 22 employees, was second in sales. Sharon Yates, Mental Health's sales representative, and Petronia Nichols, who led the Register of Deeds effort, each received a certificate for one paid day off. Nichols also won $100 in the raffle.

Pam Stultz, senior assistant Register of Deeds, congratulated Nichols.

"Although we are a small department, we pride ourselves on always giving 100 percent. Our 22 folks sold 235 tickets. If you do the math, each of our employees averaged selling 10.69 tickets each," Stultz said.

HERE IS THE LIST OF RAFFLE WINNERS:

1st Place: $500 Elke Oertwig- Central Maintenance

2nd Place: $400 Annett Rayborn- Solid Waste

3rd Place: $300 Dr. Mark Hessenthaler- Mental Health

4th Place: $200 Mary Johnson-
Employee of McGeachy Hudson & Zuravel Law Firm

5th Place: $100 Petronia "Buffy" Nichols- Register of Deeds

HEART WALK DEPARTMENT COORDINATORS:
Seated: Carolyn Price- Cumberland County Company Leader, Crystal Herring-Corporate Relations Director for the American Heart Assocation Standing left to right - Sharon Yates, Mental Health Center; Tammy Gillis, Administration; Janice Nettles, Tax Administration; Petronia Nichols, Register of Deeds; Sabrina Patterson, Information Services; and Rita Perry, Planning Department.

County Animal Services Department Receives Grant for Pet Vaccines

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES has received a $33,720 grant from Petfinder.com and The Animal Rescue Site to fund a kennel cough vaccine program. The grant will allow Animal Services to vaccinate approximately 13,488 dogs in a one-year period.

"Animal Services is thrilled to receive this grant during these tough economic times. It will allow us to provide an in-house service that otherwise we would not be able to do," said Scottie Harris, Animal Services Director.

STARTING SEPT. 1, citizens in rural parts of Cumberland County will be able to schedule a ride to carry them to medical appointments, shopping centers, schools, places of employment and other locations for a small fee.

Thanks to a $154,965 Rural Operating Assistance Program grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the county's Community Transportation Program has contracted with B&W Transporting Inc. to provide the service weekdays from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Riders will be charged $2.05 per one-way trip. The collected fares will go toward the grant's required 10 percent match.

Residents located outside of the Census Urban Area Boundary will be able to call the Community Transportation Program office at 910-678-7675 and schedule transportation with a minimum of 24 hours notice. Residents inside Fayetteville, Spring Lake and Hope Mills are not covered under this program.

When a client calls the number to book a ride, the transportation office will verify that the person is a rural resident and that the trip requested is an allowable expense with grant funds. For information, call the Community Transportation Program at 910-678-7675.

Health Department Sponsors "Fit Kids" Camp

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, Fayetteville/Cumberland Parks and Recreation, and the Cumberland County Council for Healthy Lifestyles hosted the fourth annual "Fit Kids" Summer Camps July 27- 31. The "Fit Kids" camps were held at Smith, Pine Forest, Cliffdale, Eastover-Central, and Stedman Recreation Centers. The week-long programs provided education on physical activity, nutrition, and hand washing. The overall goal was to help children make better informed decisions regarding healthy lifestyles.

The week concluded with a "healthy" cook-out, providing an opportunity for the youngsters to taste-test turkey burgers and franks. McDonald's restaurants donated apple dippers to provide the kids with a "healthy" alternative to cake and cookies. We would like to thank Lisa Powell from McDonalds' corporate office in Fayetteville for that generous donation and her continued support of the "Fit Kids" Camp.

Cover your nose with a tissue when you sneeze or cough. Visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1 for more information.

The Importance of Hydration

- The weight of the human body is made up of more than two thirds water. A 2 percent drop in water in your body can lead to dehydration.
- The maintenance of your body depends on you drinking water daily. An adult needs 8-12 cups of water each day. However, your intake of water must be tailored to fit your body type and lifestyle.
- You should not drink other beverages in place of water. Other beverages such as soda pack on the pounds and can dehydrate your body as well.
- Water can also help decrease the risk of certain cancers, such as colon, bladder, and breast cancer.
- If it is the taste of the water that is not pleasing to you, try adding a fresh slice of lemon, lime, or orange to your water for a more pleasant taste.
- Source: freedrinkingwater.com
- For more information, please contact Chasity Sessoms, Wellness Coordinator at 433-3896.

What's In the Fizz?

MANY AMERICANS LOVE THE SATISFYING TASTE OF AN ICE COLD SODA. Our society is fascinated by various sayings such as "Do the Dew," "Obey your Thirst," "Refresh Everything," and "Open Happiness," just to name a few. Not to mention the impressive new logos or promised new throwback tastes that Pepsi and Mountain Dew have to offer. But do we really take the time out to actually read the nutritional facts listed on our valued carbonated beverages?

There are several impressive facts about carbonated sodas that everyone should consider. If a person were to drink two 12-ounce sodas each day for one month, that person would have consumed 5.6 gallons of soda, five pounds of sugar, and take in more than 8,000 calories. In addition, sodas usually list zero grams of fat on the nutritional facts label. But although there are zero grams of fat, sodas still contain lots of sugar, which has calories.

Extra calorie consumption is one of the contributing factors that leads to obesity and being overweight. Moreover, being overweight or obese increases the risk of the development of Type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Because most sodas contain caffeine, dehydration and caffeine addiction are more likely to be found in consistent and prolonged users of carbonated beverages. Furthermore, acid, also found in soda, has been linked to the wearing down of the enamel on the teeth, which leads to tooth decay.

So the next time you have a craving for your irresistible but satisfying carbonated beverage, take a second and think about what's in the fizz.

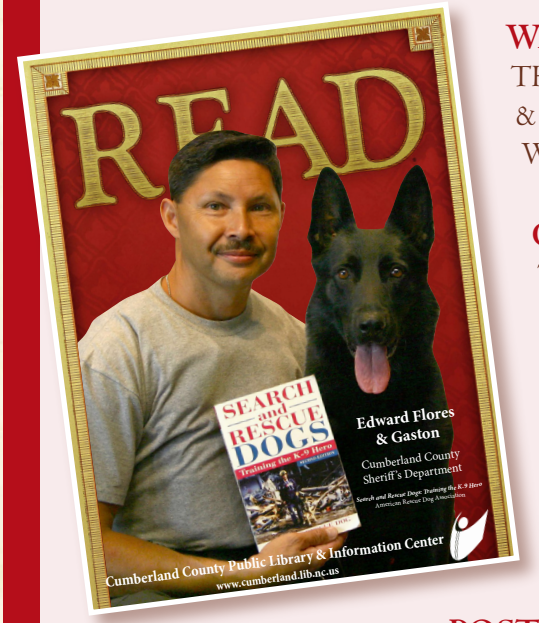
Sources: (August 13, 2007). 10 Reasons to Stop Drinking Soda. Retrieved July 8, 2009, from Prevent Disease.com Web site: http://preventdisease.com/home/weeklywellness337.shtml

Health Edco. (2005). www.HealthEdco.com

Rufle, Samantha (March 17, 2007). 10 Resons to Quit the Soda Habit.. Retrieved July 8, 2009, from Suite 101.com Web site: http://food-facts.suite101.com/article.cfm/10_reasons_to_quit_the_soda_habit

The Burden of Obesity in North Carolina: Soft-Drink Consumption. Retrieved July 9, 2009, from Eat Smart Move More NC Web site: www.eatsmartmovemorenc.com

LIBRARY NEWS



WAL-MART GRANT

THE FRIENDS OF THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTER received a $500 grant from the Ramsey Street Wal-Mart to purchase audio books for the North Regional Branch Library.

CAREER CENTER OPENED

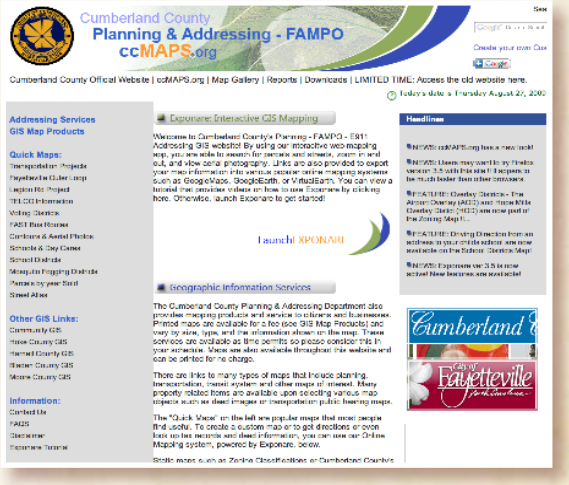
THE HOPE MILLS BRANCH LIBRARY has a new career center featuring books on resume and cover letter writing, interview tips, and a wide variety of career paths. Customers will also find information on local government and temporary agencies to contact, and monthly classes offered by the library related to employment and job skills. A computer located in the career center provides links to local newspaper classifieds, national job sites, local, government, and military jobs, sample resumes, application checklists, and much, much more.

POSTER GOES NATIONAL

THE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT created several posters utilizing the American Library Association's READ campaign CD backgrounds. One poster, featuring Cumberland County Sheriff's Deputy Edward Flores and his K-9 Gaston, was selected for use in the ALA's print and online catalogs. Congratulations to the library, Deputy Flores and Gaston.

National Magazine Features Mapping Web Site

CUMBERLAND COUNTY'S ONLINE MAPPING SERVICES are featured in a national magazine this month. The Aug. 24 issue of *Government Computer News* looks at how the Planning and Inspections Department uses mapping software to provide the public with valuable information, all just a few mouse clicks away.



Mike Osbourn, the county's E911 Planning Coordinator, is interviewed in the story which highlights the county's mapping Web site at www.ccmaps.org. The site is a clearinghouse for land-related information that has proven useful for residents, real estate professionals, bankers, developers and potential newcomers.

The posting of mapping information required by real estate agents and developers has proven so useful, in fact, that Osbourn tells the magazine the number of phone calls the county fields about such data has been reduced 60 to 70 percent.

Visitors to the site will find an extensive menu of maps, including those related to transportation projects, schools districts, bus routes, and voting districts. There is also a tutorial available to help you take full advantage of the mapping services.

"We've modified the site over time, and we try to be as responsive to the community's needs as possible," Osbourn said. It's working. The site is getting approximately 1.7 million hits per month, Osbourn said.

To read the story in Government Computer News, go to http://gcn.com/articles/2009/08/07/nc-mapping.aspx?sc_lang=en.

The Lights are On at the Crown with Cost-Saving Project

A RECENTLY COMPLETED LIGHTING PROJECT AT THE CROWN CENTER has Chris Ragland smiling. Not only did staff complete the project in-house, but they were able to save at least $50,000.

"The lighting control system in the Coliseum began failing about three years ago. This was causing us to lose control of how we were turning lights on and off. It was getting harder to find parts to make repairs, and the computer programming was not always working correctly," said Ragland, the center's director of operations.

Ragland recalled times when the computer would tell the lights to shut down for a blackout effect for a concert or sporting event and certain lights would remain on.

In 2006, the cost to replace the lighting system in the coliseum alone was estimated at $92,000. That was cost prohibitive, so the staff continued to do their best to make the existing system work, and as time went on, the parts to repair the system were becoming harder and harder to get.

"As we approached the new budget year, the production department and the operations department began to look at options. We decided that we could build our own customized system. This included building new relay cabinets with off-the-shelf parts that will be available for years to come. We changed from an obsolete DOS program to a Windows based program," Ragland said.

By doing this, they added better individual control of lighting fixtures and expanded the system to include the concourse and parking lot lighting. Also, they will be able to continue to expand the system to the complex's other facilities in the future.

"This project was done completely in house for $42,000 and using our own labor and knowledge," said Ragland, who estimated it would have cost an additional $35,000 to outsource the project, on top of the $92,000.

"Besides the cost savings to the county, this project expands on the Coliseum's quest to become a greener facility," he said. "By having the control that we now have over the lights, we can schedule them to come on and shut off in a timely manner to conserve electricity. It eliminates some of the human factor because you no longer have to be concerned about someone physically turning lights on and then forgetting to shut them down later. "

Events can be programmed in advance and this helps eliminate unnecessary hours on the lights themselves, which saves money on bulb replacement.

Coming Up @ the Crown

SEPTEMBER

5 Bringing Da Heat — Crown Theatre — 8:00 p.m.
Labor Day Comedy Bash

Cumberland County Fair

10 BIG DAYS! SEPT 10 - 20

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FAIR

Visit website www.cumberlandcountyfair.org

12 Little Anthony & The Imperials with Deniece Williams — Crown Theatre — 7:00 p.m.

13 The Lord Will Find A Way An Inspirational Stage Play — Crown Theatre — 4:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

15 Colt Ford and guest Bomshel — Crown Arena — 7:00 p.m.

19 Invitational Step Show — Crown Arena — 5:00 p.m.

Visit www.AtTheCrown.com for more information

Little Anthony & the Imperials

Inspirational Play

Colt Ford

Bomshel

Step Show

CUMBERLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT... WORKING FOR YOU!

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MISSION STATEMENT

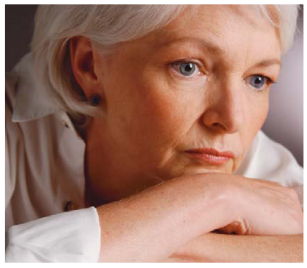
It is the mission of the Cumberland County Government to assure all our citizens a better quality of life by providing for the public safety, public health, quality education, clean environment and economic development while being fiscally responsible.

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.

Ask an Expert

CUMBERLAND COUNTY RESIDENTS have the expertise of the nation's land-grant universities at their fingertips thanks to a new web tool offered by the Cumberland County Center of the N.C. Cooperative Extension.

The public can submit questions about agriculture, food, health, nutrition, home, family, gardening, youth development, 4-H, forestry, environmental stewardship, money management, resource conservation, and a host of other topics via the county extension web site at http://cumberland.ces.ncsu.edu at any time or day or night. Click "Ask" on the black menu bar near the top of the page.

The questions will be directed to Extension faculty members who have the appropriate expertise to provide accurate and timely responses.

"Of course, residents who need information are welcome to call or visit the county Extension Center during business hours," said George Autry, County Extension Director. "The online widget just adds another avenue to our information and provides convenient access to Extension experts."

For more information, call the county extension office at 321-6880 or visit http://cumberland.ces.ncsu.edu.

CUMBERLAND MATTERS

airs Tuesdays at 10 p.m. starting Sept. 1 on Time-Warner Channel 7 and Mondays at 4 p.m. on Channel 60.

The September episode features:

- Anti-tethering ordinance
- Cumberland County Fair
- 100th anniversary of 4-H
- Fall Into Work Job Fair
- Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center