CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONNECTION

County Welcomes New Attorney

RICK MOOREFIELD, who worked as the assistant county attorney in Cumberland County from October 2006 to April 2007, is the new county attorney.

Before returning to Cumberland County, he was the county attorney and county manager in Sampson County. He has also served as county attorney in Macon and Alamance Counties. He worked in private practice in Graham and was the manager and general counsel for two North Carolina partnerships that developed commercial real estate in Beaufort County, S.C.

The County Commissioners began their search for a new county attorney after the death in July of Grainger Barrett, who was the county's chief legal counsel for 10 years.

"We think we are getting a real gem in you since you have served where we sit," said Commissioner Jeannette Council. Moorefield is a former county commissioner in Alamance County.

He received his bachelor's degree in economics and his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He holds a master's degree in public administration from the UNC-Greensboro.

County Exceeds United Way Goal

THE 2009 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN was a big success with Cumberland County employees raising $44,562 and well exceeding their goal of $40,000.

Patania L. Eiland, the United Way co-chairman, honored the United Way team captains Dec. 9 for their hard work. The following drawing winners were announced:

Marie Colgan, Governing Body-$25 Visa Gift Card

Rick Metheny, Mental Health-$50 Visa Gift Card

Tim Mitchell, Emergency Services-$75 (50/50) Cash Drawing

Congratulations to all our winners and a big thank you to all who donated to the United Way.

(Left to right) Sharon Yates, Monisha Bland, Angie Cunningham, Al Foote, Susan Johnson, Sabrina Patterson, Joyce Carter, Nancy Vanterpool, Patania Eiland, LaVerne Howard, Janice Nettles and Gail Freeman

VOLUME VIII, Issue I • January 2010

JAMES MARTIN

County Manager's Message

As we begin 2010, we face an exciting and challenging year. Two new county buildings will be unveiled. The first is the Public Health Department on Ramsey Street scheduled to open in the next few weeks. Then, later this fall, the West Regional Branch Library will become our county's eighth public library. We are also gearing up for the 2010 Census, and you will be hearing more in the coming months as we encourage our citizens to take a few minutes to complete and return their surveys.

As in years past, the challenges before us involve finding ways to meet the needs of the county and range from public safety and safe water to economic development and other issues. Thank you for your hard work in 2009 and your continued commitment to meeting your department's goals.

I wish you and your family a very happy and healthy New Year. Along those lines, remember new laws now ban texting while driving and smoking in restaurants. Also, please remain vigilant during the remainder of the flu season. The Health Department continues to conduct H1N1 Flu clinics for the general public, with two set for Jan. 4-5. Call 433-3658 for more information.

We hope you notice the *County Connection's* new design created by Angie Cunningham, Printing and Graphics Services. Our goal is to establish a more cohesive look between our Web site and other various information outlets such as the employee newsletter and our bi-weekly column in *Up & Coming Weekly*.

Pilgrim Gets State Appointment

Gov. Bev Perdue has appointed DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER JUANITA PILGRIM to the N.C. Employment Security Commission. Pilgrim's term on the commission runs until June 30, 2013. The Employment Security Commission, which consists of seven members appointed by the Governor, rules on appealed unemployment insurance claims and tax matters.

Pilgrim serves on the Board of Trustees for Fayetteville State University, the Board of Directors for the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, and the Cumberland County Workforce Development Board.

She has been the deputy county manager for nine years and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in business from North Carolina Central University.

Board Elects New Chairman

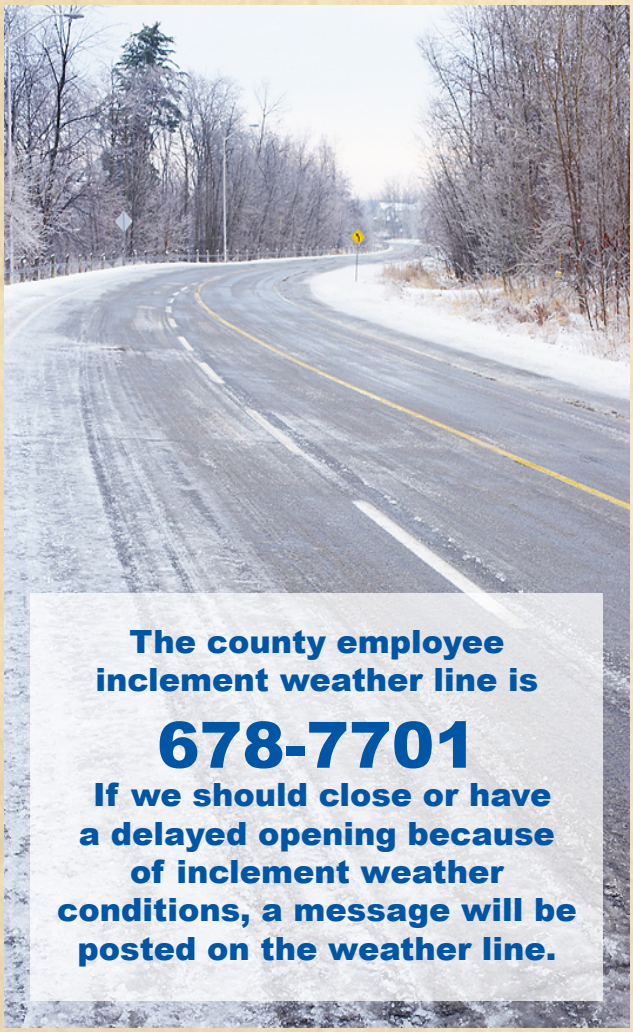
On Dec. 7, the Board of County Commissioners elected Billy R. King as their chairman for 2010. King is pictured with Jeannette Council, outgoing chairman, who was honored during the meeting. The board also elected Commissioner Kenneth Edge as the vice chairman.

Be Prepared for the Winter Storm Season

BY GREG PHILLIPS

The winter storm season is here, and we're already hearing various advisories on the TV and radio. THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT wants you to be prepared and that means having the necessary information to make the right decisions.

Weather forecasts play a large role in the decision-making process. The National Weather Service recommends that you regularly watch local weather stations or listen to a weather radio.



Here's a handy glossary of weather terms to help you:

- **Winter Storm Watches and Warnings** - Issued by the National Weather Service for potentially life-threatening conditions.
- **Winter Storm Watch**- Issued when the following weather conditions are possible within 24 to 48 hours – at least 3 to 5 inches of snow, or ¼ inch of ice accumulations are possible in a 12- to 24-hour period.
- **Winter Storm Warning** - Issued when at least 3 to 5 inches of snow or ¼ inch of ice accumulations or more are likely within 24 hours.
- **Frost/Freeze warning** - Below freezing temperatures are expected.
- **Freezing Rain** – Falling rain that freezes to surfaces like roads, walkways and power lines. Freezing rain or "Ice Storms" can bring down trees and power lines, and severely hamper travel.
- **Sleet** - Rain that has re-frozen into ice pellets prior to reaching the ground. Sleet can accumulate like snow and make roads and walkways slick. Sleet is not as hazardous as freezing rain can be.
- **Flurries** - Refers to a very light snow or snow that occurs for a short time period only causing a light dusting at best.
- **Wind Chill** - Wind chill temperature is the "feel like" temperature denoting the combined effect of wind and temperature. Wind chill is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin. If the wind chill drops below minus 20 degrees exposed flesh can freeze in 30 minutes or less causing frostbite. Wearing layers of clothing helps retain body heat.

Winter storms are deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. Prepare for the upcoming winter weather and take appropriate action to protect yourself and your property.

Here are a few safety tips for the winter weather season:

- **Prepare for possible isolation in your home**. Have sufficient heating fuel and store dry firewood if you have a fire place. Maintain ventilation when using kerosene heaters to avoid build up of toxic fumes; refuel kerosene heaters outside and keep at least 3 feet away from flammable objects. Generators, grills, camp stoves, propane or charcoal burning devices should never be used inside the home garage or basement because they give off carbon monoxide. Have plenty of nonperishable food and water on hand, as well as a battery operated radio and spare batteries. Prepare your pipes with insulation and know how to shut off the water.
- **Dress warm and in layers of loose fitting lightweight clothing** rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellant. Wear a hat and gloves or mittens, and cover your mouth to protect your lungs.
- **Use extreme caution outside in snow and ice**, as not to slip and fall. This is where most injuries happen.

Greg Phillips is an emergency management officer with the Cumberland County Emergency Services Department.

Animal Services Names New Deputy Director

JENNIFER WELCH IS THE NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR AT ANIMAL SERVICES. With 16 years experience in animal services, Welch says she has had a passion for animals all her life. She moved to Fayetteville from Guilford County, where she was a cruelty investigator for the county animal control and a manager for the SPCA of the Triad. Her most recent job was with a veterinarian's office.

Fair Proceeds Benefit 4-H

Hubert Bullard (second from right) of J & J Amusements Inc. presents Krista Hancock, Extension Agent for 4-H & Youth Development, with a $1,500 check to pay for 4-H camp scholarships. The contribution is from proceeds from the Cumberland County fair held in September at the Crown Center. Also pictured are Crown Center General Manager Karen Long and interim County Extension Agent Colby Lambert.

Retirees Honored

County Manager James Martin, center, is pictured with Peggy Price and LeGrand Hucks, who both retired at the end of November from Public Buildings. Mrs. Price joined the county in 1988 and Mr. Hucks in 1975.

Mileage Rate Decreased

The Internal Revenue Service announced the 2010 optional standard mileage rate, and beginning Jan. 1, all travel on official County business performed by County employees in their personal vehicle will be reimbursed at the rate of 50 cents per mile, 5 cents lower than the previous rate.

Per Diem rates also changed Jan. 1 and are posted on the Intranet page under the Finance Department in the Travel Folder.

Sandhills Heart Walk

CUMBERLAND COUNTY'S HEART WALK team raised $14,733.40 for the American Heart Association. The team was recognized for raising the second highest amount of any company team. MJ Soffe was first with just over $16,000. Carolyn Price, company leader for the county team, shows off the Heart Walk plaque and thanks all the department team captains for their hard work.

Generosity Feeds Community's Hungry

CUMBERLAND COUNTY EMPLOYEES showed once again their generosity through their donations to the 2009 Food Drive conducted in the weeks after Thanksgiving. The amount of canned and boxed foods collected totaled more than 3,875 pounds.

The contributed items were delivered Dec. 8 to the warehouse shared by the Salvation Army and the Fayetteville Urban Ministry for distribution to families in need. We took additional items on Dec. 15. All of the food items were expected to be distributed before Christmas.

On behalf of the Fayetteville Urban Ministry and the Salvation Army, a big thank you to everyone who brought in food to share this recent holiday season.

Betty J. Dumas-Beasley, NCSSA President; Meme Diaz, NCSSA Secretary; Shirley Harris and Barbara Claytor, NCSSA Members.

DSS Dress Code Incentive Works

Talk about a giving spirit, the DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES' local chapter of the North Carolina Social Services Association partnered with the county and for an extraordinary holiday food drive to benefit the Salvation Army and Fayetteville Urban Ministry.

Over 1,300 pounds of canned and other non-perishable foods were collected at DSS. The turnout was even better than expected with a total of 1,684 pieces collected. As an added incentive those donating items were given dress code exemptions to allow them to dress down during the Christmas holidays. This was the second food drive at DSS during the holiday season. The first was in November when 890 pieces, just shy of 700 lbs, going to Operation Blessing.

Going Green:

Recycling Container Ingenuity

FACILITY MANAGER ROBERT JOHNSON and his staff were seeing a large percentage of aluminum and plastic going into the garbage at the Department of Social Services.

As part of the department's Green Business certification and in response to a state law banning plastic in all landfills, Johnson was looking for an economical way to make it convenient for employees and visitors to recycle.

When investigating the cost of recycling bins to strategically place throughout the five-story building, the best price he found was about $100 each. Using ingenuity and fueled by economic constraints, Johnson found a conveniently-sized container with a lid that could easily be converted to a recycling bin. He painted the cans, added recycle labels, and cut a 6-inch diameter circle in the lid to accommodate the cans and bottles. He created vinyl labels "CANS" and "PLASTIC" and placed them above the hole in the lid so that it would be clear which can to use.

Lining the cans with a trash bag helps to keep the can itself clean, and the cost savings realized in the actual container alone was $76 per container. The amount of cans and plastic that DSS recycled increased by approximately 300 percent once the containers were placed throughout the building.

With this addition, DSS should average sending approximately 143 pounds of plastic and 95 pounds of aluminum to recycling each week. Based on current recycling rates, this will bring in approximately $2,000 per year to the county.

New State Laws Affect Drivers and Smokers

RON COOPER, FLEET MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR, reminds everyone of two laws that went into effect Dec. 1, one involves texting, the other license plate frames.

The texting law bans drivers from using their cell phones to read or compose text messages or e-mail while their cars are in motion. It remains legal for drivers to text if their cars are legally stopped. Violators face a $230 penalty -- a $100 fine plus $130 in court costs.

The license plate law prohibits frames that obscure the state name or the expiration date sticker. The frames are common. Some promote businesses, and some show the car owner's loyalty to a college, a sports team, a hobby, the military or other personal interest.

Employees are also reminded of the county's policy regarding cell phone usage while driving: "Employees operating a motor vehicle on county business are encouraged to not make or receive calls on a cellular phone, whether hand-held or hands-free, while driving. If it is necessary to use a cellular phone while operating a motor vehicle on county business, the employee should drive the vehicle off the road to a location where the vehicle does not create a safety hazard and bring the vehicle to a stop, prior to using the cellular phone."
This policy, like all county policies, can be found on the Intranet.

No Smoking in Restaurants and Bars

On Jan. 2, all restaurants, bars and other businesses that serve food and drink in Cumberland County will become smoke-free, to the delight of health advocates and many local residents who are looking forward to healthier nights out. This will happen as a result of a new law that prohibits smoking in all restaurants and bars across North Carolina.

The Cumberland County Public Health Department is responsible for implementation and promotion of the new law. The department held a press conference on Dec. 8 to discuss the new law, which covers all restaurants and bars and the common areas of lodging facilities that serve food. Many other places that serve food or beverages, such as convenience stores and recreational facilities, will also be smoke-free by law.

The Cumberland County Health Department held a press conference Dec. 8 to discuss a new state law banning smoking in restaurants and bars. Left to right: Buck Wilson, Health Director; Anne Thornhill, Senior Health Promotion Manager with NC Prevention Partners; Dr. Stephen Taylor with Cape Fear Valley Medical Center.

Outgoing Mail

THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER Staff would like to remind all departments of the following instructions for handling outgoing mail:

Do not mix pre-stamped mail with outgoing mail that has to be postmarked.

When possible, bring the mail to the center early so it can be processed immediately. Do not hold more than 500 pieces of mail until 3 p.m. or it will not go out until the next business day.

Request rubber bands from the communications center. They always recycle them.

Remember, postal regulations for first-class presorted rates require that our final preparation of the mail pieces, which is presented with the mailing statement for each day, be in zip code order from prefix 004 to prefix 997.

First-class presorted mail must have the correct zip code on each mail piece. A communications center staff member signs a statement with each mailing indicating that each piece of mail has the correct address and zip code.

Finally, please separate into two stacks mail pieces with no ancillary endorsement and mail pieces with the endorsement. The mail pieces without the endorsement will be endorsed by a communications center staff member prior to presenting them at bulk mailing.

Military Discounts

Convention and Visitors Bureau Finds Military Discounts

Recognizing a need for a comprehensive list of businesses that offer discounts to members of the military, the Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau started compiling information in the spring of 2009.

"We found nearly 300 businesses that offer a military discount, and we're confident there are others out there," says John Meroski, President and CEO. "We're glad to offer this for visitors and residents alike."

The military discount list can be accessed at http://www.visitfayettevillenc.com/militarydiscounts. It is searchable by both type and name of business. An option allows those viewing the list to notify the CVB of businesses that need to be added to the list.

Fair Housing

THE FAYETTEVILLE AND CUMBERLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS are conducting a survey as part of an analysis of fair housing issues in Cumberland County and the City of Fayetteville. The information collected from this survey will be used to better serve the community and eliminate barriers to fair housing that people face while obtaining a home for their families. The survey will be available through Jan. 11. Information collected is for analysis purposes only and is strictly confidential. Visit http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TWRD5JY to complete the survey.

Mental Health Center Recognized on National and State Level

HANK DEBNAM, AREA DIRECTOR OF THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, received notification from the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services (COA) that the center has met the high level of standards required for national accreditation.

COA's accreditation involves an in-depth examination of area program compliance with best-practice standards for human resources, financial and risk management and continuous quality improvement, as well as an intensive review of service specific standards.

"Achieving national accreditation shows a high level of commitment to providing quality services to our clients. I commend the Area Board and staff of the Center for all their hard work and support in maintaining the high standards needed to retain this accreditation," Debnam said.

COA accreditation demonstrates that the Mental Health Center is meeting, and in some cases, exceeding national standards for the provision of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse services.

Program of Excellence Award

THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON COMMUNITY PROGRAMS presented an "Award of Excellence" to the Mental Health Center in December.

This year's award was presented in the area of "Crisis Services" for the groundbreaking work that has been done through the Mental Health Center's Child Respite Center Program. As a recipient of the North Carolina Council's Excellence Award, the center's efforts will be featured in the publication Programs of Excellence as an example of what works well in North Carolina.

Holiday Stress

How to Manage Stress in the Workplace after the Holidays

The stress of returning to work after the holidays can be intense for some people. Research shows that stress-level measures for employees before, during and after the leave showed that at least half of the beneficial impact of the holiday disappeared in the first three days they were back at work and were non-existent after three weeks.

Some symptoms of stress after the holidays include: sadness, anger, anxiety, tiredness, headaches, muscle pain and feelings of failure to meet pending obligations.

In general, to efficiently manage stress you need to:

- Avoid commitments that are beyond your capabilities.
- Enjoy a good night's sleep and follow a healthy diet rich in fruits and vegetables.
- Maintain realistic expectations.
- Develop good relationships with your friends and family.
- Have priorities and goals for your life.
- Get support from qualified professionals when required.

The Employee Assistance Program can help you and your family members address personal or work-related concerns. The professional EAP staff will work with you to help resolve your issues. All information is confidential, and your supervisor does not have to know you have used the program, unless you choose to share that information.

Child concerns, mental health issues, marital problems, substance abuse, and other troubles are appropriate matters to discuss with the EAP staff. Help is available. Call 222-6157.

Master Gardener Leads Holiday Decorating Workshop

The holiday season brings with it plans and ideas for decorating both the inside and outside of our homes. What better place to find the items you need than your own back yard. Fifteen Master Gardener volunteers attended a workshop on making beautiful holiday swags for their doors simply by using natural greenery found in their backyards.

Master Gardener Sandy Ritter demonstrated proper pruning techniques, how to scout for disease and insect problems, and finally, how to make beautiful arrangements.

Attendees paid a small fee for supplies. The Master Gardeners learned that decorating from their backyard was cheaper and more meaningful than buying store-made swags that often range from $20 to $40. All who attended had a wonderful time and said they would love to participate in future natural greenery decorating workshops.

As an extra treat, Family and Consumer Sciences Program Assistant Krista Caison prepared peanut butter fudge, Christmas blessing mix and hot cider.

Emergency Services Holds Class for First Responders

CUMBERLAND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES will be hosting a Disaster Recovery Response Class January 13-15 at the Fayetteville Fire Department Training Center, 6056 Radar Road, Fayetteville.

This revised three-day course covers the basic concepts and operational procedures and authorities involved in responding to major disasters. It addresses federal, state, and local roles and responsibilities in major disaster recovery work, with an emphasis on government coordination and the solution of problems that frequently arise in recovery operations. An overview of preliminary damage assessment, disaster recovery centers, and special needs of victims and disaster workers also is included.

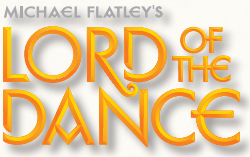
"Let us fill this class with our own local people to better ourselves during a disaster and to better serve the citizens of Cumberland County," said Tim Mitchell, deputy director for Emergency Services. Contact Mitchell at 321-6734 or tmitchell@co.cumberland.nc.us for more information.

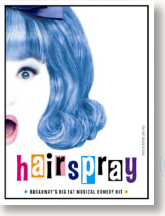
This class is limited so please register by Jan. 8. Send your registration to the Emergency Services Department, fax 677-5552, and they will forward it to the state.

Flu Clinics

THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT is holding H1N1 Flu Clinics for the general public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 4 at Pine Forest High School and Jan. 5 at Douglas Byrd High School. The seasonal flu vaccine will also be available. There will be no out-of-pocket expense for the vaccine. An administrative cost will be billed to insurance providers. Everyone is asked to please bring a picture ID to the clinic. For more information, please contact the Immunization Clinic at 433-3658.

Coming Up @ the





Winter Jam 2010 (Coliseum) Featuring Third Day, NewsBoys, Newsong, Tenth Avenue North, Freeflight, Tony Nolan	**January 9**
Paul Anka (Theatre)	**January 26**
Tops In Blue (Theatre)	**February 2**
Jason Aldean (Coliseum)	**February 5**
Madea's One Big Happy Family (Coliseum) Tyler Perry	**February 6**
Lord of the Dance (Theatre)	**February 22**
Ringling Brothers (Coliseum)	**February 22 – 28**
Hairspray (Theatre)	**February 28**
Thunderslam Monster Truck Show (Coliseum)	**March 12 – 13**
Jesus Christ Superstar (Theatre)	**March 19**
East Coast Step Show (Coliseum)	**March 20**
Wizard of Oz (Theatre)	**March 23**
Bill Medley of The Righteous Brothers (Theatre)	**March 27**
Casting Crowns (Coliseum)	**April 22**
Carrie Underwood (Coliseum)	**April 30**

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/

Parade Rest

Staff from Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center, along with friends and family, marched along with the Mobile Outreach van in this year's Rotary Christmas Parade.

Santa Visits

Santa dropped by the courthouse before Christmas to visit with some good boys and girls, including Janice Nettles from Tax Administration.

December Blood Drive a Success

THE CAPE FEAR VALLEY BLOOD DONOR CENTER reported that a total of 39 people participated in the Dec. 9 blood drives at the Headquarters Library and the Courthouse. The day was truly a success with 13 employees signing up at the library and 26 at the courthouse. Thank you to all of our generous donors.

The January Cumberland Matters TV show features a segment on the blood drive. You can see it Tuesdays at 10 p.m. on Time Warner Cable Channel 7 and on our county Web site.

COUNTY HOLIDAYS

NEW YEAR'S DAY
FRIDAY
January 1, 2010

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY
MONDAY
January 18, 2010