

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONNECTION

Child Support Department Opens July 6 in Bradford Avenue Location

THE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT OFFICE located in Eutaw Village Shopping Center closed Tuesday, June 29, as the agency's operations transfer from the state of North Carolina to Cumberland County effective July 1.

On July 6, the county's new Child Support Department will open for business on the third and fourth floors of the Mental Health Center's facility at 109 Bradford Ave. During the time the office is closed, clients can call 910-486-1092 or 1-800-992-9457 for information or assistance.

Child support agents work closely with the court system, which sees about 1,500 to 2,000 new cases each year. To assist in the transition from a state-run to a county-operated department, the court system canceled child support court for about a month. Held two days a week, child support court will resume on July 14.

Austin Keating, the Child Support Department Director, is overseeing both the operational transition and physical transfer for the office.

"The services provided to the public will not change, and we anticipate that productivity and services will increase with the county adding staffing and enhancing our technology," Keating said. "We look forward to this new endeavor and know that our customers will in the near future experience the results of everyone's efforts."



Keating Named County Child Support Director



KEATING

HARRY AUSTIN KEATING has been appointed the first director of Cumberland County's new Child Support Department. The county is taking over responsibility for child support enforcement from the state on July 1, and Keating is overseeing the transition.

Keating has more than 25 years of child support enforcement experience. Prior to accepting the new county director's position, Keating was employed by the state of North Carolina as the Social Services Program Manager for the Cumberland and Harnett County Child Support Enforcement office for three years. He is very familiar with child support enforcement in Cumberland County, having served as a child support agent for seven years (1987-1994) and as the supervisor of the state-operated county office from 2003 to 2007.

Keating earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and worked for the Robeson County Department of Social Services as an eligibility specialist and then a child support agent from 1983 to 1987.



JAMES MARTIN

County Manager's Message

THE FY 2011 COUNTY BUDGET was adopted on June 21 and for most permanent employees hired before June 20 that means a 2 percent cost-of-living increase with the first full pay period in July. Unlike other counties, we are very fortunate that employee furloughs or job cuts were not needed to balance the budget.

The budget includes a new county department. The Child Support Department will open July 6 in the Mental Health Center on Bradford Avenue and is expected to eventually have 66 employees.

As we start this new fiscal year, going green will continue to be a goal of county government. Twenty departments have earned their green certification from Sustainable Sandhills, and in the next few months, a "green team" will be developing environmental policies for county employees. You will be hearing more about this in the future. In the meantime, I encourage you to do all you can to reduce your environmental footprint at work and at home. Reuse, recycle and conserve whenever possible.

Finally, I hope you enjoy safe and well-deserved vacations, day trips and other recreational activities this summer.

Budget to Include 2% Employee COLA Increase

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS adopted the FY2011 budget on June 21. The general fund budget totals almost \$286 million and includes a property tax rate of 74 cents per \$100 valuation, a reduction of 2.6 cents from the current rate of 76.6 cents

There is good news for county employees. The budget includes a 2 percent cost-of-living pay increase for most permanent county employees hired before June 20, 2010. The raise is effective beginning with the first full pay period in July.

Regarding 401-K contributions to employee accounts, the adopted budget does not include a county contribution to employee 401-K accounts. You may recall that last July the county's 1 percent contribution was indefinitely suspended in an effort to avoid harsher budget cuts in the future.

In other areas, the county commissioners earmarked six-tenths of a penny of the county-wide tax rate, which is expected to total \$1.2 million, for a jail expansion capital project. The board also approved transferring \$1.8 million from the designated Health Department renovation reserve to the jail expansion reserve.

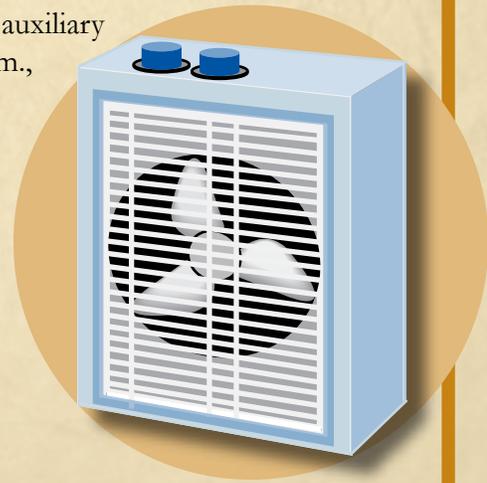
DSS Offers Relief from the Heat; Seeks Fan Donations

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES is accepting donations of new box fans from civic organizations, churches, businesses and individuals in the community willing to help. Fans may be dropped off at the DSS building, 1225 Ramsey St., between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Donated fans will be distributed to those in our community whose income falls below 200 percent of the current poverty level, and who have a family member in the home under the age of 2, over 60, or with a heat-sensitive medical condition.

DSS is also opening an auxiliary lobby from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, throughout the summer when a heat advisory is issued or the heat index reaches 100.

Contact the Adult Services Department at 910-677-2388 for more information.



Employee Briefs



LAUBY

New Director at Animal Services

DR. JOHN LAUBY, the county's contract veterinarian, has been appointed the Animal Services Director. Lauby has been the county's contract veterinarian for more than 15 years.

Thank You

I would like to thank all county employees who donated leave during my recent illness. I am so thankful and blessed to be able to be back at work. Again, thank you for your kindness!

Kay Williams, Public Health Dental Hygienist for Cumberland County

Editor's Note: The county's voluntary shared leave program allows employees to donate annual leave to other employees who have exhausted all other leave and who meet the requirements spelled out in the county policy. The policy is posted on the Intranet.



RODRIGUEZ

Attorneys Honor Late Grainger Barrett

The Government and Public Sector Section of the North Carolina Bar Association recently honored the late GRAINGER R. BARRETT as the 2010 recipient of its Outstanding Government and Public Sector Attorney Award, which has now been renamed the Grainger Barrett Award for Excellence in honor of our longtime county attorney who died last July. Sharon Barrett accepted the award on behalf of her husband.

Rodriguez Elected to Board

JOANIE RODRIGUEZ, senior Veterans Service Officer, has been elected as an Executive Board Member for the North Carolina Association of County Veterans Service Officers.



CANNON

County Wins Financial Reporting Award

Cumberland County has been recognized for excellence in financial reporting. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada awarded its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER AMY CANNON, the county's financial director, for the county's comprehensive annual financial report for fiscal year 2009.

The award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Blood Drives Save Lives

In the span of just a few hours on June 21, Cumberland County employees helped save up to 93 lives, according to the Cape Fear Valley Blood Donor Center. At the center's blood drive that morning at Headquarters Library 24 people signed in and 17 units of blood were collected. Later that afternoon at the Courthouse, 21 donors signed in, and 14 units were collected. Each unit collected has the potential of saving up to three lives. We hope to schedule blood drives for county employees once a quarter.

American Heart Association News

Be on the lookout soon for news regarding the winners in the American Heart Association raffle drawing and mark your calendars for the 2010 Start! Sandhills Heart Walk on Saturday, October 9th at Festival Park. If you are interested in participating, contact Kelly Rogers, AHA Director of Corporate Relations at (919)463-8327 or kelly.rogers@heart.org for more information.

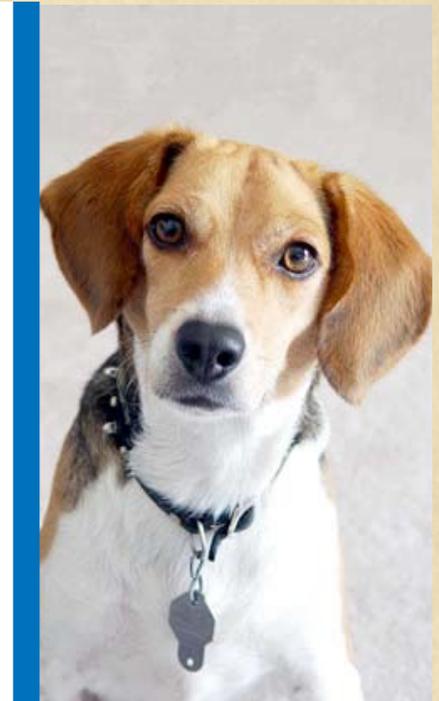
Animal Services Extends Adoption Hours

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES has extended hours for pet adoptions. The new hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The shelter is located at 4704 Corporation Dr. Call 321-6852 for more information or e-mail ccac@co.cumberland.nc.us.

Animal Services Director Dr. John Lauby said the move is an attempt to increase the number of adoptions by offering a longer time frame for residents to visit the shelter and find a pet they want to take home.

Cumberland County Animal Services **NEW Adoption Hours:**

Monday through Friday
9:00 am to 5:30 pm
and
Saturdays
1:00 pm to 4:30 pm



Web Site Offers Inspection Tracking

Commercial building permit applicants can now track building plan reviews online thanks to a new service offered by CUMBERLAND COUNTY'S PLANNING AND INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT.

Owners, contractors and designers who have submitted commercial construction plans to the department can access the progress of their plan review via the County Web site at <http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/inspections>.



Applicants can easily check the status of building, electrical, fire, mechanical, plumbing and zoning reviews. They can also learn which inspector performed the various reviews, and any comments he or she may have made.

Applicants will no longer need to call the Planning and Inspections Department regarding the status of their review or wait to hear the results from the department. There's more good news for building permit holders.

They can now submit inspection requests 24 hours a

day online by entering their permit number and the type of inspection needed. They will receive a message when their request has been successfully submitted. Requests entered after 7:30 a.m. will be scheduled for inspection on the next working day.

Extension Hosts Farm Tour

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION hosted its annual “Report to the People” tour for local legislative members and county leadership on June 7. The year’s tour was to Privateer Farms, located on the border of Cumberland and Bladen Counties. This unique farm corporation, owned by Sharon Valentine, is the field test site for the N.C. Farm Center for Innovation and Sustainability.

The tour included a stop at the National Biochar Project, which is evaluating the benefits of applying biochar on North Carolina’s farmlands and forests to restore the vitality and nutrient holding capability to the soil. The tour also included a look at food security and community farming opportunities.

Land that was formally used for turkey production is now being used for sustainable agriculture and green entrepreneurship. Tour participants also observed the restoration of streams and wetland trees. Through this project, one million mature lowland trees have been protected.

Tour participants included: Billy Barker, representing Congressman Mike McIntyre, 7th District; state Rep. Diane Parfitt; County Commissioners Phillip Gilfus and Ed Melvin; and Deputy County Manager Juanita Pilgrim. Cape Fear Farm Credit assisted with hosting the tour.

“This tour is a wonderful opportunity to share a different side of agriculture with our local leaders,” said County Extension Director Lisa Childers.



Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

Twenty MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER interns have completed their 2010 training and are ready to begin serving the citizens of Cumberland County. During this training they received information on a variety of horticulture subjects in preparation to assist homeowners with their lawn and garden questions.

The interns will begin answering the Horticulture Hotline, assisting walk-in clients, providing programs to schools, libraries, and garden clubs. They will also participate in providing assistance at informational booths at the Carolina Home and Garden Show and other community gardening events.

One of the major projects undertaken by the interns is the care and upkeep of the Extension garden, located outside the Extension office. They have been hard at work pulling weeds, planting plants, flowers, vegetables and shrubs. They have also beautified the back entrance into our office with an abundance of hosta and flowering perennials.



Many of the vegetables planted in the garden will be used in our summer youth program “Kids in the Kitchen.” The Master Gardener Volunteers continue to be a vital component of Cumberland County Cooperative Extension programming.



Emergency Services Receives Fire Prevention And Safety Grant

EMERGENCY SERVICES has received a \$10,842 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security to promote fire safety among preschool students during visits to daycare centers and other community outreach events. The grant does not require matching funds from the county.

Gene Booth, the county's assistant fire marshal, said the department will use the money to buy educational materials, including a fire safety robot and videos

targeting younger audiences.

"We are excited about being able to initiate this program in the preschools," Booth said. "The importance of having a quality fire prevention program is vital to our efforts to reduce injuries and property loss due to fire. This plan is designed to increase awareness of fire safety and reduce the fear associated with uniformed responders."

Statistics show that children under the age of 4 account for 9 percent of all fire fatalities nationwide each year, Booth said. For more information on fire safety, contact the Fire Marshal's office at 321-6736.

Bragg and Pope Military Spouses Eligible for Career Advancement Grants

SPOUSES OF ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL stationed at Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base are encouraged to apply for Career Advancement Account grants through the Cumberland County Workforce Development Center.

Military spouses who meet the grant requirements can receive up to \$6,000 for expenses such as tuition, fees, books and supplies directly related to post-secondary education and training. This grant program can assist individuals with obtaining associate's or bachelor's degrees, as well as paying for credentialing or licensing fees.

This is a great opportunity to develop a mobile career that is transferrable worldwide. Approved career fields are health care, education, financial services, information technology, hospitality, human resources, business administration, homeland security, social work, paralegal studies and construction. Eligibility requirements are posted under the CAA link on the Workforce Development Board's Web site at www.cumberland.wdb.com.

Time is running out and space is limited to a first-come, first-serve basis. To learn more, call the Spring Lake Workforce Development Center at 910-321-6879.

Scholarships Awarded

The following Cumberland County students recently received scholarships from the North Carolina Association of County Veterans

Service Officers:
Chase DeBois, Terry Sanford High School;
Sheila Spence, Pine Forest High School;
Shenica Johnson, Howard Health & Life Sciences High School;
Richard Vernon, Cape Fear High School;
and Michael Knagge, Gray's Creek High School.



The association offers a one-time \$500 scholarship in memory of deceased veterans service officers. Call 677-2970 for more information.

COMING UP @ THE CROWN



JULY

Saturday, July 31

TNA WRESTLING

Crown Expo Center

7:30 pm

Doors open: 6:30 pm

Visit www.AtTheCrown.com for more information

**GUN & KNIFE
SHOW**

AUGUST

August 7 & 8

GUN & KNIFE SHOW

Crown Expo Center

Sat: 9 am – 5 pm

Sun: 10 am – 5 pm



COMING IN SEPT!

Cumberland County Agricultural Fair • September 16 – 26

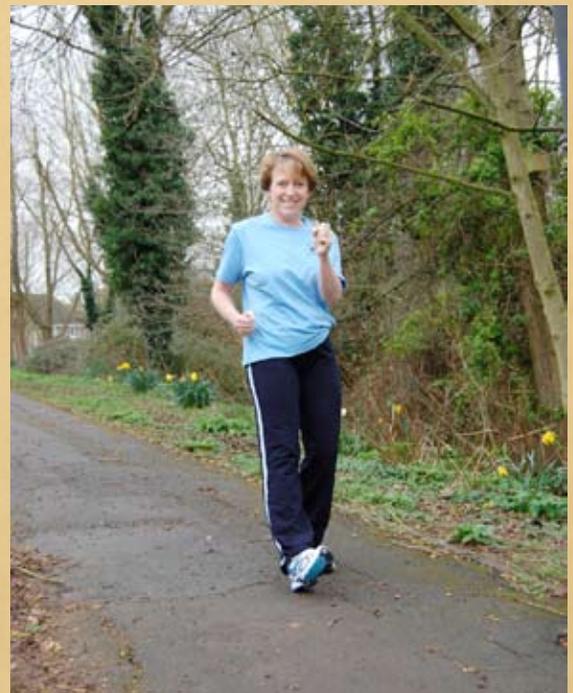
Did you know? A little bit of physical activity goes a long way.

Physical activity has many benefits such as:

- Lowering stroke risk
- Decreasing death risk from congestive heart failure
- Decreasing breast cancer risk
- Decreasing stress level
- Lowering blood pressure
- Losing weight

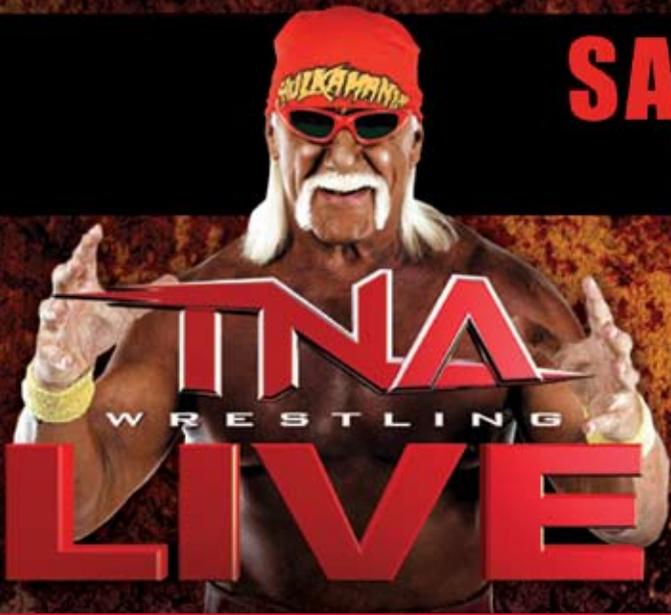
Small things that we can do during our
day to increase our fitness:

- Park further away from the building
- Take the stairs not the elevator
- When walking take the long way
- Walking in instead of using the drive thru



These are just a few ideas to help you add more physical activity to your day.

For additional information on staying physically fit, contact Chasity Sessoms at 433-3896.



SATURDAY, JULY 31ST
7:30PM EXPO CENTER

Appearing live and in person at the Crown Center:

“The Charismatic Enigma” - JEFF HARDY

“The Phenomenal One” - AJ STYLES

TNA Tag Team - BEER MONEY, INC.

TNA World Heavyweight Champion - ROB VAN DAM

Tna Founder - JEFF JARRETT

TNA Knockout Champion - madison rayne

plus many more SUPERSTARS to be announced soon!!!

Saturday, July 31 st, 7:30 p.m

Doors open at 6:30 pm.

TNA Wrestling Is Coming To The Crown Center!

TNA Live! is an interactive entertainment experience that sends its craziest fans BACKSTAGE to meet TNA Superstars!

- Ring announcer Jeremy Borash will hide a backstage pass at the Crown Center and announce its location on Twitter before the show!
- At TNA Live! fans can GET CLOSER to these Superstars and the LOUDEST FANS will be invited backstage for a special TNA experience!
- Fans who purchase a ticket in the first three rows will receive a special meet and greet with TNA Superstars one hour before doors open!

(Redeemable with ticket the night of the show; offer only applies to \$50 tickets.)

- Reserved seat tickets are available at the Crown Center Box Office, all Ticketmaster outlets, Ticketmaster.com and charge-by-phone @ 800-745-3000.

There is a \$5 discount available to Cumberland County employees.

Just go to the box office and show your Cumberland County employee identification or use the code “CUMBCO” when ordering thru Ticketmaster.com or charge-by-phone @ 800-745-3000.

The discount is NOT available through Ticketmaster outlets.

Tickets:

\$50 / \$35 / \$20

(plus \$3 facility fee)

For more information, please contact the Crown Center @ 910-438-4100.



Cumberland County Government... Working for you!

JAMES MARTIN, COUNTY MANAGER
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE
117 Dick Street
Courthouse, Suite 512
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Phone: 910-678-7723
Fax: 910-678-7717
Email: jmartin@co.cumberland.nc.us

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/](http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/)



EVERYONE NEEDS A REAL FRIEND NOW AND THEN. The kind of friend who can be trusted to keep a confidence, the kind of friend who 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

Independence Day
MONDAY July 5, 2010

CUMBERLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES will be closed for the Independence Day Holiday on Monday, July 5. This includes all public libraries, as well as all solid waste landfills and container sites.

If you wish to return any library materials, please use the book drops located outside all library locations. Items may be renewed on the library Web site at www.cumberland.lib.nc.us or by calling (910) 223-0431.

