CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONNECTION

Wellness Fair Scheduled for March 30–April 1

The annual county employee wellness fair is scheduled for March 30 – April 1 at the Agri-Expo Center. A make-up date is set for April 13. 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 and personal wellness profiles will be delivered 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

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

Meet Commissioner Phillip Gilfus

GILFUS

A NATIVE OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY and graduate of Terry Sanford High School, Commissioner Gilfus graduated from East Carolina University in three years with a major in communications and a minor in public administration. After working as a staff member in the North Carolina Senate in Raleigh after graduation, he joined the U.S. Army after the September 11 attacks. He was commissioned through Officer Candidate School and served as an officer in the Ordnance Corps, stationed at the Army's National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR). Gilfus served in Mosul, Iraq, with the 1/25 Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) in 2005. After returning from the deployment, he was promoted to Captain and soon left the military to attend law school.

Commissioner Gilfus earned his law degree from the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University. He is a criminal and traffic attorney with The Mitchell Law Group in Fayetteville. Gilfus is an active member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, where he serves as a lay reader, usher, and a member of its Vestry. He is currently pursuing his master's degree in public administration through Golden Gate University.

Gilfus is filling the at-large seat held by former Commissioner Breeden Blackwell, who resigned from office effective Jan. 31. Blackwell accepted a position as the Director of Government Relations for Cape Fear Valley Health System.

JAMES MARTIN

County Manager's Message

I hope this edition of County Connection finds each of you happy and healthy. We will be holding our employee wellness fair March 30-April 1. I encourage you to participate. It's simple. Just complete the wellness profile and then have your weight, blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screened. You participate on county time, and you can save $30 a month on your county health insurance premiums. Most importantly, the screenings may point out to you an area of your health that needs improving.

Speaking of health, April is National County Government Month, designed to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government. This year's theme is "Healthy Counties." You'll be hearing more about the celebration as it draws near.

Join me in welcoming Phillip Gilfus to the Board of County Commissioners. You can read about Commissioner Gilfus, a local attorney, in this month's Connection. He is completing the at-large term formerly held by Breeden Blackwell, who resigned at the end of January to accept a position with Cape Fear Valley Health System.

New County Public Health Center Opens

The new Cumberland County Public Health Center at 1235 Ramsey St. opened Jan. 11. The center is adjacent to the Cumberland County Department of Social Services. Construction started on the three-story, 108,000-square-foot building in June 2008. The new center is 20 percent larger than the former Health Department building on Fountainhead Lane.

Commissioners Set Priorities for 2010

By Billy R. King, Chairman
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

BILLY R. KING

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS met Feb. 6 to establish goals and strategies for 2010.

We started the planning session with a somber budget update. As the county begins to develop the FY2011 budget, it faces diminishing revenue sources and mandatory expenditure increases related to a sluggish economy and state legislative requirements. In the next two months, the finance department will look at department requests, state mandates and other factors as they attempt to develop a recommended budget that addresses the board's priorities and provides for services to continue at current levels.

We also reviewed last year's priorities – safe water, public safety and lowering the property tax rate to a projected revenue neutral rate.

Two of those priorities – safe water and public safety – remain top goals for 2010. They are joined by countywide job creation and retention, and improved communications with other governing boards and with our citizens.

As we continue to develop plans to provide clean, safe water to all residents of Cumberland County, our first strategy will be establishing a clear and direct dialogue with the city and the Public Works Commission to determine if PWC is willing to extend water into the identified project areas.

We will also meet with other potential partners. In the next two months, we are inviting the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority to present a proposal for providing water to the Gray's Creek Water and Sewer District from its future Bladen Bluffs Regional Surface Water System. Finally, a work plan by the county's Public Utility Department for the six water projects was presented Saturday and will be updated as progress is made.

Like safe water, public safety remains a priority in 2010. On Feb. 16, the county's Public Safety Task Force, created in late 2008, will present its findings and recommendations to elected county and municipal officials. The commissioners will review that report and identify the next steps to take in improving fire, EMS and communications services for our residents.

As for expanding the county jail, I advised my fellow commissioners and the staff that I would be calling together a "jail summit" in the next two to three months with the Sheriff, the District Attorney, our judges and others to discuss this capital project, which had been on the county's timeline for 2012.

The economy is foremost on everyone's mind. Bringing in new jobs to the community and retaining existing ones, including county government positions, are top goals, as well as attracting capital investment projects. Therefore, we have asked county management to clearly communicate to the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce our expectations regarding the county's return on investment in the chamber's economic development initiatives and to closely monitor their output. We have also asked the county manager to review our incentive polices and those of other counties. Management will also research counties that have in-house economic development operations.

Job retention for county employees was placed under the economic development umbrella. Management will make every effort to avoid balancing the fiscal 2011 budget through employee furloughs or reductions in force. We have also asked for a review of departments with high vacancy levels, the reasons cited by employees for leaving, and whether mission is being affected.

Communicating effectively with other governing boards, various groups and the public is vital if we are to achieve our goals of providing safe water, improving public safety and increasing economic development – efforts that will require important partners. For example, in the area of safe water, we will seek to be clear in making requests to the city and PWC, and schedule a face-to-face meeting with both groups.

The county will also strive to keep citizens better informed regarding county services and issues through the use of social media, like Facebook and Twitter, and other outlets.

The year ahead holds great challenges and great promise. We will face the problems head on and work to provide safe water, improve public safety, increase economic development and communicate more effectively. The commissioners have asked county staff to provide them with updates three times a year on the status of these goals, and we will post these updates to our Web site.

County Kudos

Diaz Wins Two Awards

MEME DIAZ, INCOME MAINTENANCE CASEWORKER in the Children Services Section of DSS, won both the North Carolina Social Services Association's (NCSSA) South Central District Member of the Year and the State Member of the Year awards. The awards were present to Diaz at the Critical Needs Conference held in Raleigh. The conference was sponsored by the Social Services Consortium, which is made up of the NC Association of County Directors of Social Services, NC Association of Boards of Social Services, and NC Social Services Association. Diaz was nominated by our local chapter of NCSSA, which includes Cumberland County DSS employees. She was nominated for her tireless work in promoting the importance of NCSSA and the work they do on behalf of social services employees, as well as recruiting members.

Leffew Retires from Community Development

PHIL LEFFEW, THE HOUSING PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, retired in February.

"We will miss Phil tremendously," said Community Development Director Thanena Wilson. "He has been an asset to the department. He's a great team player and is very knowledgeable. He worked well with our clients."

Leffew worked with Mental Health for seven years before spending the last 13 years at Community Development.

In retirement he plans to devote more time traveling on his motorcycle and to a motorcycle ministry with the Freedom Bible Church in Fayetteville.

"I will miss the folks I work with the most," he said. "I will miss the hand-on contact and seeing people meet their goals."

Congratulations!

PHYLLIS MCLYMORE-MOORE, PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATOR II with the Cumberland County Department of Public Health, passed the Lamaze Certification Exam, a requirement for childbirth educators to remain in compliance with the DHHS Division of Medical Assistance revised policy for childbirth education.

The Lamaze Certification Program meets the highest standards for validity, reliability and fairness and is recognized as the only such program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the accrediting body of the National Organization of Competency Assurance (NOCA).

The Lamaze credential is the mark of a competent, highly qualified childbirth educator who promotes, supports and protects natural birth. For nearly 50 years, Lamaze International has been the leading provider of evidence-based education programs that prepare childbirth educators to teach with skill and confidence. Certification by Lamaze International is the most respected and recognized credential in childbirth education.

April is Public Health Month

Thanks to Public Health:

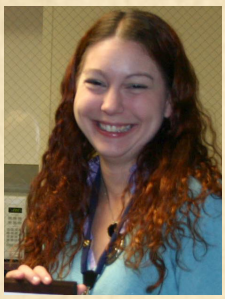
- Life expectancy has increased from 73.8 to 75.8 years.
- Heart disease has declined 23 percent since 1987.
- Stroke death rates have declined 121 percent 1991.
- Child death rates have decreased 36 percent since 1989.
- Teen pregnancy has declined 42 percent since 1990.

Public health activities are carried out at the state and local level through the Division of Public Health, the Division of Environmental Health and county health departments. More information on state public health is available at http://www.ncpublichealth.com/

Library's Exceptional Employees

Library Director Jody Risacher recently presented staff members with this year's Exceptional Employee Award. Those who were recognized for their superior overall performance are:
Amy Allison, North Regional Branch; Jennifer Carrico, Cliffdale Regional Branch; George Evans, Mary McArthur and Lois Mouw all from Headquarters Library; and Pat Tew, East Regional Branch.

ALLISON


CARRICO

EVANS

MCARTHUR

MOUW

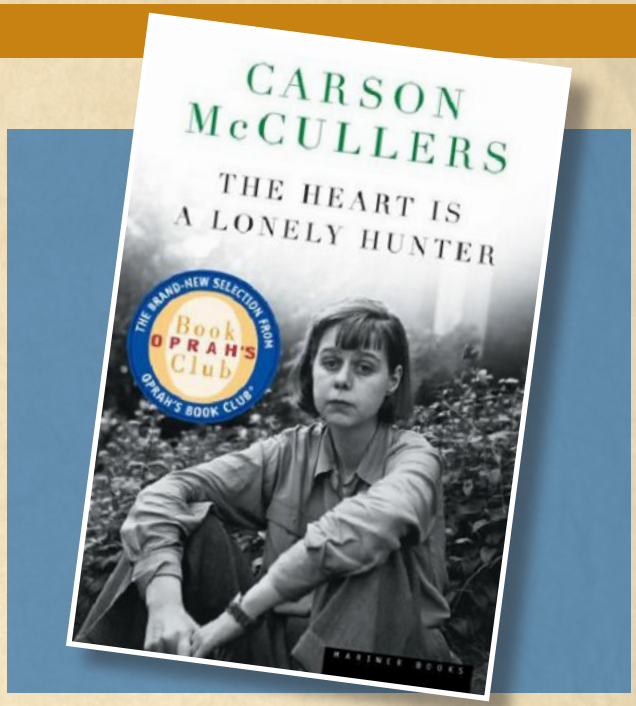
TEW

Soil and Water Conservation District Honored

CUMBERLAND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT was recognized for its support of the Canon Envirothon and the NC Project Food, Land and People program at the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' annual meeting in Raleigh on January 4, 2010.

Project Food, Land and People is an environmental education curriculum connecting people, the land we live on and the food that sustains us. It is delivered through the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The Canon Envirothon is an environmental education program for high school students throughout North America.



Cumberland County Reads and Celebrates *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter* for The Big Read 2010

CUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTER presents its fourth Big Read program in celebration of Carson McCullers' novel, *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, beginning March 26 through April 30.

This year's Big Read is supported through community partnerships with Cumberland County Public Schools; Fayetteville State University; Fayetteville Technical Community College; John L. Throckmorton Library at Fort Bragg; Methodist University; and Museum of the Cape Fear.

Sponsors include: The Fayetteville Observer, Up & Coming Weekly, 96.5 The Drive, and KISS 107.7 FM.

Events include programs with themes relating to the Depression Era 1930s and the author's life, including her stay here in Fayetteville. Book discussions, movies, an art quilt contest, a recycled art competition, music programs and more are planned for all ages.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest.

Cumberland County is one of 268 communities nationwide participating in The Big Read 2010. To date, the NEA has funded more than 800 programs in the nation.

View a full calendar of events for The Big Read at the library's Web site, www.cumberland.lib.nc.us.

Get Ready For the 2010 Census

The 2010 Census is underway!

You can create a better future for your community by participating in the 2010 Census. The census occurs every 10 years and every person living in the United States must be counted. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens.

The data resulting from the census provide state population counts, determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, and inform national, state and local planning. In addition, our organization relies on accurate census data for grant writing and planning for the programs and services we offer to our community. Achieving a complete and accurate count of our population is essential.

When does the 2010 Census begin?

Census forms will be delivered or mailed to households in March 2010; households should complete and mail back their forms upon receipt. Census workers will visit households that do not return forms to take a count in person.

How will information I share with the U.S. Census Bureau as part of the 2010 Census be used?

- Every year, the federal government distributes more than $400 billion to state, local and tribal governments based on census data.
- Census data can be used for forecasting future needs such as transportation, housing, safety and healthcare for all segments of the population.
- Census data guide local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, housing, schools and more.
- Census data determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The 2010 Census form: it's easy, it's important, and it's safe

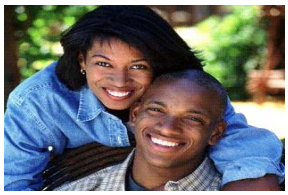
The 2010 Census form is easy, important and safe, and your participation is vital. One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Information shared with the Census Bureau is confidential.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to $250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both. Achieving a complete and accurate count of our nation is an important and monumental undertaking.

Visit 2010census.gov to learn more.

Cumberland County Employees

2010 Cafeteria Benefits Enrollment



INTERNET ENROLLMENT DATES: April 5 — April 30, 2010
Enroller Support Dates: April 12 — April 16, 2009
EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE: JULY 1, 2010
Deadline Date To Enroll: April 30, 2010

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
- Ameritas Dental
- Superior Vision (New Benefit This Year)
- Standard Life Short Term Disability

Products that must be enrolled by a Mark III Representative:

- Assurity Cancer
- Aetna Term Life (Must see a Mark III Rep)
- Unum UL
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance (must see the BCBS representative for all health 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: enroll10

Contacts For Internet Enrollment:

- **Susan Murphy (800)532-1044 ext. 215 / susan@markiiifinancial.com**
- **Cindy Horton (800)532-1044 ext. 210 / cindy@markiiifinancial.com**
- **Julie Crawford (910)223-3327 / jcrawford@co.cumberland.nc.us**

OR TO ENROLL IN PERSON:

Monday, April 12 at DSS 9 AM-5 PM
Tuesday, April 13 at Mental Health--Executive Place 9 AM – 5 PM
Wednesday April 14 at Health Department 9 AM-5 PM
Thursday April 15 at DSS 9AM-5PM
Friday April 16 at Courthouse 9AM-5PM

Tip-A-Cop

March 6, 2010

8AM - 10AM

5081 Morganton Road - Fayetteville, NC 28314

$5.99 Tip-A-Cop Breakfast

**Pancakes, Bacon, Eggs, Sausage,
Country Style Potatoes, Toast,
Coffee & Juice**

100% of received proceeds will benefit the Special Olympics

Coming Up @ the

FireAntz vs Pensacola
Crown Coliseum
March 5 (Friday)
Game Time: 7:35 pm

FireAntz vs Pensacola
Crown Coliseum
March 6 (Saturday)
Game Time: 7:35 pm

RV Sales –
Eastern North Carolina
Crown Exposition Center
March 5 (Friday)
Time: 10:00 am – 8:30 pm
March 6 (Saturday)
Time: 10:00 am – 8:30 pm
March 7 (Sunday)
Time: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Grown Folks Business
Crown Theatre
March 6 (Saturday)
Show time: 7:30 pm

FireAntz vs Columbus
Crown Coliseum
March 9 (Tuesday)
Game Time: 7:35 pm

Thunderslam
Monster Truck Show
Crown Coliseum
March 12 – 13
Show(s): Friday 12th
Show Time: 7:30 pm
Saturday 13th
Show Time: 7:30 pm

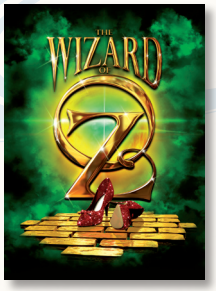
Jesus Christ Superstar
Crown Theatre
March 19 (Friday)
Show time: 8 pm

FireAntz vs Knoxville
Crown Coliseum
March 19 (Friday)
Game Time: 7:35 pm

American Girl Fashion Show
Crown Ballroom
March 20 & 21
Shows: March 20 (Saturday)
3 pm & 7 pm
March 21 (Sunday) 3 pm

East Coast Step Show
Crown Coliseum
March 20 (Saturday)
Show time: 6:00 pm

FireAntz vs Huntsville
Crown Coliseum
March 21 (Sunday)
Game Time: 4:00 pm



Wizard of Oz
Crown Theatre
March 23 (Tuesday)
Show time: 7:30 pm

FireAntz vs Knoxville
Crown Coliseum
March 25 (Thursday)
Game Time: 7:35 pm

FireAntz vs Columbus
Crown Theatre
March 26 (Friday)
Game Time: 7:35 pm

Bill Medley
of the Righteous Brothers
Presented by Community Concerts
Crown Theatre
March 27 (Saturday)
Show time: 8:00 pm

Gun & Knife Show
Crown Expo
April 3 (Saturday)
Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
April 4 (Sunday)
Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Chairman of the
Board & Band of Oz
Presented by Community Concerts
Crown Theatre
April 16 (Friday)
Show time: 8:00 pm

India Cultural Festival
Crown Arena
April 17 (Saturday)
Time: 11:00 am – 8:00 pm

Casting Crowns
Crown Coliseum
April 22 (Thursday)
Show time: 7:00 pm

Carrie Underwood with
Craig Morgan and Sons of Sylvia
Crown Coliseum
April 30 (Friday)
Show time: 8:00 pm

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

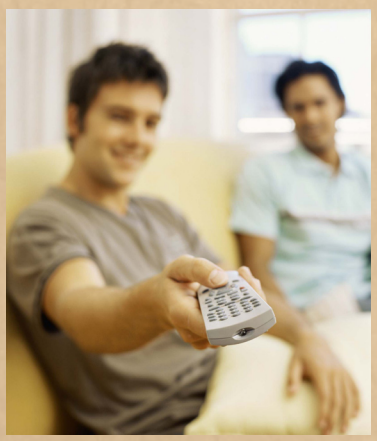
Our vision for Cumberland County is that it be characterized by progressive leadership that provides for a prosperous, affordable, safe, and culturally inviting community.

Visit us on the Web: http:/ www.co.cumberland.nc.us/

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.



Helping You Stay Informed

The county's television show "Cumberland Matters" airs on Time Warner Cable Channel 7 on Tuesdays at 10 p.m. You can view the program via the county's web site at http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/public_info/cumberland_matters.aspx.

You have two other venues to keep up with what's happening in Cumberland County. The county's weekly column, also called "Cumberland Matters," appears in the Saturday Extra of the Fayetteville Observer. And, a Cumberland County section now appears in Up & Coming Weekly twice a month.

If you have a story idea for the TV show or the print publications, contact Sally Shutt at 437-1921 or sshutt@co.cumberland.nc.us.

COUNTY HOLIDAYS

GOOD FRIDAY
FRIDAY
April 2, 2010