



Connection

Cumberland County's Employee Newsletter

County Manager Martin Announces March Retirement

CUMBERLAND COUNTY MANAGER JAMES E. MARTIN will retire March 31, 2014. Martin has been the Cumberland County manager since October 2000, after serving as the deputy county manager for five years.

"After lengthy deliberation, I have made the decision to retire," Martin said. "Serving as County Manager for the past 13 years has been challenging, rewarding and the capstone of my 44-year career in local government."

With the exception of his first accounting job with the Haigh and VonRosenberg CPA firm in Fayetteville, Martin's professional career has been solely in local government. He started in the public sector as the assistant finance director for the City of Fayetteville and became an accountant in the Cumberland County Finance Department before moving into county administration.

He was the county manager in Hoke County for six years and Robeson County for 10 years before accepting the deputy county manager position in Cumberland County in 1995. A native of Tar Heel, Martin graduated from Pembroke State College with a degree in business administration. He is a credentialed manager through the International City/County Management Association.



Martin

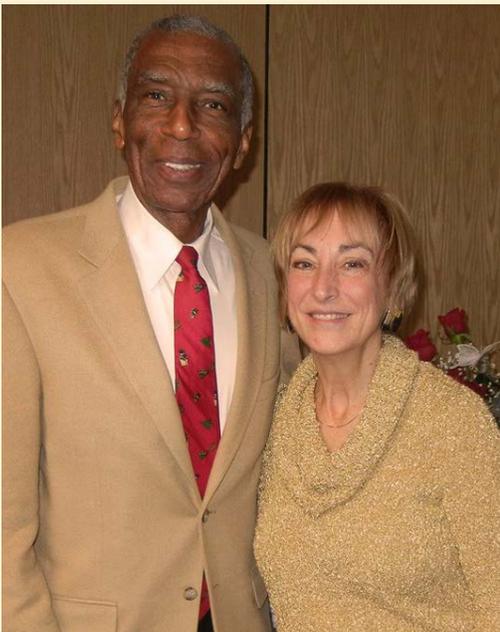
Risacher Named Public Library Director of the Year

CUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTER DIRECTOR JODY RISACHER was named Library Director of the Year by the N.C. Public Library Directors Association in December during the association's winter meeting in Raleigh.

Risacher was hired as the library's deputy director in 1998 and has been its director since 2008. She oversees a \$10.8 million budget that includes eight libraries and the Court Library. Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center is the fifth largest public library in North Carolina. The library received the nation's highest honor for libraries, the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, in 2012.

Risacher, who earned a Master of Library Science degree from Indiana University, has been elected as the state association's president for 2014.

Library Director Jody Risacher is congratulated by outgoing Library Board of Trustee Chairman Willie Wright on Dec. 12.





Martin

County Manager's Message

AS WE START 2014, please join me in welcoming Quentin McPhatter as our new assistant county manager for auxiliary services. Mr. McPhatter grew up in Scotland County and is looking forward to returning to North Carolina after serving as the deputy city manager in Kingsland, Ga., since 2007.

We received wonderful news in December that Jody Risacher was named the Library Director of the Year by the N.C. Public Library Directors Association. This award falls on the heels of the library being awarded the 2012 National Medal for Museum and Library Services. Congratulations to Ms. Risacher and her hard-working library team.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year. Along those lines, remember we have three months to go before the annual Employee Wellness Fair, which is set for March 31-April 3. This year, employees who are covered on the county's health insurance plan will be required to meet three out of the four moderate control categories for waist circumference, blood pressure, cholesterol ratio and glucose in order to receive a \$30 per month discount on their premiums. Another health-related change takes effect this year; smoking is now banned on the grounds of 15 of our county facilities.

Thank you for your hard work in 2013. I have just three months left to serve as your county manager before I retire and I hope to take every opportunity to let you know how grateful I am for your commitment to Cumberland County citizens.

County Hires New Assistant Manager

QUENTIN T. MCPHATTER will begin his job as the county's new assistant county manager for auxiliary services on Jan. 13. McPhatter has been the deputy city manager of Kingsland, Ga., since July 2007 and has served as interim city manager there since June.



McPhatter

McPhatter will oversee the following departments: Animal Control; Central Maintenance; Emergency Services/Fire Marshal; Engineering and Infrastructure (Building Maintenance, Court Facilities, Carpentry, Electrical and Mechanical, Public Utilities); Grounds Maintenance/Landscaping; Planning and Inspections; Print and Graphic Services, and Solid Waste Management.

A Scotland County native, McPhatter was the town manager of Green Level, N.C., from 2003-2007. He also worked for the Town of Knightdale as a planner and as a planning assistant for the City of Raleigh.

McPhatter earned a bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University and a master's degree in public administration, with cum laude distinction, from North Carolina Central University. He was named a credentialed manager by the International City/County Management Association in 2010 and serves on that association's advisory board for graduate education.

"Mr. McPhatter's experience over the last decade as a city and assistant city manager will be an asset as he moves into his new role in Cumberland County. We look forward to welcoming him to our management team," said County Manager James Martin.

Heart Walk

TEAM CUMBERLAND COUNTY received the Top Fundraising Team of the Year award for the 2013 Sandhills Heart Walk. County

employees raised \$7,500 for the Heart Association. The team was recognized at a wrap-up event in November. Pictured left to right are Brian Walker, Heart Walk executive committee; Sharon Sanders, former Veterans Services



Director; Marili Melchionne, library system; Kendra Manning, Wellness Coordinator; Al Foote, DSS; and Gerald Daniel, Heart Walk committee.

Selected County Sites Now Smoke-Free

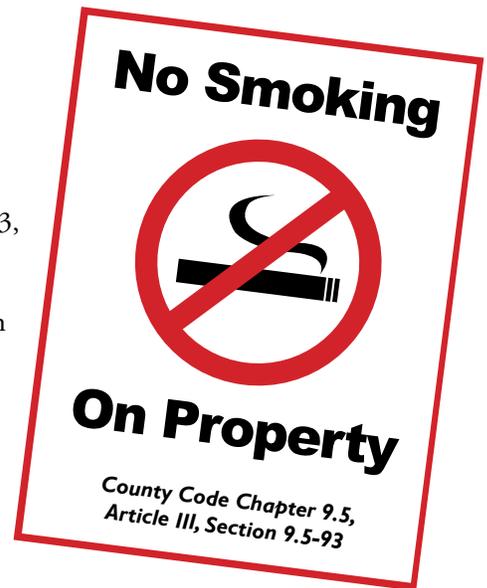
WITH THE START OF 2014, 15 Cumberland County Government facilities now prohibit smoking anywhere on their properties. Since 1993, smoking has been banned in all county buildings and vehicles, and within 25 feet of all entrances to those buildings.

In May, the Board of Commissioners approved prohibiting smoking anywhere on the grounds, including parking lots, of the following sites:

- Department of Public Health, 1235 Ramsey St.
- Department of Social Services, 1225 Ramsey St.
- E. Newton Smith Center/Board of Elections, 227 Fountainhead Lane
- Historic Courthouse, 130 Gillespie St.
- Hope Mills WIC office, 2622 Hope Mills Road
- Spring Lake Family Resource Center, 103 Laketree Blvd., Spring Lake
- Child Support Department, 109 Bradford Ave.
- All eight branches of the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center

In November, the Board of Commissioners approved Phase II of the smoke-free initiative. The Courthouse, Law Enforcement Center, Detention Center and Animal Control properties will be the next properties to go smoke free on July 1, 2014.

Fliers are being distributed to the public and employees with information on free quitting smoking support services such as the QuitlineNC at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669). The county's Employee Wellness Program offers smoking cessation classes and the Employee Pharmacy offers over-the-counter and prescription aides.



Medications Available to Assist in Smoking Cessation

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW YEAR, many people will plan to incorporate healthier habits into their lives. If “quitting smoking” is on your resolution list, consider this: using smoking cessation medications can double your chance for success. Five of the available medications are nicotine replacement products. They contain smaller amounts of nicotine than cigarettes do and none of the harmful chemicals associated with cigarette smoking. All smoking cessation products help to reduce cigarette cravings and symptoms of withdrawal as the patient slowly transitions from smoker to non-smoker. The following is a list of FDA-approved over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription (RX) medications available to help you quit smoking:

Nicotine Replacement Products:

- Nicotine Patches (OTC) – Patch is placed on skin and gives user a small but steady stream of nicotine through the skin.
- Nicotine Gum (OTC) – Gum is chewed to release nicotine. User chews gum until it produces tingling feeling, then places gum between cheek and gums for absorption.
- Nicotine Lozenges (OTC) – Lozenges are similar to hard candy. User places in mouth and lozenge releases nicotine as it dissolves.
- Nicotine Inhaler (RX) – User inhales specific amount of nicotine through mouth into lungs.
- Nicotine Nasal Spray (RX) – User sprays nicotine product into nose.

Products Without Nicotine:

- Bupropion (RX) – User takes tablet to decrease nicotine withdrawal symptoms and cravings. Use along with nicotine replacement products is permissible.
 - Varinicline (RX) – User takes tablet to decrease nicotine withdrawal symptoms and cravings and to block the effects of nicotine from cigarettes if smoking continues.
- Visit the Employee Pharmacy to pick up a copy of “FDA 101: Smoking Cessation Products” and be sure to discuss your game plan for kicking the habit with the pharmacist.

News from the Health Department



Employee Wellness Fair March 31-April 3

CUMBERLAND COUNTY Department of Public Health and Employee Wellness will coordinate the 2014 Employee Wellness Fair March 31 – April 3 from 6:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Agri-Expo Center. This is an opportunity for employees who participate to save \$30 a month on their health insurance premiums (if covered on the county plan) upon meeting three out of four moderate control categories.

Cape Fear Valley Health System (CFVHS) will conduct the biometric screenings conducted at the employee wellness fair to include:

- Waist circumference
- Blood pressure
- Cholesterol
- Blood glucose

Self-Check Your Blood Pressure in Employee Pharmacy



CUMBERLAND COUNTY EMPLOYEES, retirees and their dependents can now self-check their blood pressure in the Employee Pharmacy. The machine is easy to use with simple instructions for self-monitoring your blood pressure. The pharmacy is in the E. Newton Smith Center at 227 Fountainhead Lane.

Pharmacy Technician Kristi Gentry shows off the blood pressure monitor at the Employee Pharmacy.

Free Blood Glucose Monitors Available For Diabetic Employees



Diabetic employees, retirees and their covered dependents can still receive free GE-100 blood glucose monitors by visiting the Employee Pharmacy inside the E. Newton Smith Center, 227 Fountainhead Lane.

Pharmacist Tami Keibler holds up a blood glucose monitor available at the Employee Pharmacy.

Make **2014** Your Year
to **GET HEALTHY!**





Wellness News

Recreation Centers Offer Activities, Fitness Equipment

FAYETTEVILLE-CUMBERLAND PARKS

& RECREATION Activity Guides are available for all county employees. Please

contact your department's Wellness Representative to receive a copy. Also, be sure to take advantage of the fitness equipment available to use for free at the local Recreation Centers.

Wellness Class Schedule

Zumba

Mondays and Thursdays, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Massey Hill Recreation Center, 1612 Camden Rd.

Eat Smart Move More Weigh Less

Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 7

Courthouse - Room 119 (12-1 p.m.)

Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 15

Health Department, 3rd floor auditorium (12-1 p.m.)

Mondays, beginning Feb. 10

DSS, Meeting Room B, (12-1 p.m. and 1-2 p.m.)

Smoking Cessation

Thursdays, beginning Jan. 9, Employee Health Services

Healthy Cooking

Jan. 23, March 20

Offered from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at Cooperative Extension.

Open to 12 participants each class.

Contact Kendra Manning at 433-3875 or kmanning@co.cumberland.nc.us to register for classes.

Testimonial: Planning Employee Learns Fitness, Fun In Wellness, Health Programs

By Denise Sykes

Planning & Inspections Department

I HAVE PARTICIPATED in the Eat Smart Move More Weigh Less, Zumba and Modifying Recipes without Giving up Flavor classes. As a result I am losing weight gradually. The ESMMWL class was motivating. I am more conscious

of what I eat as well as my portion sizes. I don't deprive myself, but I am more mindful of what I am eating. What I like most about all of the classes is that they are fun and it is nice hearing from other people going through the same things you are going through. The cooking class really did show me I can modify

my recipes and my food can still taste good. For example, the butter tastes good but I have alternatives I can use. I was ready to quit Zumba because I felt lost and have no rhythm, but now I just keep moving and I love it. I have also gained some friendships from meeting people from other departments. I have been encouraging other people to attend. It is so much fun!

The County is offering what we need to improve our health. I think these services are great for the employees and retirees. I look forward to more programs being offered.



Denise Sykes enjoys a Zumba session recently.

Employee Assistance Program Outsourced

THE COUNTY has outsourced the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which has been handled in-house for the last 12 years by counselor Darlene Weaver, who retired Dec. 31. With the staff change, the county reviewed its EAP services and the decision was made to outsource based upon the volume and complexity of cases and the need for 24/7 services.

Comprehensive EAP services are now provided by Frank Horton Associates, LLC. Horton was formerly an in-house EAP provider for Wake County before establishing his own firm. He and his firm have been the county's after-hours resource and back-up EAP provider for some time.

EAP is designed to help employees deal with the challenges they face at home or work. These include marital, family or relationship problems; stress, depression or grief; addiction issues; parenting; financial, legal or other concerns that affect emotional well-being.

To schedule an appointment with a counselor to discuss your situation by phone, call 1-800-326-3864 anytime Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For crisis situations, counselors are accessible by phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Information can also be found at www.fhahelps.com.



Professional Development

Human Resources has an extensive roster of professional development classes for county employees. Consult the Training Connection or visit the HR training registration page on the employee Intranet. Contact Patania Eiland in HR at 323-6100 or peiland@co.cumberland.nc.us for more information on HR classes.

United Way Campaign Ends With Drawing

THE ANNUAL CUMBERLAND COUNTY EMPLOYEE UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN concluded in December with a prize drawing. A total for how much the county raised during the campaign will be available at a later time.

Congratulations to these County Employees on their winnings! We truly appreciate their donations to the United Way Campaign!

The raffle winners were:

- Petronia Nichols (Register of Deeds):
Two Carmike Movie Theater tickets
- Sarah Beddingfield (Library):
Two Carmike Movie Theater tickets
- Hope Monroe (Health Department):
Two tickets for Cameo movie and popcorn
- Kelly Hendricks (Health Department):
\$25 Visa gift card
- Tisha Revis (Health Department):
\$50 Visa gift card
- Sheena Watson (Health Department):
Half-Day off voucher
- Kim Honan (Information Services):
Half-Day off voucher
- Paulette Parks (DSS):
50/50 cash drawing of \$203.10



Patania Eiland, left, and Cindy Tucker, right, congratulate Petronia Nichols of the Register of Deeds Office after Nichols won a prize in the United Way 2013 Pot of Gold drawing.



DSS Wins Two Best Practice Awards

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES received two Best Practice Awards at the Social Services Institute in Hickory on Oct. 24. It is the fifth straight year the county's DSS has won Best Practice Awards at the annual institute.

The department's Customer Service Center in the Economic Services Section won the "Best Practice Award for Empowering Clients to Self-Sufficiency" from the N.C. Association of County Directors of Social Services. The Customer Service Center was established in 2012 when it began participating in the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Pilot, which eliminated the need to require an interview with customers when they applied for Food and Nutrition Services (FNS).

The Cumberland County chapter of the North Carolina Social Services Association received the "Best Practice Award for Leadership Development" for a series of presentations by various community leaders, including Fort Bragg unit commanders, business owners, Social Services Board, and Fayetteville City Council members. The leaders were invited to share their experiences and expertise with the agency's management team and staff. The county's NCSSA chapter has 74 DSS employees including all of the management team.

"I am proud of the efforts of our employees, management and NCSSA members for their cutting-edge approach in the fulfillment of our mission and vision through innovation, creativity and customer focus," said DSS Director Brenda Reid Jackson.

Fall 2013 Citizens' Academy Graduates 25

FIVE CUMBERLAND COUNTY EMPLOYEES graduated from the Fall 2013 Citizens' Academy: Sandra Milton, Animal Control; Lorinda Raynor, Public Library; Derek Riley, Public Health; Michael Rowell, Emergency Services; and Dishona Shuler, Public Health.

The next academy will start in March. You must be a Cumberland County resident to apply. The application is available on the county website. For more information, please contact Sally Shutt at 437-1921 or sshutt@co.cumberland.nc.us.



Milton



Raynor



Riley



Rowell



Shuler

Redding Will be Presenter at UNC's Judicial College

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGING ATTORNEY BOBBIE REDDING will be a presenter at the University of North Carolina School of Government's North Carolina Judicial College on Jan. 23. The college is advanced training for the Clerks of Superior Court. Redding will present the Department of Social Services' perspective on incompetency and adult guardianship.

Redding has participated in a number of conferences and trainings on guardianship during the time she has been with the agency. Based on her knowledge and experience, Redding was asked to serve on the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Ad Hoc Workgroup on Guardianship. The work group participants



Redding

represented all aspects of guardianship and based their findings on research, knowledge, and experience. The recommendations of this group will be presented to the NCDHHS Secretary by the end of this year. Redding serves on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Guardianship Association.

Child Support's Tunstall Inducted Into FSU Athletic Hall of Fame

CAROLYN TUNSTALL, AN AGENT WITH CUMBERLAND COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT DEPARTMENT, was inducted into the Fayetteville State University Athletic Hall of Fame during FSU's Homecoming 2013 activities in October.

Tunstall played basketball for the FSU Lady Broncos and was on the 1975-76 and 1976-77 Women's CIAA Runner-up squads. She was known for her dominating rebounding ability and quickness on the court. Prior to her years at FSU, Tunstall was an all-conference and all-tournament basketball player at John Graham High School in her native Warrenton, N.C.

Tunstall graduated cum laude from FSU in 1978 with a degree in psychology and later worked in the university's general studies department. She served as assistant women's basketball coach and student athletic counselor at FSU from 1982-1984. For the past 19 years, Tunstall has been coaching basketball with Fort Bragg Youth Sports and Fitness Program, where she is affectionately known as "Coach T." She is also head coach of the Junior League with a winning record of 100-29.

"It was quite an honor to be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame," Tunstall said.



Cumberland County Child Support Agent Carolyn Tunstall receives a plaque from Azriah Ellerbe III of the Fayetteville State Athletic Hall of Fame Board of Directors. Tunstall was inducted into the FSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Former Extension Director Inducted Into Agricultural Hall of Fame

FORMER CUMBERLAND COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION DIRECTOR GEORGE AUTRY was inducted into the Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame Nov. 22 during the annual Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville Farm City Week program.

Autry's portrait will hang in the Hall of Fame in the I.B. Julian Auditorium of the Cooperative Extension office at the Charlie Rose Agri-Expo Center. Retired soil conservationist Julian McIntyre was also inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Autry began his career with N.C. Cooperative Extension in 1976 after graduating from N.C. State University. He worked two years as an agent in Halifax County then transferred to Cumberland County in 1978. He became the county's extension director in 1985, a job he held until his retirement in 2009.

Autry was honored for his work with the county's farmers and in establishing the Charlie Rose Agri-Expo Center and Agriculture Office, the Cumberland County Voluntary Agricultural District Program and many other projects, including the Agricultural Hall of Fame.



Autry

Soil and Water District Award

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT received the award for having the best conservation program at the Area 7 fall meeting held Nov. 19 at the Sampson County Exposition Center in Clinton.

The Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District award recognizes the district with the best conservation program in Area 7, which includes Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland counties.

District Technician Larry Simpson, left, and Administrative Program Officer Donna Foster hold up the award for Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District.



Jenkins Honored by State Association

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPUTY DIRECTOR ROD JENKINS received the N.C. Public Health Association award for Outstanding Contributions to Social Work in Public Health in September.



Jenkins

Jenkins was nominated by the Public Health Department and Carolina Collaborative Community Care of Fayetteville. The department's Care Coordination for Children and Pregnancy Care Management programs have grown under Jenkins' leadership. During Social Worker Month, Jenkins honored each of the department's social workers with certificates.

Jenkins often speaks at Fayetteville State University's School of Social Work, where he engages students in

how their work relates to public health. Jenkins is a graduate of the Citadel and a former Army National Guard officer. He has been deputy health director since 2011.



DSS Participates in Event to Celebrate Adoption Awareness Month

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES participated in a matching event Nov. 2 to celebrate Adoption Awareness month. Matching events are an opportunity for children who are legally free for adoption to meet with and get to know families who are interested in adopting a child. The event was held in conjunction with Children's Home Society at the East Regional branch of the library.

Several of the children who participated made connections with families wanting to adopt. It is hoped these connections will lead to the children finding their forever family and a permanent home.

The DSS adoptions team also put together a display for the department's lobby providing information for people about the requirements to foster or adopt children. The information was available for citizens to take with them to share with their family, friends, co-workers and communities.



Sheriff's Office Wins Accreditation Award

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE received recognition for complying with or exceeding all accreditation standards set by the Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies. On Nov. 16, Sheriff Earl "Moose" Butler received the accreditation award from the commission for the sixth time since becoming sheriff.

The accreditation involves accomplishing rigorous, highly regarded and broadly recognized professional standards; adopting progressive, demanding and requisite policies; and following those policies while providing the highest standard of law enforcement services.

Sheriff Butler began the accreditation process shortly after taking office in 1994. CALEA accreditation is for a three-year period, and the accredited agency is required to maintain continuous compliance.

"We are proud of this sixth successive accreditation award," Butler said. "This award is not merely an award for Earl Butler or for me as Sheriff, but for the entire Sheriff's Office. This award is for all of the people in the Sheriff's Office, who sacrifice and work hard and show their dedication every day – as they have every day for the past 19 years — as they always have."



Council Chairman, Edge Vice-Chairman of Commissioners



COMMISSIONER JEANNETTE COUNCIL was unanimously nominated chairman of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners at the Dec. 2 meeting. She served as vice chairman in 2013. Commissioner Kenneth Edge was nominated vice chairman of the board. He was chairman in 2011.

Council was first elected to the Board of Commissioners in 2000. She is a retired educator who graduated from E.E. Smith High School and Fayetteville State University. She earned a doctorate in education degree at South Carolina State University and is a fellow of the Duke University Institute of Politics. Council honored outgoing chairman, Jimmy Keefe, with a plaque and gavel during the meeting.

Edge was first elected to the board in 2000. He graduated from Seventy-First High School and Pembroke State University. He earned a master's degree at East Carolina University. Edge retired from the public school system as a principal in 1993. He has served on the Cumberland County Board of Education and was elected president of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners in 2011.

Chairman Jeannette Council presents a gavel to Commissioner Jimmy Keefe in recognition of his year as chairman of the Board of Commissioners at the Dec. 2 meeting.

Retiree News Tax Administration

THREE TAX ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEES retired in November after a combined total of more than 74 years of service. They were honored with a retirement party in Room 119 on Dec. 16.

Felesia Buczynski, a financial tax analyst, retired after 27 years and 7 months. Buczynski had previously worked three years with Sampson County Tax Administration.

Buczynski has already started a new part-time job at Jewel's Formals in Smithfield and plans to work with pageant and beauty contestants in retirement. Just a year before retiring, Buczynski donated one of her kidneys to a friend who was in desperate need of a healthy kidney.

Monica Gross, a tax assistant, retired after 26 years and 6 months of services after a previous career working with Edwards Music in Fayetteville. Gross said she plans to do a lot of traveling in retirement and spend time with her grandson, Will.

Diana Lyman worked with Tax Administration for 20 years after 10 years working at the Health Department. She served four years in the Army prior to her county government career.

Lyman was awarded the Order of the Longleaf Pine, from the Office of Gov. Pat McCrory, at the Dec. 16 retirement party. The award was presented by Dr. Dawn Holt of Cumberland County Public Schools. Lyman said she hopes to become a business instructor in the community college system in retirement.



Felesia Buczynski, Monica Gross, Diana Lyman



Wagner

Information Services

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES LOU WAGNER retired in November after serving Cumberland County since 2002. Wagner previously worked 21 years as director of information services for Alamac Knit Fabrics, Inc., in Lumberton. She said she would like to volunteer somewhere and also get back into playing the piano. Wagner has three grown children and four grandchildren.



Low Income Energy Assistance Available

A PPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED now for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), which provides a one-time vendor payment to help eligible households pay their heating bills.

Priority is given to households with an elderly member age 60 and above, or a disabled person receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services. Applications for these priority households will be accepted through Jan. 31 or until funds are exhausted.

Applications for all other households will be accepted Feb. 3- March 31 or until funds are exhausted. All households must apply for LIEAP; there are no automatic approvals. Household income must not exceed 130 percent of the poverty level.

The Salvation Army manages this program for DSS and all applications must go to the Salvation Army office at 1047 Southern Ave. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the DSS LIEAP message line at 677-2821 or the Salvation Army at 307-0359.

Scholarships Available for Children of Veterans

S CHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE for eligible high school seniors who are the children of Cumberland County veterans. The scholarships are from the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs and the North Carolina Association of Veterans Services Officers.

The North Carolina Division of Veteran Affairs manages a scholarship for the children of certain categories of deceased, disabled, combat or POW/ MIA veterans. The scholarship pays for four years of tuition and fees at a North Carolina state college or university. If the student attends a private school, the scholarship pays tuition up to \$4,500 a year for eight semesters, if used within eight years.

To qualify, an applicant must be under the age of 25 and living in North Carolina. The student has to have been born in North Carolina and a resident of the state since birth, or the veteran parent was a legal resident of North Carolina at the time of entrance into the period of service considered for eligibility. The student must be a natural born child of the veteran or have been adopted prior to age 15. A change over last year's qualifications is that applicants must now have a grade point average of at least 2.5.

The second scholarship is from the North Carolina Association of Veterans Services Officers and was established to honor all deceased veterans services officers and is open to any graduating senior whose parent is a North Carolina resident and an honorably discharged veteran. The scholarship pays \$1,000.

The deadline for both scholarships is Feb. 15. Applications and additional information on both scholarship programs are available at the Cumberland County Veterans Services Office at 301 East Russell St. Call 677-2970 for more information.



Tax Payments and Listing Deadlines in January

T HE TAX ADMINISTRATION OFFICE reminds all employees the **deadline is Jan. 6** to pay 2013 property taxes. Interest and enforced collection, such as bank levy, wage/rent garnishment, and/or foreclosure begin on Jan. 7.

Each January, all persons who own or control business property, farm property, and/or personal property that is subject to property taxes must update their listing forms, sign them and return them to the Tax Administration office before the Jan. 31 deadline. You are required to list property, report updates to real property and apply for exemptions/exclusions/deferments.

Property owners who have previously listed should have already received their new forms if their current addressing information was on file with the Tax Administration Office. For new listers, forms and instructions can be obtained by going to www.co.cumberland.nc.us/tax/tax_forms.aspx. Examples of property that must be listed include: mobile homes, boats, boat motors, jet skis, homemade trailers, permanently tagged (multi-year) vehicles and unregistered vehicles, campers, RVs, truck bodies, motorcycles, as well as all income-producing property such as household rental property, business equipment, leasehold improvements, etc. If you are unsure about whether specific property you own must be listed, please contact customer service at 678-7507.



The Spirit of Giving

THE ASSESSMENT/AUDIT DIVISION OF TAX ADMINISTRATION sponsored 10 children from Walker-Spivey Elementary School and made arrangements for Santa to help make the children's Christmas a little brighter. All the children received personal hygiene baskets along with coats, clothes, gloves, socks and shoes. Each child also received some "fun" items as well.

Employee Food Drive Nets 2,960 Pounds

CUMBERLAND COUNTY EMPLOYEES and members of the public gave generously to the annual employee food drive. A total of 2,960 pounds of food was collected to benefit the Fayetteville Urban Ministry and the Salvation Army. The Department of Social Services held a "Rumble on Ramsey Food Challenge" to encourage employees to donate. The Economic Services Section won the contest and received dress-down passes Dec. 16-19. The custodial and maintenance staffs of Business Operations were also given dress down passes for their hard work moving and organizing the donated items for judging.



Blood Drive Collects 31 Units of Blood

THE CAPE FEAR VALLEY BLOOD DONOR CENTER collected 31 units of blood at the fall blood drive held Nov. 19 at the Courthouse. The collection was nearly double the average collection of around 17 units. Blood drives are held every quarter at the Courthouse and Headquarters Library. The next blood drive will be held Feb. 6 at the Courthouse and Headquarters Library.

Lee Phillips of the Public Buildings Equipment Maintenance Department, was one of several county employees who helped make November's blood drive one of the most successful ever.

From left, Vivian Tookes, Patricia Crouch and DSS Director Brenda Jackson survey donated food in DSS conference room.



CROWN CENTER FAYETTEVILLE, NC

COMING  THE CROWN...

January

- 3..... WWE Live!
- 10-11..... FireAntz vs. Pensacola Ice Flyers
- 11..... Liberty Classic Cheer & Dance Competition
- 11-12..... Return of the Dinosaurs
- 16..... FireAntz vs. Knoxville Ice Bears
- 17..... FireAntz vs. Columbus Cottonmouths
- 17..... An Evening with Bill Cosby
- 20..... Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast
- 20..... FireAntz vs. Columbus Cottonmouths
- 23..... Jason Aldean 2014 Night Train Tour with Florida Georgia Line and Tyler Farr

February

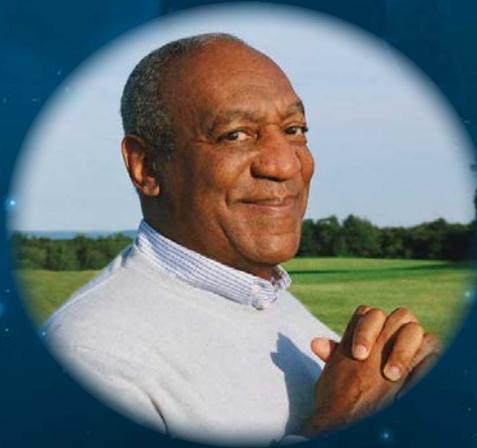
- 4..... Community Concerts presents Kenny Loggins
- 7-8..... FireAntz vs. Mississippi RiverKings
- 8-9..... Gun & Knife Show
- 11..... FireAntz vs. Knoxville Ice Bears
- 16..... Fantasia
- 18 & 22..... FireAntz vs. Columbus Cottonmouths
- 27 - Mar 2..... Ringling Bros & Barnum & Bailey present Super Circus Heroes

WWE Live!



January 3

Bill Cosby



January 17

Jason Aldean



January 23

Please

DONATE

Your gently used **BOOKS**

CDs

DVDs



*Help the Friends to
help the Library!*



Friends
of the Library 



You may drop off items at any library.

For more information, email cumberlandcountyfol@gmail.com.

Friends of the Library Annual Meeting & Author Visit

Jason Mott



Jason Mott's debut novel *The Returned* tells the haunting story of the world turned upside down when the departed come back from death, bringing joy and agony to those they left behind.

A riveting high-concept novel wrapped in a spare, literary narrative that delves deep into the hearts and minds of its unforgettable characters, the novel has already been adapted for television by ABC Studios, Brad Pitt's Plan B Entertainment and Brillstein Entertainment Partners for a forthcoming drama series *Resurrection*.

This event is free, but seating is limited: first-come, first-served. Mott's lecture follows a short Friends of the Library business meeting where the results of the executive board elections are announced.



Photo © Randy Skidmore

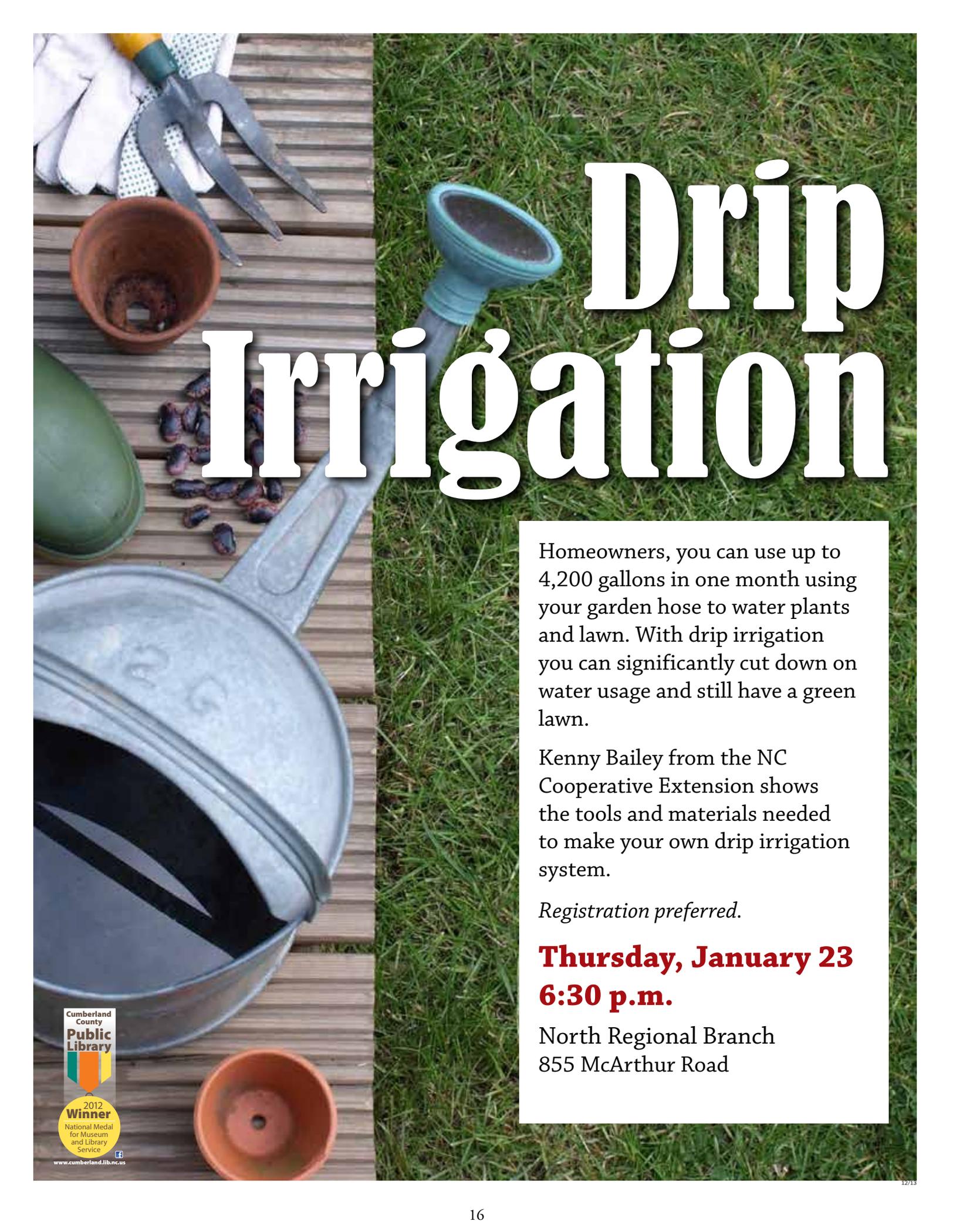
Tuesday, January 14 at 7 p.m.

Headquarters Library, 300 Maiden Lane

**Friends
of the Library**



www.cumberland.lib.nc.us



Drip Irrigation

Homeowners, you can use up to 4,200 gallons in one month using your garden hose to water plants and lawn. With drip irrigation you can significantly cut down on water usage and still have a green lawn.

Kenny Bailey from the NC Cooperative Extension shows the tools and materials needed to make your own drip irrigation system.

Registration preferred.

**Thursday, January 23
6:30 p.m.**

North Regional Branch
855 McArthur Road

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MISSION STATEMENT

To provide quality services to our citizens while being fiscally responsible.

VISION STATEMENT

To grow as a regional destination for employment, economic development, commerce and cultural pursuits.

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'Eleven Days of Love' Drive Benefits Animal Control

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTER delivered on Nov. 8 the donated items collected during the 11 Days of Love pet supply drive to benefit the Cumberland County Animal Shelter. Pictured from left are Susan Parrish; Library Director Jody Risacher; Animal Control Director Dr. John Lauby; Nora Armstrong; Jenn Taft and Kellie Tomita. The library collected an estimated 1,000 pounds of dog food and 300 pounds of cat food, in addition to shampoo, treats, toys and crates.



Upcoming County Holidays

County offices will be closed Jan. 20 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Mileage Rate Set At 56 Cents Per Mile

The standard mileage reimbursement rate for 2014 is 56 cents per mile. All travel of official County business performed by County employees in their personal vehicle will be reimbursed at this rate.