



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 7, 2017

Contact: Sally Shutt, Assistant County Manager

Telephone: 910-437-1921

Email: sshutt@co.cumberland.nc.us

County Landscaper Receives Exceptional Employee Award

FAYETTEVILLE – A Cumberland County employee received the Cumberland County Exceptional Employee Award in recognition of his efforts to evacuate residents from an apartment fire on Aug. 2.

Chairman Glenn Adams presented Billy Carlisle the Exceptional Employee Award at the Board of Commissioners meeting this morning. Carlisle is employed with the Landscaping and Grounds Division of the Cumberland County Engineering and Infrastructure Department.

Carlisle was recognized for protecting the residents of the Robin's Meadow apartments from a fire and preventing extensive damage to the transitional housing units owned by the County.

Carlisle was spraying turf at Robin's Meadow apartments at 519 Candleberry Court when he noticed smoke coming from the back of the apartment building. Carlisle investigated and observed flames burning the siding near a porch around the rear of an apartment. Carlisle yelled for someone to call 911 and rushed to each apartment unit to alert residents of the fire. After all residents of the eight-unit building were evacuated, Carlisle retrieved a 5-gallon bucket from a work truck, filled it with water and began dousing the flames.

The fire was caused by burning rubbish in a plastic bag and was extinguished by the time Fayetteville firefighters from Engines 1 and 2 arrived. No one was injured. The fire started outside a unit where a mother and her baby were living and caused an estimated \$2,000 of damage to the building.

Fayetteville Deputy Fire Chief Hieu Sifford lauded Carlisle's efforts, which he said assisted the responding firefighters.

"He got the people out of there so they were out of harm's way and his quick actions prevented further damage to the structure," Sifford said.

The Robin's Meadow apartments are owned by Cumberland County and provide transitional housing for homeless families with children. The transitional housing program is managed by the County's Community Development department.

"If it was not for Billy Carlisle's efforts, the fire could have been worse," said Dee Taylor, interim director for Cumberland County Community Development. "I am very thankful he was there to save the day."



Cumberland County Landscaping and Grounds Division employee Billy Carlisle, front row (second from left) was presented the Exceptional Employee Award at the Board of Commissioners meeting, today. Carlisle evacuated residents and extinguished the flames of an apartment fire Aug. 2. Also pictured: Front row (from left) Engineering & Infrastructure Director Jeffery Brown; Landscaping Supervisor Jesse Barton and County Manager Amy Cannon. Back row (from left) Commissioners Marshall Faircloth, Jimmy Keefe, Vice Chairman Charles Evans, Chairman Glenn Adams, Jeannette Council and Larry Lancaster.

###

-end-